

MARCH THEME



BIBLE STORY

Genesis 25:24-34

Can't Hardly Wait | Esau's Impatience

BOTTOM LINE

If you don't wait, it could cost you

MEMORY VERSE

"Wait for the Lord. Be strong and don't lose hope. Wait for the Lord."

Psalm 27:14 (NIRV)

LIFE APP

Patience | Waiting until later for what you want now

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice

•• THEME OVERVIEW

Key Question: What could you miss out on by not waiting? We will face times when we have a choice between what's good and what's best. We might rush to take the good because we don't want to keep waiting for what's best. Yet it's in those moments when we might miss out on something really great. We pray that we will learn how to wait with the future in mind. God has something amazing planned for us if we learn to have patience.

This week, we go to **Genesis 25:24-34**, where we find one of the best examples of what happens when you're not patient—the story of Esau. After a hunting trip, Esau was exhausted and hungry! And wouldn't you know, his brother Jacob had a pot of stew cooking on the fire. Jacob takes advantage of this situation and offers a bowl of stew in exchange for Esau's inheritance. Turns out, Esau couldn't resist. He lost something extremely valuable all because he was impatient.

Bottom Line: If you don't wait, it could cost you. Through the story of Esau, we pray we will discover why it's important to have patience and wait. We will face moments when we want to rush and take the first choice that comes our way, but that might not be God's best for us. We pray we will discover that when we wait, we can experience something even better than we can imagine.

•• WOW @home

What You Do: Watch this week's WOW @home in the comfort of your family's @home prayer + worship spot. The video can be found on popmn.org/youtube or facebook.com/popchildrens. Then use this Family Guide, GodTime & ParentCue cards, and FAITH5 daily devos as personal devotionals and to keep the conversation going...

•• THE COST OF STEW [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

What You Need: Stew ingredients, big spoon, big bowl, masking tape

What You Do:

- Gather some "stew ingredients" that you have at home. NOTE: It's okay to be creative. Any canned/boxed/bagged food will do.
- Tell your family they get to race against you while they make a pretend stew, just like Jacob's stew in today's story.
- Tape a starting line and instruct players to get behind it and form a single file line. (*Spread them out as much as your space allows.*)
- Give each person a food item except the last person in line.
- Give the last person in line the big spoon.

- Place the big bowl at the other end of your playing space—as far away as your room permits.
- When you say, “Go,” the first person in line should run down to the bowl, toss their food item in, then run back to tag the next person in line.
- When it’s their turn, the last person runs down and stirs the “stew” four times around, and then runs back.
- While your family runs this relay, you read the story below. Read quickly but clearly.
- If you finish the story before your family makes their stew, you win! If not, they win!
- If they win, be sure to finish reading the story!

The Story of Jacob and Esau:

Esau was born first. He had a full head of red hair. His brother Jacob was born moments later, still holding onto Esau’s heel. Esau loved to roam far out into the wilderness while Jacob preferred the comforts of home. One fine morning, Esau headed out into the wild in search of adventure and a good hunt. But he went all morning without catching anything. At last, Esau turned for home, defeated. He was tired and irritated, and so hungry he could have eaten an entire woolly mammoth! As Esau neared camp, a delicious smell wafted out to greet him. Jacob had used his savory herbs to whip up a tasty stew and a batch of fresh, buttery bread. Esau lunged for the stew cauldron, ready to grab a bowl. But Jacob blocked his path. “Not so fast,” Jacob said. “First, give me the rights that belong to you as the oldest son.” “Fine,” said Esau. “I’m too hungry to wait any longer!” Jacob stepped aside and let Esau eat the stew.

What You Say: “It’s hard to understand today’s story since we don’t have the same traditions Esau and Jacob’s family had. It’d be like deciding to give your brother all your favorite stuffed animals if he gave you a freshly baked brownie. Not worth it, right? Esau traded something that was worth SO MUCH in the future for something that was worth SO LITTLE now. It’s not likely that Esau would have died from missing one meal. He let his stomach rule his mind and forgot what was important. I’m sure that stew looked good, just like the pretend stew you just made! But it definitely wasn’t worth the enormous cost in the end. Whenever you get antsy and impatient, remember Esau’s story! **[Bottom Line] If you don’t wait, it could cost you.**”

•• WOULD YOU RATHER [Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Imagine | An activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: Pennies or tokens, small prizes/treats

What You Do:

- Using the “Would You Rather” scenarios below, pose the first scenario to your family.
- Instruct everyone who wants to answer (A) to raise their hand.
- Everyone who wants to answer (B) should leave their hand down.
- If they choose the patient option, give them two tokens. If they choose the impatient option, give them one token.

Note: As players begin to understand how the game works, they may start answering with the patient option in each scenario rather than the one they would honestly “do.” That’s okay!

- Continue reading the list of scenarios and handing out tokens based on players’ answers.
- At the end of the game, let everybody count how many tokens they have.
- Point out that they each could have had 16 total if they had chosen the patient option for each scenario.
- Let players trade in their tokens for prizes/treats: two tokens for each prize. *(For players with an odd number of tokens, you can choose whether to round up or down.)*

Would You Rather Questions: *(patient answers are bolded)*

- Would you rather have:
—500 pieces of your favorite candy now?
—**One piece every day for the rest of your life?**

- Would you rather:
 - Save up your money for three years to get the video game system you've been dreaming of?**
 - Borrow money from your brother so you can get a brand-new video game system right now?
- Would you rather have:
 - A \$500 gift card to your favorite store today?
 - \$20 each month for the next five years?**
- Would you rather have to:
 - Wait on your teacher and get a whole 30 minutes to ask whatever you want?**
 - Have her answer you now but only be able to ask one of your questions?
- Would you rather:
 - Have your mom let you sleep over at your friend's house tonight?
 - Have your mom answer "no" to tonight but "yes" to two weekends in a row?**
- Would you rather:
 - Be able to eat your favorite dessert before dinner tonight?
 - Eat dinner first but be able to eat a double serving of the dessert after dinner?**
- Would you rather:
 - Wait two more years for a pet but be able to keep your pet for a very long time?**
 - Have a new pet come live with you tonight, but only for a year?
- Would you rather:
 - Get the new shoes you've wanted so badly tomorrow?
 - Wait for two months and your entire family gets to pick out new shoes, too?**

What You Say: "Have you ever been impatient with someone? What happened when you weren't patient? (*give everyone a chance to share*) Being impatient doesn't just hurt us in the moment, it can cost us in the long run, too. If you decide you just can't wait and you cut in line at the monkey bars, a teacher might make you go to the back of the line. **[Make it Personal]** (*Tell a story about a time when you didn't wait and how it cost you.*) This week, pause as you feel yourself grow impatient. Ask yourself, 'If I choose not to wait, what could happen?' Remember, **[Bottom Line]** if you don't wait, it could cost you!"

•• DON'T LOSE HOPE [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Move | An activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Bible, paper, markers

What You Do:

- Hand out supplies so everybody can make a sign that says "Hope." Decorate signs however you'd like.
- When everybody has finished, gather the signs and hide them around your house.
- Look up and read Psalm 27:14 together.
- Tell your family that you will focus on the part of the verse that says, "don't lose hope."
- Talk about how it's sometimes easy to lose hope while waiting for something big or important, such as when a parent is looking for a job or when you're waiting to find out which teacher you'll have in the new school year.
- Ask your family if they've ever waited for something big or important. What did it feel like? Was it hard to be patient and have a good attitude?
- Tell your family that instead of losing hope today, they will find hope!
- Send them out on a search for the hope sign they made!

- When everybody has found their sign, conclude with the following summary.

What You Say: “Now this is a crew that is serious about not losing hope! When the waiting seems long, it can be a challenge to not lose hope. Maybe you have prayed for grandpa to get better, or to be old enough to take piano lessons or *(insert some of the examples shared earlier)*. Although waiting seems like it takes forever, **[Bottom Line] if you don’t wait, it could cost you** the better plan that God has for you. We can keep our hope in God, no matter what!”

•• PRAY [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect | An activity that creates space for personal processing and application

What You Need: Hope signs from “Don’t Lose Hope” activity

What You Do:

- Encourage your family to hang their “hope” sign in a place they will see it often.
- Suggest that you should all remind each other not to lose hope, no matter what you are praying and waiting for this week!
- Pray the following prayer...

What You Say: “Let’s pray. Dear Jesus, we know that our hope is found in you no matter what we are praying and waiting for. Thank you for reminding us that even though waiting isn’t fun and can be super tough at times, **[Bottom Line] if you don’t wait, it could cost you**. We totally trust that you have our best interest in mind, Jesus. Even when we can’t see it and doubt your perfect plan, we will choose patience and wait on you! Help us cling to you in our waiting this week, whether big or small. We love you. Thank you for loving us. Amen!”

•• ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Looking for a devo for your kids? Looking for a personal devotional? Want to keep the conversation going? Check out the following resources at popmn.org/cm. Use them this week to continue the conversation around our **[Bottom Line]: When you have to wait, remember what’s true.**

GodTime Card | A 4-day devotional for elementary-aged kids based this week’s theme, kicked off on WOW @home

ParentCue | A tool for parents based on the weekly theme. Also available as an app, it sends alerts and encouragement specific to the age of your children (parentcue.org)

FAITH5 | A 6-day family devotional designed around Faith Inkubators’ FAITH5

•• WHAT’S NEXT

Set a reminder to join us next week for WOW @home on Wednesday 03/24 at 6:00 pm live at facebook.com/popchildrens or popmn.org/youtube for a time of worship centered around the **[Bottom Line]: You can celebrate even when you’re waiting.”**