

SECTION 1.4

God Is Patient



Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 1: Plastic-Wrapped Patience

What You'll Need: Plastic wrap, inexpensive prizes

(Leader's Note: Larger clubs may choose to have only a few kids do this at the front of the room while others watch, or have the kids divide into smaller groups to complete the activity.)

PREP: Purchase inexpensive prizes (e.g., candy bars, gum, flashlights, carabiners, small container of slime, fast food gift card, Awana shares, etc.). Plan for one or two prizes per kid. Make a ball out of the plastic wrap and prizes. Wad a one-foot piece of plastic wrap into a ball. Lay one of the prizes on the plastic wrap ball and wrap the plastic wrap around the ball and plastic wad several times. Continue adding prizes onto the plastic wrap ball and then adding more plastic wrap until all the prizes have been wrapped tightly inside the plastic wrap. Prepare one plastic wrapped ball for every four to six kids in your club.

STEP 1: Arrange four to six kids in a circle. Show kids the prize balls and share with kids a few of the prizes inside. Give the first kid the ball. At your signal, the kid holding the ball must begin to unwrap the ball to reach a prize. Once the kid reaches a prize, have him or her pass it to the kid to the left.

STEP 2: If kids have not reached all the prizes, stop the activity after two minutes.

Then ask the following questions:

- On a scale from 1-5, with 1 being super impatient and 5 being calm, show by lifting your fingers in the air how you felt while you waited your turn?
- On a scale from 1-5, with 1 being super impatient and 5 being calm, show same as above how you felt when others received a prize you would have liked?
- Why was it hard to be patient in this activity?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- We have all faced times when we have had to wait.
- We often struggle with patience, and it is easy for us to become frustrated and even angry if we are kept waiting or if we must wait our turn while we see others having fun.

- Our great God is patient. He is never in a hurry, and He is also never late.

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that God is patient.

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Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 2: Draw Your Emoji

What You'll Need: Blank paper, yellow, blue, and black markers or colored pencils

PREP: Nothing

STEP 1: Give each kid a piece of paper. Place markers or colored pencils nearby. Explain that you will read scenarios that kids their age might face. Encourage them to draw an emoji based on what their facial expressions would be in that situation.

Someone gives you a can of your favorite soda.

You and your family wait for 10 minutes in a fast food drive thru, and they STILL get your order wrong.

Your dad is late picking you up from soccer practice.

Your mom made your favorite meal for dinner.

You have no homework over a weekend.

You have a lot of homework over a weekend.

Your batteries in your gaming remote die and you are in the middle of a battle.

You get to spend all day playing games.

Your Internet is slow or drops in the middle of a favorite video.

STEP 2: Ask kids to compare their emojis. Then ask the following questions:

- Which scenarios caused happy emojis?
- Which scenarios caused frustrated or mad emojis?
- Based on your emojis, how do you respond when situations do not go as you planned?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- We have all faced times when we have had to wait.
- We often struggle with patience, and it is easy for us to become frustrated and even angry if we are kept waiting or if we must wait our turn while we see others having fun.
- Our great God is patient. He is never in a hurry, and He is also never late.

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that God is patient.

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Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 1: Character Roles

What You'll Need: Three kids' storybook Bibles, "Character Study Guide" handout, pens or pencils

PREP: Gather three kid's storybook Bibles that give an accurate account of the story of Jonah.

STEP 1: Read or recite this week's memory verse, 2 Peter 3:9. Read the verse again, pausing after each phrase.

Share these key concepts:

- God knows everything, and He is not limited to time like we are. In fact, the Bible says that 1,000 years are like a day to God!
- God is loving and faithful. He will always keep His promises, but His timing is not like ours. God is never in a hurry, and He is never late.
- God wants everyone to repent and trust Jesus as Savior. He doesn't want ANYONE to spend eternity in hell, separated from Him forever.
- God gives everyone an opportunity to trust Him as Savior. Every person must choose.

STEP 2: Explain to kids that the Bible gives us a perfect example of God's patience and His desire for people to repent in the book of Jonah.

Divide kids into three groups, and assign a leader to each group. Give each group a kids' Bible storybook, and assign to them one of the following "characters" in the book of Jonah:

Jonah

The Sailors

The People of Nineveh

Pass out the Character Study page to each kid. Give the groups five minutes to study their character's role in the story and to determine how God was patient toward them and desired for them to repent and follow Him using the study page. As groups work, walk around the room, sharing these key concepts:

- Jonah was a prophet of God, called to deliver God's message to others.

- The people of Nineveh were wicked enemies of God's people. They were vicious and cruel.
- Jonah chose to disobey God and fled to a place far away from Nineveh.
- God spared the lives of the sailors, and they ended up worshipping the true God.
- God spared Noah's life by sending a great fish to rescue him from drowning.
- The people of Nineveh repented of their sins.
- God was patient with Noah, even when he pouted that the people of Nineveh repented.

STEP 3: After five minutes, have each group present their character roles.

Share these key concepts:

- God is patient to each of us. He desires for you and me to repent from our sins and trust Jesus as Savior (2 Peter 3:9).
- One day the time for us to repent will be over, and it will be too late (2 Corinthians 6:2).
- If you have trusted Jesus as Savior, God wants you to share the good news with others who have not yet repented (Acts 1:8).

Step 4: Give kids an opportunity to talk with a leader if they want to learn more about trusting Jesus as their Savior. Encourage the rest to think of one person with whom they can share the good news this week. Have children write this name on a slip of paper and either put in child's book/Bible or hang on the wall in the classroom.

Step 5: Follow up with Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.

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Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 2: Patient Words

What You'll Need: Bibles, T&T handbooks, blank paper, pens or pencils, sticky notes

(Leader's Note: Larger clubs may choose to have only a few kids do this at the front of the room while others watch, or have the kids divide into smaller groups to complete the activity.)

STEP 1: Read or recite this week's memory verse, 2 Peter 3:9. Read the verse again, pausing after each phrase.

Share these key concepts:

- God knows everything, and He is not limited to time like we are. In fact, the Bible says that 1,000 years are like a day to God!
- God is loving and faithful. He will always keep His promises, but His timing is not like ours. God is never in a hurry, and He is never late.
- God wants everyone to repent and trust Jesus as Savior. He doesn't want ANYONE to spend eternity in hell, separated from Him forever.
- God gives everyone an opportunity to trust Him as Savior. Every person must choose.

STEP 2: Have kids turn to section 1.4 in their handbooks. Have kids work in pairs or groups of three, and assign each group to study one of the following verses in their handbooks: Nehemiah 9:17, Exodus 34:6, 2 Corinthians 6:2, 1 Timothy 2:3-4.

Choose a spokesperson from each group and give him or her a pen or a pencil. Ask the spokesperson to write down key words from their verse that describe God's patience to us.

STEP 3: After two minutes, have each pair or group present their findings to the entire group.

Share these key concepts:

- God is patiently waiting for people to accept Jesus as Savior. God desires that everyone should repent from sin and trust Jesus as Savior, but He knows that not everyone will do so (2 Peter 3:9).
- God is patiently waiting for the right time for Jesus to come back for us. Jesus promised His disciples that He would one day come again and that we who

accept Him as Savior would go to heaven forever (John 14:1-3). We can trust that His timing is perfect. He is never early, and He is never late (2 Peter 3:8-9).

- God is always ready to forgive us when we sin (Nehemiah 9:17). Even after we trust Jesus as Savior, we will still sin. Yet God is patient with us, and He is ready to forgive us (1 John 1:9).
- God is patiently working in us to make us more like Jesus. God will continue His work in us until we are complete in Him (Philippians 1:6).
- God patiently gives us time to share the good news with others (Acts 1:8).

STEP 4: Give kids an opportunity to talk to a leader if they have questions about accepting Jesus as Savior. Encourage the rest of the kids to think about how God is patient in their lives.

Give each kid a sticky note and a pen or a pencil. Encourage them to write one way God is patient in their lives. Encourage them to stick the note somewhere in their rooms and to praise God for being patient in their lives when they see the notes.

STEP 5: Follow up with Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.

Notes:



Character Study

Who:

Role:

How was God patient toward them?:

Did they turn
to God?: