



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Can't Hardly Wait
Esau's Impatience
Genesis 25:24-34

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What could you miss out on by not waiting?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

When you think you can't wait, think twice.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Wait for the Lord. Be strong and don't lose hope. Wait for the Lord."
Psalm 27:14, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Patience—Waiting until later for what you want now

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSZi> for a visual on some of the activities.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Just for Fun
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Welcome/Opener
Worship
Bible Story (Communicator Script)
Key Question
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot
Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions
Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You
Prayer Activity: Make it Personal with Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)
Devotionals for Kids
Parent Cue App



WEEK
TWO
APRIL 2024

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding



Before kids arrive, pray that you would have a beneficial conversation with your kids today about exercising patience in difficult situations. Pray that they would be able to see why it may be important to show patience in times when they're feeling like being impulsive.

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1. JUST FOR FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to place their offerings in the container as they arrive.
- Challenge kids to a memory game in which they take turns adding foods to a list then repeating all of the previous items and amounts.
 - Direct the first kid to say, "I'm so hungry I could eat one . . ." then name a food that starts with the letter A. (For example, "one apple.")
 - Direct the second kid to repeat what the first kid said then add the next number and any food that begins with the next letter in the alphabet. (For example, "I'm so hungry I could eat one apple and two beans.")
- Continue all the way to the letter Z and the number 26.
- Add an extra challenge by asking kids to start with "Z" and continue going backwards through the alphabet naming foods with as many syllables as possible.

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PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: *Optional: large kettle or soup pot*

WHAT YOU DO:

- *Optional: Set out the soup kettle for effect if desired.*
- Explain that you have a secret recipe for the world's best soup. You are the only one who knows what can and cannot

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- go into the soup.
- Give an example.
 - A PIZZA can go into the soup.
 - A TOMATO cannot go in the soup.
 - A SPOON can go into the soup.
 - A FORK cannot go in the soup.
- Challenge the kid on your left to suggest something to add to the soup then let them know if their ingredient is part of your secret recipe or not (see below for secret to the recipe).
- Continue around the circle.
- When kids think they know the secret to the recipe (**any words that contain double letters**), tell them not to reveal it but to keep playing until everyone has a chance to come up with a correct ingredient.
- Suggested words to draw from if needed: butter, beef, zucchini, lollipop, bamboo, spaghetti, coffee, cotton, waffle, berries, ball, bee, hammer, zipper, etc.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Did that game make you hungry? Or maybe it made you never want to eat soup again! Someone would have to be VERY hungry to eat a bowl of our soup. **[Transition] In Large Group we'll hear about someone who was so hungry they may have even eaten our soup. There's something we can learn from him about the importance of waiting. Let's find out!"**

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery



1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Index cards, pens

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid two index cards and a pen.
- Ask the kids to come up with two situations during which it would be wise to think twice and not act out of impulse or impatience.
 - One idea should be more serious or important and the other can be just plain silly. (For example: stealing something is serious; eating dirt, not so much, but both are worth thinking twice about before actually doing it.)
- If needed, write additional ideas such as the ones listed below on index cards and add them to the mix:
 - Eating a frozen drink too fast resulting in a “brain freeze”
 - Cheating on a test
 - Hitting the snooze button
 - Making fun of someone
 - Telling a secret
 - Eating a worm
 - Juggling knives
 - Gossiping
 - Over-eating
 - Starting a fight
 - Walking a tight rope
 - Crossing a street
- Tell kids to write their ideas on separate index cards without letting others know what they wrote.
- Collect the cards and shuffle them together.
- Choose a kid to go first.
- Lead that kid to draw a card and act out the situation without speaking as the remaining kids guess the scenario.
- Let the kid who guesses correctly go next, or if no one guesses in a timely manner, invite the kid acting to reveal what’s on the card then choose someone to go next.
- Add variety by challenging kids to begin acting out what’s written on the card in slow motion then progressively going faster and faster.
- Continue until all cards have been acted out.
- Invite kids to share about actual times when they took a moment to think twice, ask for God’s help, and respond wisely as well as times when they didn’t. **[Make it Personal] Include yourself in this discussion by sharing an appropriate example of patience or impatience and how those actions played out.**

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

Patience—Waiting until later for what you want now

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SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment



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2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, spoons

WHAT YOU DO:

- Sit in a circle.
- Place the spoons (one less spoon than the number of kids) in the middle of the circle within reach of all the kids.
- Explain to the kids that you'll read Genesis 25:27-34—today's Bible story about Esau's impatience.
 - Whenever you pause, kids must quickly grab a spoon. There is one less spoon than there are kids in the circle.
 - Whoever is left without a spoon will be asked, "Why might it have been wise to think twice?" In other words, what were the choices someone was faced with? What could have led to a bad decision? Was there a moment of impatience?
 - If they think someone should have paused to think twice, tell them it's okay if they don't have ideas for each time you pause or if some verses have more than one "think twice moment."
- As you read the story, pause at random places (particularly where there was a situation in which it would have been easy to get impatient, frustrated, or tempted to do something impulsive that person might later regret).
- As you ask the kid without a spoon to reflect, suggest they imagine themselves being part of the story and consider what people might have been thinking and feeling.
- When finished reading, discuss the story together.
 - Why do you think Esau was willing to give away his first-born rights so easily?
 - We don't have the same rights to give away, and lentil soup isn't something any of us would sacrifice so much for, but are there things that we have a hard time waiting for?
 - Esau lost out big time. What can we lose out on when we only think about getting what we want right now?
- Remind kids that we can't always choose what happens to us, but we can choose our responses. When we think twice, we have a better chance of doing what is wise rather than getting upset with what's happening in the moment.
- Continue the discussion.
 - What are some situations when kids your age are tempted to make an impulsive choice?
 - What can you do to not end up in an "Esau Moment"?
 - There's no PAUSE or REWIND button in real life, but what can you do to make things right or even just better after you've made a choice without thinking it through?



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an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding



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3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- What are the signs that you're about to lose your patience? Why might it be helpful to know those signs?
- What can you do to be ready the next time you feel yourself getting impatient?
- Why do you think waiting can be hard for us?
- What are some situations you really want to do better at when it comes to waiting and thinking twice before you act?
- Do you think anyone has ever regretted being patient?

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an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment



4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, "Better Think Twice" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to look up and read James 1:19 using the Bible

Navigation Tips below.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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***Finding verses with 4th-5th graders:** Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.*

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What could you miss out on by not waiting?

- Ask:
 - What do you think it means to be *quick to listen*? What about *slow to speak*? How about *slow to anger*?
 - How can James 1:19 help us think twice?
- Lead kids to get into groups of three or four.
- Give each team a Bible to look up James 1:19.
- Give groups some time to help each other memorize James 1:19.
- After a few moments to look up and work on remembering the verse, give each group an even amount of the "Better Think Twice" scenario cards and ask them to work together to come up with the following for each scenario:
 - One "Easy Esau Option"—a quick-fix-response that might feel good at the time but would have negative consequences later.
 - Two "Better Think Twice Options"—responses that follow God's advice in James 1:19 and wait for what's best.
- When finished, bring groups together and let them share what they came up with.
- Challenge kids to choose one of the scenarios they resonate with the most.
- Encourage the kids to avoid the "Easy Esau Options" as they wait for things.
- Remind kids that when we follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live inside us. Patience is a gift from God's Spirit that grows in us as we follow Jesus.

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Lead kids in a responsive prayer.
- Invite kids to pray their answers out loud (if comfortable) or silently as you pause throughout the prayer.
- Say:
 - God, today I learned that . . .
 - God, please help me remember . . .
 - God, please forgive me for . . .
 - God, please help me think twice before I get impatient with . . .
- Lead a prayer to close out the group.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Can't Hardly Wait
Esau's Impatience
Genesis 25:24-34

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, we have learned a lot about patience today. Now it's time to put what we've learned into practice. Please help us remember to think twice before we act. Give us the strength to wait for what is best and not settle for something we will regret later. We know that patience is fueled by faith and the power of the Holy Spirit, so help us trust You as we wait. In Your name we pray, Amen."

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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

(Choose one or both of these activities.)

1. JUST FOR FUN

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Optional: one large kettle or soup pot

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)

1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Index cards, two for each kid
- Pens

2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible
- Spoons; one less than the number of kids in each Small Group

3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bibles; one for every 3-4 kids
- Print on paper and cut apart "Better Think Twice" Activity Page; one set for each Small Group

5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource: **Parent Cue app.**