

Patience Prize Game

Materials

- ☐ Plastic wrap
- ☐ One bag of treats for students to share
- ☐ Optional: gift wrap, newspaper, or tissue paper

Instructions

Before class, begin by wrapping the treat bag in two layers of plastic wrap and cutting the wrap. Wrap another layer in the opposite direction around the first two layers and cut. Continue wrapping and cutting in opposite directions until you have enough layers for each student to unwrap at least one. You may want to fold the edge over as you layer each piece of plastic wrap so students can find the edges more easily.

Have students sit in a circle on the floor or at tables. Explain that there is a prize in the middle of this ball of plastic wrap. As they pass it around the circle, each student will take a turn carefully pulling off one layer of wrap. If they try to go too fast, it could tangle the plastic and make it more difficult to get the wrap off, so they must be patient and work carefully. When the last layer is unwrapped, have the students share the treats or prizes as you lead the Suggested Discussion.

Optional: For an easier game, replace plastic wrap with regular gift wrap, newspaper, or tissue paper. You may want to put the treats into a small box to make wrapping easier. Add enough layers of paper so each student can unwrap at least one. Remind the students to unwrap slowly and carefully so they don't tear the next layer.

Suggested Discussion

Today we talked about the long time David had to wait to become king of Israel. There may have been times when he wondered if he would ever be king. But he trusted God and knew God was faithful to keep his promises.

- ? While we unwrapped our treats, how many of you wondered if you would ever get to the end? *Show of hands.*
- ? Did any of you wonder if there really was a prize deep down inside? *Allow discussion.*

This was an exercise in patience. There wasn't much you could do except keep pulling off the layers one by one. If you went too fast, it might have tangled the plastic wrap (or torn the next layer so someone wouldn't be able to have a turn). It's easy to get impatient and want to hurry up, especially when we're waiting for God to do something. We might try to jump ahead with our own ideas just to make something happen, but that's not the best way. God wants us to slow down and trust him, not to jump ahead on our own. David could have sinned many times by doing things his own way. But he did the right thing by waiting patiently and trusting God.