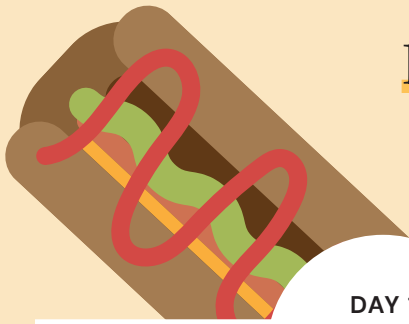


April 2024

DEVOTIONAL PACKET



WHAT'S INSIDE:
WEEKLY DEVOS
MEMORY VERSE
EXTRA CHALLENGE



Patience is waiting until later for what you want now.

DAY 1

Read Proverbs 14:29

Patience is waiting until later for what you want now.

Waiting is hard! When you get frustrated and respond in anger, you show how foolish you are. But the opposite is true too. You will become more wise when you choose to be patient.

Rest in Peace

Find the missing words in the word search below and add them to today's verse.

F Q U I Q U I C K L Y
 A C G H I N Z Y K X Q
 P A T I N D T R O S Y
 G N H X Y E I C D N Q
 L Y N A G R D R M W S
 F O O L I S H N W P H
 I N X P V T Y E T U O
 Q E S P Z A A F T P W
 K L E W M N F O O L S
 A R S Z L D V S N X R
 K H P A T I E N T U P
 I N G O B N C P D E T
 J F D A N G R Y Q R S

"..... who is has great
 But anyone who gets
 how..... they are."

Proverbs 14.29

Answer key: Anyone, patient, understanding, angry, quickly, shows, foolish

DAY 2

Read Ephesians 4:2

Patience is hard. But no one expects you to have it without any help. When you become a follower of Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit as your helper. When you need encouragement, or to be reminded of what's true, that still small voice you hear is God's Spirit guiding you to act in the way God would.

Read the scenarios below. How could you "put up with one another" with patience?

Your mom told you to get in the car so you'll be ready to go, but you've been in your seat waiting for at least five minutes and, so far, your mom is still in the house.

Your best friend promised she'd return your favorite sweater days ago, but you still don't have it back.

Your dad promised he'd play ball with you, but he's still on a phone call with work.



DAY 3

Read Romans 12:12

When do you pray? Is it only before meals and bedtime? Do you ever stop in the middle of your day at school and ask God for help? Talking to God doesn't mean you have to bow your head and close your eyes. Praying can be as simple as saying something to God in your own head. No one around you even has to know you're praying!

God always hears you. God LOVES you. And God is patiently waiting to talk with you through prayer.

Today at school, think about praying to God when you face a situation you're unsure about. Make it a goal to pray throughout the day. At the end of the day, think about your prayer time. Did it help? Were you more patient? Were you less worried? How did talking to God make a difference today?

DAY 4

Read Ecclesiastes 7:8

No one likes to be told to wait. And no one waits with perfect patience all the time. Waiting until later for what you want now doesn't come naturally. If you want it right now, well, you want it RIGHT NOW!

This verse reminds us that waiting is the better choice because the end of something is better than the beginning. In other words, waiting patiently for something means we can enjoy it more, later on. Like Christmas. Or birthdays. Or vacations. Or a whole list of other things you think you can't wait for.

Paper Chain Waiting

Think of an event that's coming up in the near future. Grab a calendar and figure out how many days there are between today and your big event. Make a paper chain to count down the days. Take a chain off each day leading up to your big event to bring excitement to the waiting for all that future fun!



**Waiting can
make you wise.**

Patience is waiting until later for what you want now.



DAY 1

Read Galatians 6:9

Have you ever carved a pumpkin? Did you know it took months for that pumpkin to grow? A farmer knows that beautiful pumpkins come after months of patient waiting and a fair amount of hard work.

The same is true when it comes to our lives. In order to live in a way that pleases God, we need to be patient with the people around us. And just like a farmer who patiently tends his crop, we will see beautiful results in our relationships with others if we don't give up.

Plant a Seed

You'll need a seed, a small plastic cup, some potting soil, and a small amount of water. Punch three small holes in the bottom of the cup and pour in about two inches of soil. Place the seed in the center and then cover it up with another inch of soil. Water just enough to moisten the top of the soil. Place your cup in a sunny spot. Add water as needed. If you don't have any on hand, look around your neighborhood with your adult's permission and ask what plants you can help water and grow.

DAY 2

Read Psalm 37:7

When you were younger, did your parents have to remind you to sit still? Did they have to remind you to get back in your chair at the dinner table or at a restaurant? Being still isn't always easy. It requires patience. Waiting is sometimes the LAST thing we want to do.

Patience Challenge

Let's try a little patience challenge with your whole family this month. Grab a clear jar or container and buttons, pennies, or other small objects. For a whole month, every time someone shows patience, put one penny or button in the jar. Easy, right? Wait, that's not all. If someone is impatient, you have to take two pennies out of the jar! The goal is to see how many pennies you end up with at the end of the month. And remember, anyone in the family can put pennies in or take them out, so you have to show patience to everyone, even when it's hard.

Read Psalm 40:1

Patience is waiting until later for what you want now. When it comes to waiting, we don't always get it right! But there is someone who is always right there to help. God sees us when we aren't patient but is NEVER impatient with us. What a good God!

Waiting Games

There is one way to make the waiting easier. Grab a piece of paper and make a list of things you could do to make the waiting more fun. Have a parent or sibling set a timer for 2 minutes as you work on your list. All done? Read through your list and try to narrow it down to five things. Write those five things in the numbered box. The next time you need to wait for something, try one of these ideas and see if it helps you show patience.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4

Jesus said the NUMBER ONE thing we can do is love— love God and love others. Today's verse explains what love looks like. It's kind. It's not jealous or braggy or proud. But the first part might actually be the HARDEST.

Love is patient.

Love doesn't hurry. . . or yell. . . or push to the front. . . or insist one way is the only way. Love lets others go first.

Love waits its turn.

Think back over your day. Were you impatient with anyone? What could you have done differently to show LOVE to that person instead of impatience?

Patience Art

On a piece of paper, write the words "LOVE IS PATIENT" in big block letters. Decorate the page with lots of color so it will really stand out. Post your masterpiece on the fridge or where everyone in your home can see it. When you read it, ask God to help you show love to others by choosing to be patient. Then thank God for always being patient with you.

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



Patience is waiting until later for what you want now.

DAY 1

Read Nehemiah 9:17-18

Can you imagine creating a gold statue with your own hands and then bowing down to pray to it? Can you imagine singing worship songs to your soccer trophy? Sounds easy to say no.

BUT not so fast...The Israelites aren't all that different from you and me. We are all pretty impatient people—especially when we're hungry or tired. When you have to wait, you can become a whole different person. An angry, easily bugged, not-so-nice version of yourself.

But guess what? Even when you become that angry, impatient person, God is still patient with you. God is tender and kind. God is slow to anger and won't leave you, just like God didn't leave the Israelites.

Talk To God

Find something you really love at home. Write on a sticky note, "Talk to God!" and stick it on your favorite thing. Each time you look at it this week, say a quick prayer asking God to help you show patience this week.

DAY 2

Read Psalm 130:5

Guess what? You can't always get what you want the minute you want it. Don't believe me? Think of something you want right this instant. Now snap your fingers. Did you get it? Probably not.

When you have to wait, how do you normally handle it?

Do you whine or complain or stomp your feet and scream?

What if you stopped to think about what's true? The truth is God is with you while you wait. You might even find that God has something better in store. Maybe in trusting God, you see that the thing you were waiting for wasn't really the best after all. Or maybe, waiting might help you pray and spend more time with God.

Missing Vowels

Fill in the missing vowels in today's verse. Then read it aloud as a prayer, remembering that God is with you, ready to help.

"W.....thll my h.....rt w.....t
f.....r th..... L.....rd t..... h.....lp m..... p.....t
my h.....p.....n h.....s w.....rd."

Ps.....lm 130:5, NIRV

Answer Key: "With all my heart I wait for the Lord to help me. I put my hope in his word." Psalm 130:5, NIRV



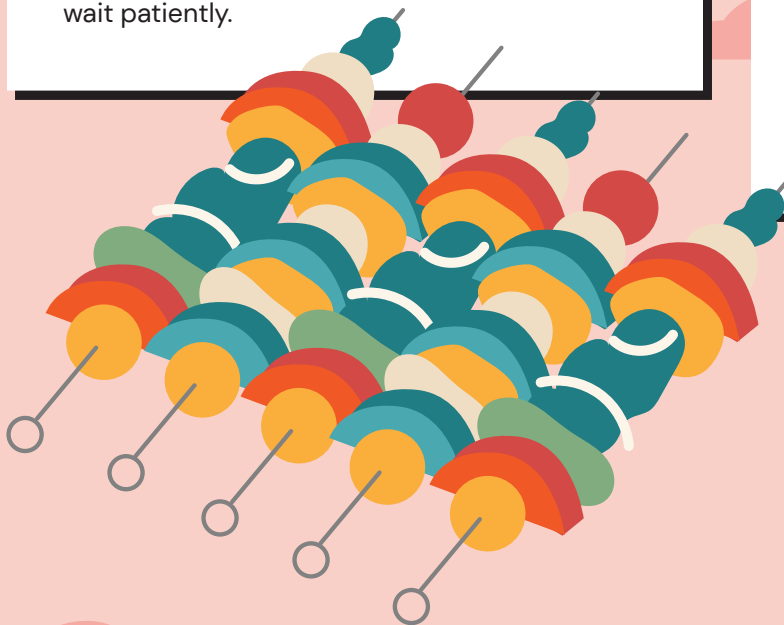
Read Psalm 33:20–22

Have you ever seen a picture of a knight? What does a knight typically wear? Yep— a suit of armor. And what did he carry? That’s right! A sword and a shield. The sword was for fighting. The shield was for protection.

No matter what you face, God is with you. When you become impatient about how things will work out, just remember that God is like a shield that keeps you safe. No matter what happens, nothing and no one can separate you from God’s love. You can put your hope in God.

Wield a Shield

Grab a piece of paper and draw a simple outline of a shield. Across the front of the shield, write the word “PATIENCE” in large block letters. Decorate your shield and then hang it on your mirror to remind you that God is like a shield. Trust in God and you will receive help to wait patiently.



Read Colossians 3:12

When you read this verse, did you think, “Yeah, God, but you don’t know about so and so at school. He’s so mean. You want me to be gentle and patient with that guy? And have you met my little brother? He always breaks things and messes with my stuff. It drives me crazy!”

Sound familiar?

The truth is, if we always chose to treat people the way they treat us, this world would be a pretty crazy place. Because you are dearly loved, you should treat people that way too. Because you have been chosen by God, you can show kindness and patience to others.

Clothed with a Patience

Grab a jacket or hoodie you wear almost every day. Grab some tape and write the word “patience” on it. Place this patience tag inside your jacket to remind you to clothe yourself with patience. When you wear it, ask God to help you treat others with patience—the way God always treats you.

**When you have to wait,
remember what’s true.**

Patience is waiting until later for what you want now.

DAY 1

Read Philippians 4:6

Have you ever been really worried about something? Sometimes when we worry, we want to try to rush ahead and fix things on our own. We can become impatient, which just leads to more and more worry.

One BIG thing to remember when you become worried is that God is with you while you wait. No problem is too big or too small for God. God wants to turn our worry into trust—believing that when we tell God our worries, God will answer us. The answer might not come immediately. It might require some patience and waiting on our end. But even in the waiting, God is in control.

Name something you're worried about right now. Tell God about it. Ask God to show you what to do in this situation. Then thank God for listening.

DAY 2

Read Lamentations 3:25

Do you ever look at the people around you and think, "Well, he's impatient with me! Why should I be patient with him?" If you look to others around you for examples of patience, you may end up pretty disappointed. But there is someone who is always patient, no matter what.

There's no one better at showing patience than God. Every time you mess up, every time you do something you're not supposed to do, God is willing to forgive you. We can always count on God to be good and patient, especially when we choose to follow God.

The next time you find yourself in a situation that requires extra patience, stop and ask God to help you! Then thank God for always being patient with you.

Patience Jar Checkup

How is your family doing with the patience jar challenge? Spend some time praying together as a family at bedtime. Name some ways God is patient with you and ask God to help you show patience with one another.

DAY 3

Read Psalm 27:14

Waiting takes strength. It takes self-control. It takes patience.

If want to be strong, you have to learn to have patience. You have to decide that what you're waiting for is worth it! And you have to trust that at the right time, God will provide everything that you need. God loves you more than anyone or anything. And God can help you stay strong and show real patience while you wait.

Patience Work Out

Try some strength training exercises as you learn this verse. Write out each word of the verse on an index card. Place the cards a foot apart and jump from one card to the next, saying the words of the verse over and over. How many times can you jump and say the verse without stopping? Five times? Seven times? See if you can jump and say the verse ten times in a row!

DAY 4

Read Micah 7:7

When will it be my turn? What do you mean I have to wait till I'm older? How come he gets to do it just because he's bigger?

When you think you can't wait, it's important to remember who is really in charge. God made you. God loves you and doesn't want you to miss any part of growing up. If you could do everything you wanted to RIGHT now, there wouldn't be much of anything worth waiting for. Growing and learning and waiting are all part of God's plan for each of us.

Make a List

What are some things you can be thankful for in your life RIGHT now? Make a list of the things that make being a kid pretty awesome. Ask God to help you enjoy where you are right now instead of being impatient about what you think you can't wait for.

God is with you
while you wait.

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

**Psalm
27:14,
NIRV**



GOLDEN TICKET CHECKLIST

WHEN YOU COMPLETE A CHALLENGE, TELL AN UPSTREET LEADER, AND WE WILL PUNCH YOUR TICKET!

- MEMORIZE THE MONTHLY VERSE
*PSALM 27:14)
- COMPLETE 12 WEEKLY DEVOS FOR THE MONTH. (THERE ARE 4 PER WEEK) OR FINISH YOUR BIBLE BUDDY PACKET!
- INVITE A FRIEND TO JOIN YOU FOR VBS!
REGISTRATION BEGINS APRIL 14!

