



KIDS of INTEGRITY

Israelites in the Desert: God is Patient When We Disobey

God loves and cares for his people, just like we as parents love and care for our children. When God's people, the Israelites, disobeyed God, he was very patient with them. In the end, however, he had no choice but to discipline them. Kids can expect their parents to give them treats and gifts, but they can also expect that their parents will respond to disobedience with discipline. One way we may do this is by removing privileges, treats, and toys.

Opening Prayer & Worship (10 min)

Ask God to help us be patient, even when others frustrate us or make mistakes that hurt us. Sing a worship song like "Today Is the Day" as a reminder to rejoice and wait with gladness.

Bible Story (15 min)

Read Nehemiah 9:7-31 and focus on verses 16-21 and 29-31.

Use visuals like a map of the desert, a toy tent, some "manna" (crackers or mini marshmallows), and a "pillar of fire and pillar of cloud" (flashlight and cotton ball) to act out the Israelites' journey.

STORY RECAP: God did so many amazing things for the Israelites. He rescued them from slavery, gave them food in the desert, and led them to a new home. But even with all these blessings, the Israelites often disobeyed God. The Israelites were impatient – they wanted to get to the promised land quickly and did not want to be in the desert. The Israelites complained, made wrong choices, and ignored God's rules. They even decided to make a statue and worship that instead of God! But God didn't give up on them. He was incredibly patient. He forgave them over and over and continued to guide them and provide for them. God's patience teaches us how to be patient with others, even when they don't listen to good advice or make mistakes that hurt people.

Discussion Questions (10 min)

1. What good things did God do for the Israelites?

2. How did the Israelites disobey God?
3. How did God respond to the Israelites' disobedience?
4. What are some ways we disobey our parents or teachers?
5. How do our parents or teachers respond when we disobey?
6. God disciplined his people when they disobeyed. Did that mean he stopped loving them?
7. How was God patient with the Israelites?
8. When was a time it was hard for you to stay patient?
9. When was a time that you were patient with someone else?

Prayer Time

Express gratitude for God's patience. Highlight that God's followers are often disobedient, but that God is patient with us. Talk about times when it's hard to be patient, like waiting for a turn, when someone is slow, or when people don't do what we want. Ask God to help kids be more patient.

SAMPLE PRAYER: *Dear God, thank you for being patient with us. Help us be patient with others like you are with us. When people make mistakes or things don't go our way, remind us to respond with love and forgiveness. Help us grow in patience through the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

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More Activities

MEMORY VERSE: Proverbs 19:11 – “A person’s wisdom yields patience; it is to one’s glory to overlook an offense.”

CRAFT: “Patience Beads” (20 min) – Nehemiah 9:7-31 describes how God’s patience for Israel was shown through his provision. Use coloured beads to represent these ways God provided for the Israelites: the parted Red Sea (red bead), the pillar of cloud (grey bead), the pillar of fire (yellow bead), the water from the rock (blue bead), manna (white bead), and the clothes that never wore out (brown bead). String these beads on some yarn or string and make a piece of jewelry that will remind kids of God’s patience and provision.

GAME: “Wait for It!” (15 min) – Play a waiting game like “Red Light, Green Light” or freeze dance where kids have to wait patiently. Pause between each “go” longer than usual. Discuss how hard it is to wait and how waiting helps grow patience.

Remember: These lesson plans are designed to be flexible! Feel free to add, remove, or adjust activities to best fit your schedule and the needs of your children.

For more ideas and resources, visit:
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Farmers in God's Garden: Patience While God Grows Good Things

When we choose to follow God, we become farmers in his garden. When we tell others about following Jesus, we join God in bringing a harvest of people into his Kingdom. To be the best farmers we can be, we should show God's love to others and tell them what Jesus did for them – but introducing others to Jesus can take a long time. When things seem like they're moving slowly, we must remember that we can plant seeds, but it's God who makes them grow at the right time. When we are patient, God can use our farming to grow amazing things!

Opening Prayer & Worship (10 min)

Thank God for his perfect timing. Ask God to help us wait patiently while he grows good things in us and others. Sing a joyful song like "Every Move I Make" as a reminder that God is always at work, even when he seems quiet or still.

Bible Story (15 min)

Read James 5:7-9 and Mark 4:18-19. Use props like a small flowerpot, seeds, and a watering can. Talk about how crops grow slowly. Emphasize that farmers might not see growth right away, but they can wait patiently, knowing that God makes things grow at the proper time.

STORY RECAP: In James, we read about a farmer who plants seeds and waits patiently for rain and sunshine so his crops can grow. The farmer cannot force the good things to grow – he has to wait for the right time. In the same way, followers of Jesus need to wait patiently for Jesus to return and make all things new. The bottom line of this story is that God is growing good things, but he waits until the right moment to make them bloom. In Mark, we learn that worries, troubles, and distractions are like weeds that choke the good things that God is growing. When we wait patiently and trust that God is always growing something, we can prevent weeds from hurting the garden that God is creating.

Discussion Questions (10 min)

1. What happens if a farmer harvests their crops too soon?

2. Why does a farmer need to wait patiently?
3. How can we be patient as we introduce others to Jesus?
4. What good things is God growing for you?
5. What kinds of "weeds" (worries or distractions) can hurt what God is growing?
6. Why is it sometimes hard to wait for God's timing?
7. What is something you are waiting for God to grow in your life?
8. How can you be patient while you wait?
9. What does it mean to be a farmer in God's garden?

Prayer Time

Talk with kids about specific things in their lives that they are waiting for. Share moments in your own life where you had to wait for something – perhaps an acceptance letter, a life milestone, a healing, a character trait, or a new family member. Model giving thanks to God for a waiting period and emphasize that it is a blessing to learn to be patient.

SAMPLE PRAYER: "Dear God, thank you for growing good things in our lives. Even when we don't see anything happening, you are still making things grow. Help us to be patient farmers who wait for their crops. We trust that you know the right moment for things to bloom. Thank you for teaching me to be patient when I _____. Amen."

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More Activities

MEMORY VERSE: James 5:8 – “You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near.”

CRAFT: “Patience Heart Chain” (20 min) – Make heart-shaped paper chain links. Write “God helps me be patient” on the first heart. Help kids write or draw moments when they showed patience (e.g., “I waited quietly for my snack”). Encourage kids to add a link each time they show patience during the week.

GAME: “Sprouting surprise” (20 min) – Plant bean or chia sprouts in a jar and place the jar somewhere sunny where kids cannot see it (such as a parent’s bathroom or a high shelf). Tell kids that each centimeter their plant grows will earn them another candy or dollar – but they are not allowed to see the sprout. They can choose to end the game and take their reward whenever they wish. This will encourage them to wait patiently for growth and trust that God grows blessings for them even when they cannot see it.

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Habakkuk: Patience When Things Seem Unfair

The prophet Habakkuk had to wait patiently, even when things seemed unfair. Habakkuk lived during a scary time for God's people, and he felt like God was doing nothing to protect them. When Habakkuk cried out to God for help, he learned that God will always bring justice at the proper time – all God's people have to do is be patient.

Opening Prayer & Worship (10 min)

Ask God to help us trust that he will bring justice at the proper time when things feel unfair. Begin with worship; use this time as a reminder that God is working even when we can't see it.

Bible Story (15 min)

Read Habakkuk 3. Before reading, explain that Habakkuk was asking God why he was not doing anything about the people coming to capture Judah. When Habakkuk learned that God would bring justice at the proper time, Habakkuk responded with this joyful prayer. Read selected parts of Habakkuk 3 dramatically or act out Habakkuk's prayer with big emotions!

STORY RECAP: Habakkuk lived during a time when bad people seemed to be getting away with everything. An army was on its way to capture God's people and destroy the city where Habakkuk lived. Habakkuk asked God, "Why are you letting this happen?" He didn't understand why things were so unfair. Even though he didn't see God fixing everything right away, God helped Habakkuk to wait patiently and trust God's timing. Habakkuk said, "I will rejoice in the Lord." That's a big deal – Habakkuk praised God even when life didn't feel fair. This reminds us that we can be patient and trust God to make everything right again at the proper time, even if we have to wait.

Discussion Questions (10 min)

1. Why was Habakkuk crying out to God?
2. Have you ever felt like something wasn't fair?

3. How did Habakkuk respond even when life felt unfair?
4. Why is it hard to be patient when things are going poorly?
5. How do you feel knowing that God will make all things right at the proper time?
6. How can we show patience while we wait for God to act?
7. Can you think of a time when God helped you understand something after waiting?
8. How can we encourage someone else who feels like life isn't fair?

Prayer Time

Discuss with kids about their personal experiences that were not fair – at school, home, or with friends. Ask God to help kids wait patiently for him to bring redemption, healing, or justice to every situation.

SAMPLE PRAYER: "Dear God, sometimes we feel confused and upset when things aren't fair. Help us to be like Habakkuk and trust your perfect timing, even when we don't understand. Teach us to be patient and to wait for you to make all things right. Thank you for being good to us, even when life is hard. Amen."

More Activities

MEMORY VERSE: Psalm 37:7 – "Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him."

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CRAFT: “Patience Flower” (20 min) – Draw or cut out a flower with big petals. In the centre, write “I wait patiently.” On each petal, write something that you are waiting patiently on God for (e.g., an opportunity, a healing, a developing character trait, a resolution in a hard situation, etc.).

GAME: “Patience Capsule” (20 min) – Ask children to write about or draw situations they are awaiting God’s intervention in. Put their work in a box (the “patience capsule”) and hide it somewhere. Set a reminder to open the capsule a few months from now. When the day comes, make them a treasure map leading to the capsule, then review its contents and discuss how God moved in each situation in his perfect timing.

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Jesus: Patience That Never Runs Out

Paul talks about how Jesus has unlimited patience as he waits for people to confess their sins. Unlimited patience means patience that never runs out. Jesus waits patiently for as long as it takes for people to tell him they are sorry and decide to follow his ways instead of their own. He loves all of us so much that he doesn't want anyone to miss out on having their sins forgiven.

Opening Prayer & Worship (10 min)

Thank Jesus for being patient while he waits for us to change our ways. Ask him to help us confess our sins to him. Sing a song about the never-ending love and patience of Jesus.

Bible Story (15 min)

Read 1 Timothy 1:15-16 and 2 Peter 3:9. Use a simple visual like a calendar or a clock to show that a lot of time passes while Jesus waits for us to come to him.

STORY RECAP: Paul said that Jesus showed “unlimited patience” with him. Paul used to hurt Christians, but Jesus forgave him and changed his life. Even better, the entire time that Paul was hurting Christians, Jesus was waiting patiently for him to change his ways. Jesus has unlimited patience with us, just like he had unlimited patience with Paul. Every day, Jesus is waiting to hear us say “I’m sorry” and forgive us. That’s how kind and patient Jesus is! We can follow his example by being patient with others, even when we have to wait a long time for them to change their ways.

Discussion Questions (10 min)

1. What did Paul say about Jesus’ patience?
2. What does *unlimited* mean in your own words?
3. Why does Jesus wait so patiently for people?
4. What is Jesus waiting for?
5. How does Jesus show patience with you?
6. When is it hardest for you to be patient with others?
7. Who is someone you can be more patient with this week?
8. What does patience show others about God’s love?

Prayer Time

Let kids reflect quietly, then invite them to thank Jesus for being patient with them. Encourage them to name someone they want to be more patient with and include that in prayer.

SAMPLE PRAYER: “Dear Jesus, thank you for having unlimited patience for us. Thank you for loving us and waiting for us to come to you. Because of your patience, we have the

chance to be forgiven and follow you instead of our own ways. Help us to be patient with our friends, family, and even ourselves. Teach us to be patient with others like you are patient with us. Amen.”

More Activities

MEMORY VERSE: 2 Peter 3:9 – “The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise . . . He is patient with you.”

CRAFT: “Watching and Waiting” (15 min) – Make a “watch” out of string, pipe cleaners, or ribbon to wear on your wrist. Use a large bead or make a tinfoil medallion to be the clock face, and write “Jesus waits for me” on it. Kids will be reminded that Jesus has unlimited patience for them each time they check their “watch.” If preferred, parents could draw the “watch” on the child’s wrist using makeup pencils or washable markers.

GAME: “Waiting Tag” (15 min) – Play tag with a twist. When someone is tagged, they must freeze and wait to be “rescued” by a teammate. While frozen, they count slowly to 10 or say their memory verse. Talk about how waiting creates patience.

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Waiting for God: Patience When Facing Wrongdoing

It can get frustrating when people are getting away with wrongdoing, but God wants us to forgive them and wait patiently for his justice. We often want to punish people ourselves and get payback, but this only leads to more evil. Instead, God wants us to forgive as he forgave us and wait patiently for his justice to make things right.

Opening Prayer & Worship (10 min)

Ask God to help us stay calm and show love when others bother us or make mistakes that hurt us. Spend time in worship remembering the fruits of the Spirit.

Bible Story (15 min)

Read Psalm 37:1-8 and Colossians 3:13. Use actions – fists to represent payback and folded praying hands to represent forgiveness – to show what it's easy to do (punish wrongdoing) and what it's harder but better to do (forgive wrongdoing).

STORY RECAP: It's easy to get annoyed or mad when others are rude, slow, or don't do what we want. The Bible tells us not to let our anger get out of control – that only leads to more sin. King David talked to God when he felt angry at others who were doing wrong, and God said through his Word that he would bring justice to every situation. All David had to do was wait patiently. Colossians tells us to “bear with one another” – this means looking past people's mistakes and forgiving them. Instead of seeking payback or holding a grudge, we can pause, pray, and ask God for help. When we forgive each other and trust that justice is God's job, not ours, we can honour each other through our patience.

Discussion Questions (10 min)

1. What does it mean to “fret” or be quick to anger?
2. When do you feel most impatient with others?
3. What did David do when he was upset with wrongdoing people?
4. What does Colossians 3:13 say we should do when others wrong us?

5. How can we “bear with” each other in love?
6. What helps you stay calm when you're frustrated?
7. Is it hard to trust that justice is God's job, not ours?
8. How does patience bring peace to our homes and friendships?

Prayer Time

Have kids think of a person or situation that usually tests their patience (a sibling, a classmate, a chore, etc.). Pray for self-control and forgiveness in those moments. Ask God to help kids seek forgiveness, rather than taking punishment and payback into their own hands.

SAMPLE PRAYER: “Dear God, thank you for being so patient with us. Help us to be patient with others, even when they bug us or make mistakes that hurt us. Guide us to stay calm, to pray first, and to forgive quickly. Teach us that justice is your job, not ours. Make us forgiving, like you are. Amen.”

More Activities

MEMORY VERSE: Colossians 3:13 – “Bear with each other and forgive . . . forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

CRAFT: “Patience Jar” (20 min) – Give each child a small jar or cup. Decorate jars with stickers and write the memory verse or “God is growing patience in me!” on the jar. Every time kids show patience this week, they add a coin, candy, or cotton ball to their jar. When the jar is full, they can celebrate with a reward or a fun family activity.

GAME: “Patience Toss” (15 min) – Stand in a circle with a ball. Kids must gently toss and catch the ball without

dropping it. If someone drops it, start over. Each round, increase the number of tosses needed to “win.” Talk about how patience and forgiveness are important when other people fall short.

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