

Grade 3-4: Small Group Leader Guide

April 7th 2024

Today's Bible Story: The Waiting (A Patience Proverb) • *Proverbs 14:29*

Today's Bottom Line: Waiting can make you wise.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Wait for the LORD. Be strong and don't lose hope. Wait for the LORD. Psalm 27:14 (NirV)*

Monthly Virtue: Patience—Waiting until later for what you want now

Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.



Small Group Connect (10 Minutes)

1. **Introduce** yourself, and **welcome** new kids by name.
2. Kids **share** what happened during the past week.
3. **Check up** on past week's prayer requests and events.
4. **Discuss** the welcome question: "Ask them about the best and worst part of their week."
5. **Activity**

Opening Activity

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

What You Need: Buzzer or bell

What You Do:

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Instruct both teams to form a line facing you.
- Direct each team to send up a representative to answer a fun trivia question.
- As a representative from each team comes up, ask a question that is listed below.
- Instruct the kids to hit the buzzer or bell to signal that they want to answer the question.
- The first kid to hit the buzzer or bell and answer the question correctly, wins!
 - If a kid hits the buzzer and does not answer correctly, direct the other team to try to answer the question and earn a point.
- Instruct the teams to send up a new representative each round until you've gone through all the questions.
- Announce the winning team!

Questions: (the answers are in bold)

1. What was the original name of the famous yellow mustard most of us use? (**A. cream salad brand** or B. yellow cream sauce)
2. What was ketchup's first name (A. ketchup or **B. catsup**)
3. What did the largest hamburger on record weigh? (**A. 3,591 pounds** or B. 2,902 pounds)
4. Which of these statements about hot dogs are true? (**A. Hot dogs are an approved space food.** or B. Hot dogs are not permitted in space because of the microgravity.)
5. One engineer spent six years examining one attribute of which beloved cookout food? (**A. the crunchiness of a potato chip** or B. the shelf life of sliced cheese)
6. Which cookout food briefly went into extinction during World War 2? (A. noodles for potato salad or **B. potato chips**)
7. Cleopatra, the Queen of Egypt, supposedly credited her good health and beauty to which popular cookout item? (A. mustard or **B. pickles**)
8. What state in the United States owns the biggest barbeque pit? (A. South Carolina or **B. Texas**)

NOTE: Adjust the questions above to include food examples that reflect the cultural variety represented by your group or local area.

What You Say:

"How many of you all were totally just guessing with those answers? (*Allow time for responses.*) Yeah! Those were some seriously fun facts. It was tempting to just hit the buzzer before you even knew if you had the answer, wasn't it? **[Transition] Today in Large Group, we're going to hear about how waiting can actually give us an advantage in life.**"

To create meaningful relationships with kids and parents so that they can confidently pursue a life-long relationship with Jesus.



Small Group Activity (20 Minutes)

1. To Wait or Not to Wait

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: “Cookout Checklist” Activity Page, “Cookout Supply Cards” Activity Page, pens, and prepared cup

What You Do:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Give each a team “Cookout Checklist” Activity Page and pen.
- Choose a team to go first.
- Ask that team a Bible Story Review Question that’s listed below.
 - If the team gets the answer correct, instruct one kid from the team to draw a card from the cup of cards from the “Cookout Supply Cards” Activity Page.
 - Direct that team to read the card and choose whether or not they want to keep it based on what they have marked off on their team’s “Cookout Checklist.”
 - If the team does not want to keep the card, instruct them to put it back and draw another.
 - Teams can only draw another card once more. If they don’t need that card either, they will put it back and it’s the next team’s turn to go.
- Direct teams to cross items off their “Cookout Checklist” Activity Page as they gather enough cards from the “Cookout Supply Cards” Activity Page to do so.
- Continue by asking the other team the next review question.
- Continue the game by alternating asking questions between the teams.
- The first team to gather all of their cookout supplies, wins!
 - Ask any remaining review questions after announcing the winner.
 - If you run out of questions before a team has won, allow teams to take turns choosing cards from the cup until you have a winner.

Bible Story Review Questions:

1. Today we heard about a verse from a book of the Bible known for wisdom. What is the name of that book of the Bible? (*Proverbs*)
2. What does Proverbs 14:29 call anyone who gets angry quickly? (*foolish*)
3. What does Proverbs 14:29 say about anyone who is patient? (*They have great understanding.*)
4. How long did King David wait before he was appointed as Israel’s king? (*more than 10 years*)
5. What kind of waiting did Joseph face? (*He waited years after being sold into slavery by his brothers. He was put in prison for unfair reasons, until finally he became second-in-command of Egypt.*)
6. Who is the perfect example of patience? (*Jesus*)
7. Who was Jesus patient with? (*everyone—friends, family, and even enemies*)
8. What is one way you can show patience this week? (*Answers will vary. Repeat this question, if needed.*)
9. How does waiting help us make wiser choices? (*Answers will vary. Repeat this question, if needed.*)
10. Describe a time you had to show patience at school.
11. What’s one way you can show patience at home?

To create meaningful relationships with kids and parents so that they can confidently pursue a life-long relationship with Jesus.

What You Say:

“Whether you chose to pause with the card you first drew and were patient until you got all of your supplies, or you decided to try to choose an even better card, this game shows us why waiting can turn out pretty great.

“It’s not always easy to wait patiently. It can be tough to stop and think. But God can help us grow in patience. It’s worth it to take a breath and think before you react. Sometimes, it’s hard to wait. But just remember that ***[Bottom Line]*** **waiting can make you wise!**”

[Make It Personal] ***(Share about a time you had to have patience, waiting for something. Share some ways you were able to make the wise choice to wait. What helped you have patience?)***



Small Group Discussion (10 Minutes)

Say the Bottom Line and Bible Verse together:

Today's Bottom Line: waiting can make you wise.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Wait for the LORD.* Psalm 27:14 (NirV)

Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Say:

“God, thank You for giving us hope and help no matter what we’re waiting on. Whether we’re waiting on the news of making the baseball team or remaining patient as we pray for our friend who is sick, we know that You care and will always be with us while we wait. Next time our impatience takes over and we are tired of waiting, help us to slow down. Remind us that **[Bottom Line] waiting can make you wise.** We love You and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”



Check Out & Parent Pick-up

Kids should stay in the Small Group until their parents arrive to pick them up and show the 3 digit tag that matches the number on the name tag of the child being picked up..

When a kid from your small group leaves, **say** something positive and specific to their parent. Remember this week to **Bottom Line: waiting can make you wise**