

April 2024 – Week 3

Today's Bible Story: I Keep Forgettin' (Golden Calf) • *Exodus 32:1-35*

Today's Bottom Line: When you have to wait, remember what's true.

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 can trust God no matter what.

Story Experience Outline

As the Story Experience Leader, you win when you engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

1. Intro (5 Minutes)

"Hello, everybody! It's great to see all of you. This month at [name of your environment], we're finding out how God can help us live with patience.

"Patience is **waiting until later for what you want now.**

"Patience is so important. I mean, we all have to wait for things we want . . . or things we hope will happen. And I'm not just talking about waiting for your burger to cook at a cookout. In those moments, we can wait WELL by choosing to wait patiently. And remember, when we put our trust in Jesus, we have God's Spirit to help us! The apostle Paul wrote that patience is something that the Holy Spirit creates inside us.

Lead the kids through the game

"Let's jump into worship."

Worship

Bible Story & Video
Reflection (5 Minutes)

Amen to that! It's easy for us to look at this story and wonder how things went wrong for the Israelites so quickly. But the fact is, it can be really, really tough when we have to wait. If we forget the things we know are true, that can lead us to make some unwise choices. We need to learn from the way the Israelites acted so that we know what to do the next time WE have to wait.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “When you have to wait, remember what’s true.

“So what can you do when you’re in a situation when you have to wait, and it’s really difficult? You can stop and remember that God is with you. You can think about how good God is, and how much God loves you. You can even think about some good things that God has done in your life, like the ways God has helped you in the past. You can stop and think about what we like to say around here: **[Basic Truth] I can trust God no matter what.**

(Hold up Bible.) “It also helps to look back at God’s Big Story. You can think about stories from the Bible and remember God has loved people all throughout history.

“If you’re having a hard time remembering what’s true, you can also talk to the people who God has put in your life—like your family members or friends who follow God, or your Small Group Leader here at church. There may be times when you have to wait . . . but you don’t have to wait alone.

“Remember, patience is a gift from God. When we put our faith in Jesus as our Savior, we have the Holy Spirit working inside us. God’s Spirit can help us to be patient and put our trust in God.

Let’s pray.

PRAY

“God, thank You for Your faithfulness. We can see in this story how good You were to the Israelites. You led them into freedom . . . but when they had to wait in the wilderness, they forgot what was true. They forgot about Your goodness and love. Please help us to learn from their mistakes and remember to always trust You. Help us to always remember the truth—especially when we’re waiting. Give us the strength to trust in You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.