

## Grade K-2: Small Group Leader Guide

# April 14<sup>th</sup> 2024

**Today's Bible Story:** Can't Hardly Wait (Esau's Impatience) • *Genesis 25:24-34*

**Today's Bottom Line:** When you think you can't wait, think twice.

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

**Monthly Life App:** Patience—Waiting until later for what you want now

**Basic Truth:** I need to make the wise choice.

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### 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**

## Early Arriver

*Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding*

**What You Need:** Offering container, paper plates, markers and/or crayons

### **What You Do:**

- Warmly welcome each kid by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who have brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- As kids arrive, ask: "What foods do you like to eat at a cookout?"
- Give each kid a paper plate.
- Set out the markers.
- Encourage the kids to draw their FAVORITE cookout foods.
- ***[Make It Personal] Draw your favorite foods too.***
- Encourage kids to pair up and share with their partner what they drew.
- Bring kids together to share their drawings with the entire group.
- ***[Make It Personal] Share your drawing as well.***
- *NOTE: Be sure to accept a variety of food examples that represent the cultural variety represented by your group or local area.*

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)

### Think Twice

#### [Live for God | Application Activity]

*Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment*

**What You Need:** “Think Twice Scenarios” Activity Page

#### What You Do:

- Lead the kids in a stop-action version of charades.
- Instruct the kids to stand in a circle.
- One at a time, read a scenario from the “Think Twice Scenarios” Activity Page
- Invite the kids to pantomime each situation as you read.
  - Be sure to read with expression and follow the instructions on the “Think Twice Scenarios” Activity Page.
  - Pause occasionally so the kids can pantomime the action.
- Direct the kids to freeze when you say, “stop.”
- Lead the kids to point to their temple with one hand when you say “think” and point to the other side of their temple with their other hand when you say “twice.”
- With the kids frozen in this position, read the two choices for the scenario from the “Think Twice Scenarios” Activity Page.
- Guide the kids to pantomime the wise choice.

#### What You Say:

“Great job! You made a lot of wise choices! You waited to eat a cookie, saved your money, chose not to take a shortcut, and finished cleaning your room! When is it hard for *you* to wait until later for what you want now? (*Invite responses, and prompt kids to think of things like: waiting to open presents, waiting to take a turn, etc.*)

“When it’s hard to wait, who can help you make the wise choice to be patient? (*Invite responses.*) Yes! God can. When you follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live inside you. Patience is a gift from God’s Spirit.

“So remember, **[Bottom Line]** when you think you can’t wait, **think** (*point to your temple with one hand*) **twice** (*point to your other temple with the other hand*). Stop and ask God to help you wait for what’s best!”



## Small Group Discussion (10 Minutes)

### Say the Bottom Line and Bible Verse together:

**Today's Bottom Line:** when you think you can't wait, think twice.

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

### Pray and Dismiss

#### What You Do:

- Teach kids to say the phrase from the NIRV, *be strong and don't lose hope* at your cue.
  - Or for the NIV, teach kids the phrase, *be strong and take heart* at your cue.
- Lead the kids in the responsive prayer below, cuing them to say the phrase at your signal.

#### What You Say:

(for NIRV)

"Dear God, Your Word tells us to wait for You.

*be strong and don't lose hope*

Lord, please help us be patient.

*be strong and don't lose hope*

Help us not be foolish like Esau.

*be strong and don't lose hope*

When we think we can't wait, help us think twice.

*be strong and don't lose hope*

Thank You, God, that when we follow Jesus, Your Holy Spirit will help us.

*be strong and don't lose hope*

You are ALWAYS with us.

*be strong and don't lose hope*

We love You SO MUCH, Lord. And we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

(for NIV)

"Dear God, Your Word tells us to wait for You.

*be strong and take heart*

Lord, please help us be patient.

*be strong and take heart*

Help us not be foolish like Esau.

*be strong and take heart*

When we think we can't wait, help us think twice.

*be strong and take heart*

Thank You, God, that when we follow Jesus, Your Holy Spirit will help us.

*be strong and take heart*

You are ALWAYS with us.

*be strong and take heart*

We love You SO MUCH, Lord. And we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share today's Bottom Line: **[Bottom Line] when you think you can't wait, think twice.**

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## 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: when you think you can't wait, think twice**

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