

CALVARY CHAPEL OAKDALE



2023-2024

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

JANUARY, 2024

This Month's THEME:

**WE ARE TO BEAR
THE FRUIT OF "LONGSUFFERING"
ALSO KNOWN AS "PATIENCE"**

WEEKLY THEMES THIS MONTH:

Week 1: We need the fruit of God's longsuffering.

Week 2: Do we know where to find longsuffering?

Week 3: How longsuffering am I?

Week 4: Longsuffering never gives up.

Week 5: Jesus was so longsuffering to offer us hope.

(5th Weekly devotion for months with 5 Wednesdays)

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Numbers 14:18 – The Lord is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears the guilty.



**Full verse for:
Armor Bearers & Knights**

Numbers 14:18 –
The Lord is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression.



**Short verse for:
Page & Squires**

Lesson #1 - We need the fruit of God's longsuffering.

Text: Galatians 5:22a - "The fruit of the Spirit is ... longsuffering (patience)."

Read: Galatians 5:19-26.

Devotional:

With just a few weeks of the new school year under his belt, Mateo was already beginning to feel frustrated and pressure. So much so, that his mom Anna knew something was wrong, because this was not how Mateo usually acted even when things were not going his way.

"Mateo", his mother said, "It seems like you're getting very impatient lately and you seem to be frustrated. Is something bothering you and can I help?" Well, Mateo realized she was right, and he decided it would be good to tell her what was bothering him.

So, Mateo told his mom, "I am only a few weeks into this new school year, and I seem to be getting more and more behind in my math homework. I just don't seem to get it. I ask the teacher for help, and he explains what I'm doing wrong. But I just can't remember how to get it right when he is not helping me."

So, his mom asked if she could get him a tutor to help. And Mateo said he would be happy to get more help. But his mom also told him, "Mateo, you need to be patient with this. Sometimes, new concepts can take a long time to understand. And sometimes, we just need to be a little bit older before we can really begin to grasp new concepts we're learning. So, I want you to try to be patient. You may still be frustrated for a while, but in time you can learn to get it. Can you be more patient as you learn?"

Thoughts from the Lesson:

Finally, Mateo's mom asked to pray for Mateo because, she said, the Lord can be an even better tutor to give us His wisdom and help us be more patient until things begin to make sense.

Questions for Application:

- Do we truly have patience in life as God describes it?
- Do we know where to get patience?
- Do we know God can give us patience whenever we need it?

Lesson #2 - Do we know WHERE to find longsuffering (also known as patience)?

Text: Psalm 86:15 - "But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious,
Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth."

Read: Psalm 86:11-15.

Devotional:

When Dylan learned that his parents were taking him and his sister on vacation to his favorite amusement park, he became very excited. Unfortunately, for Dylan the trip was still a couple of months away and he just could NOT stand the thought of waiting that long.

So, he went to his dad and said, "Dad I feel like I am just too excited about our upcoming vacation, and I just can't wait for it. And I can't seem to get my mind off it."

So, his dad said, "Dylan, the longer you live the more you can learn to be longsuffering or patient. Because patience is something that almost everyone in life struggles with. I used to be an extremely impatient person. But I got some help and have gotten much better."

So, Dylan asked his dad, "Well, how did you learn that? I need to be more patient, and I need it NOW!"

So, his dad said, "I learned that patience is a fruit of God's Holy Spirit. So, it is something that comes very naturally and easily to God. But it is not something we tend to do well. So, when I was your age, my youth pastor told me to pray, and God can give me His patience. Well, I wasn't sure that would work. But I prayed and told God, I do believe you can help me be more patient since You're so good at it. And I asked Him to help me be more like Him. And when we tell God we can't do something that comes easily to Him, He likes to give us His power and then everyone will know how great He is.

Thoughts from the Lesson:

That was when Dylan's dad asked him if he wanted to pray to ask God to give him the patience God has. And Dylan said, "Yes, I do."

Questions for Application:

- Did we know patience comes easy to God?
- Have we admitted we are not very patient on our own?
- Have we asked God for patience and believed He would help?

Lesson #3 - God is longsuffering to give us time to repent.

Text: 2 Peter 3:9 - "The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering (patient) toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

Read: 2 Peter 3:8-15.

Devotional:

Carter was angry one day with his little brother Jayden. So, he decided to hide Jayden's favorite toy and wouldn't say where it was.

So, Jayden went to his mom and told her what Carter had done. And his mother told him, "Let's wait until your father gets home and we will talk with Carter and decide how to handle what he did."

Well, that was not good enough for Jayden. He told his mother he wanted her to force Carter to tell and to punish him right now.

What Jayden did not know is that his mom knew Carter had hidden his toy, but wanted to wait a little bit to see if Carter would come and confess what he had done to his brother. So, she told Jayden she was waiting to give Carter this time and it would be easier to discipline him if he was sorry for what he'd done.

Then, when Jayden told her he didn't want to wait, she reminded him she had done the same thing for him a week before when he broke one of Carter's favorite toys and hid it. She had been gentle with Jayden when he came to her hours after he broke it.

So, his mom told him, "You seemed to be happy I gave you time to admit what you'd done. But you don't want me to give your brother time to admit what he's done? Does that seem fair to Carter?"

Thoughts from the Lesson:

God is so patient with us He gives us a great amount of time to repent of our sins. He doesn't want to have to punish us.

Questions for Application:

- Did we know how patient God is?
- Do we like to wait for justice when we're wronged?
- Do we give people time to repent like we want them to give to us?

Lesson #4 - Longsuffering never gives up.

Text: 1 Timothy 1:16 - "However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering (patience), as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life."

Read: 1 Timothy 1:12-17.

Devotional:

Noah had a friend at school named Lucas. Now, for some reason a certain boy seemed to treat Lucas badly all the time. Noah thought the boy was a bully for how he treated Lucas.

So, Noah asked Lucas a few times, "Lucas, why don't you go talk to someone about how that boy treats you? It's just not right how he treats you and I just couldn't take it like you do."

That was when Lucas told him, "Noah, my youth pastor told me at church that Jesus faced a whole bunch of bullies in His life. They were some religious leaders and all they wanted to do was to hurt him and even kill him. But Jesus had didn't give up on them and still tried to talk with them so they would realize He loved them. And Jesus even let them put Him on trial and to hurt Him. They even convinced the Roman authorities to kill Jesus. And I am so grateful for Jesus because if He had not let them do that, He never would have paid the debt I owed for my sin. So, I want to be like Jesus who was so great to them and me. And I pray to God for that boy and that he will realize I love him like Jesus does." Well, Noah had never heard that and said he needed to think about it and would like to learn to be patient & loving to people like that.

Thoughts from the Lesson:

Have we learned to be an example to people around us like Jesus has been to all of mankind?

Questions for Application:

- Do we feel a need to retaliate every time someone is NOT nice to us?
- Did we know Jesus let people hurt & kill Him for us?
- Do we want to be good examples to people as Jesus was?

Lesson #5 - How longsuffering am I?

Text: Colossians 3:12 - "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;"

Read: Colossians 3:12-17.

Devotional:

Layla was at church, and she heard her pastor reading and explaining Colossians 3:12-17 to the congregation. And the pastor said that all believers are commanded to PUT ON tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, and longsuffering (patience). And the pastor said it is kind of like putting on clothes. We need to decide to put it on as God gives us the power to do so.

Well, Layla just couldn't understand the thought of "PUTTING ON" patience as if it was some kind of clothing. She also thought, I've tried to learn patience and I'm just very bad at it and I don't think I could ever do it. So, it is certainly not as easy as just PUTTING ON some clothes."

Well, Layla shared this with her parents, and they were so glad she had thought this through, and they wanted to help her. So, they told her, "Layla, we can put on patience in this life. But first we have to admit it is something we don't have, but God possesses it and He wants to give it to us so we can WEAR whenever we need it. BUT we must admit we do not have the ability to do it ourselves. We NEED to admit only God truly has it and is the only one who can really give it to us. Do we want to know how to get this from the Lord?"

Thoughts from the Lesson:

We can humbly ask God to give us the fruits of His Holy Spirit. But He does ask us to admit we need Him to give it to us. If we think we can do it on our own, we are suffering from pride.

Questions for Application:

- Do we know we don't have any of the fruits of the Holy Spirit in ourselves?
- Have we told God we can't do this ourselves?
- Do we know we need to keep coming to God for this help?

What are the age groups for WFC?



Pages

(3-4 years old)



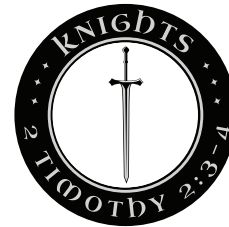
Squires

(K-2nd Grade)



Armor Bearers

(3rd-6th Grade)



Knights

(Jr. & Sr. High)

Note: All age groups determined by child's age on 9/1 ea. yr.

What awards can our children earn?

Three special pins can be earned each year and are awarded to the children as follows:

1. Sword Pin: For memorizing 6 verses during the WFC calendar year.
2. Helmet of Salvation Pin: For bringing 3 different friends to an evening during the calendar year.
3. Armor Pin: For attending 2/3 of the 34 weeks or more (22 wks).

Is there a cost for the club?

No! The club is free. The t-shirts are \$20 each.