

Growing in Patience

Lesson Scripture: 1 Samuel 10:8 and 13:1-15

Bible Truth: My patience can grow.

Bible Story: 1 Samuel 10:8 and 13:1-15

Bible Verse: “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.” (Ephesians 4:2, NIV)

FOCUS

Learning Activity: “Wait!”

Preparation

None

Presentation

Say: **How often do you hear the word “wait”?** Can you share about a particular moment when someone asked you to “wait”? Allow children to answer. When you ask your mom for something sweet to eat, she probably will tell you to wait until after the dinner. When you ask your teacher about playtime, he might respond, “We won’t go outside until after math.” When you ask your coach for your turn to play, she might respond, “You’ll have to wait until the second half.” Waiting is something that you have to do every day. At times, it’s not easy to wait. Learning to wait without complaining is called being patient. Patience is a fruit of the Spirit.

Say: **Let’s try an experiment to see if you can wait patiently. I’m going to ask you to wait patiently for thirty seconds. During that time you cannot move or talk.** Set a timer and have the children sit or stand completely still for thirty seconds. At the end of thirty seconds, say: **How did you feel while waiting? Did time go by quickly or slowly?** Allow children to answer.

Say: **Let’s try doing the experiment again. But this time, while you are waiting, I want you to think of ten good things Jesus has done for you.** Set a timer and have the children sit or stand completely still for thirty seconds while thinking about what Jesus has done for them. After thirty seconds, say: **Was it easier to be patient while thinking about Jesus and what He has done for you?** Allow children to answer. **Jesus can help our patience grow.**

Materials
timer or stopwatch

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Ephesians 4:2

Preparation

Write Ephesians 4:2 on poster board.

Write the words of Ephesians 4:2 on separate pieces of paper. Make two sets and write each set in a different color.

Hide the words throughout the room.



Explanation

Read Ephesians 4:2 with the children. Say: **Can anyone tell me what three fruits of the Spirit are named in this verse?** Allow children to answer. **Yes, this verse talks about gentleness (humility), patience, and love. We want to focus on patience.**

Say: **Can you mention one way to be patient with your friends?** Allow a child to answer. **Can you think of a time when you have to be patient with a family member?** Allow children to answer. **Sometimes it can be hard to be patient with others, but God can help your patience grow.**

Memorization Activity

Divide the children into two teams. Assign each team a color, based on the colors you used to write the Bible memory verse. Instruct each team to find the words written in their color. When they have found all of the words, they should put them in the right order. After completing this task, they should read the verse together.

INSTRUCT

Bible Story: "Saul Is Impatient," I Samuel 10:8 and 13:1-15

Preparation

Read and study I Samuel 10:8 and 13:1-15.

Be prepared to tell the story with enthusiasm without reading it. If the children are interested, you could allow them to act out the story as well.



Presentation

Say: I am going to tell you about a man named Saul. When he does something that shows patience, put your thumb up. When he does something that shows impatience, put your thumb down.

Say: Saul had just been anointed as the first king of Israel. The prophet Samuel had some very specific instructions from God that Saul was to follow. One of those instructions was to go to the town of Gilgal. Saul was to wait there for seven days until Samuel arrived. When Samuel arrived, he would offer sacrifices to God and pray for God's blessings on Saul and the nation of Israel.

Saul did as Samuel asked and traveled to Gilgal. Children should put their thumbs up. During this time, his son Jonathan fought a battle against the Philistines and won. The Philistines were angry and were getting ready to retaliate against Israel. Saul knew he needed to attack the Philistines again, but his army in Gilgal was scared and ready to go home. Saul wanted to attack quickly before his army ran away. However, he was under instructions from God not to do anything until Samuel arrived to offer sacrifices and prayers of blessings.

Saul waited for seven days. Children should put their thumbs up. When He did not see Samuel immediately on the seventh day, he became impatient and decided to offer the sacrifices and prayers himself. Children should put their thumbs down. Just as the sacrifices and prayers were finishing, Samuel arrived. When Samuel saw what Saul had done, he was very upset. He said, "You have acted foolishly. You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you." Then he told Saul the consequences of his actions. Had Saul waited patiently for Samuel, his family would have continued as the royal family of Israel for generations. Instead, God was going to choose another family and king.

Eventually, Saul lost his position as king because of his impatience and disobedience. Even worse, he lost out on a relationship with God.

What can we learn from King Saul? Allow children to answer. Even when it is hard, God wants us to be patient.

APPLICATION

Learning Activity: Communication, "How Patient Am I?"

Preparation

Make three signs that say the following: A. Patient; B. Somewhat Patient; C. Impatient

Place the three signs in different locations in the room.

Materials
paper
markers or crayons

Presentation

Say: **Who can tell me what it means to be patient?** Allow children to answer. **Yes, being patient means being able to wait without getting angry. Today, we will discover our level of patience. Each time I read a sentence, choose the answer that best illustrates how you would probably respond in each situation. Be honest!**

Read each situation below. Children should stand by the sign that matches their attitude in that situation.

1. Your friend is coming over to play. He is five minutes late. Do you...
 - a. wait patiently for him to arrive?
 - b. start looking out the window every 10 seconds to look for him?
 - c. call his house to see why he is late?

2. You are playing a game with some friends. Every time one particular child takes a turn, he is very slow. All of the other children have to wait for him to finish. Do you...
 - a. patiently wait because you know he is trying his best?
 - b. roll your eyes and tap your fingers as a sign that he needs to hurry?
 - c. scream, "Hurry up. We all want a turn too!"?

3. You can't dry the dishes until your brother finishes washing them. You want to go out and play, but he is washing the dishes very slowly. Do you...
 - a. wait patiently and talk to him while he works?
 - b. tell him, "Hurry up. Wash them faster."?
 - c. push him aside and do it yourself?

4. You are trying to teach your little sister how to ride a bike. She is trying, but she still hasn't learned yet. Do you...
 - a. encourage her and keep working with her until she learns?
 - b. say, "I wish you would hurry up and learn how to do this. I've got other things to do."?
 - c. give up and walk away?

After reading all the sentences, say: **In which of the three areas (patient, somewhat patient, impatient) did you spend most of your time?** Allow children to answer and then discuss the following questions:

Has this activity shown that you are impatient?

What are some of the ways you respond that show impatience?

What are some of the things you could do to help the fruit of patience grow in your life?

MINISTRY TIME

Preparation

None

Presentation

Say: **When we ask God to help us be more patient, He will often allow us to be in situations where we must make a choice to be patient. As you practice being patient in these situations, your patience will grow.** Take any fruit-shaped papers with the word "patience" written on them (located at the bottom of the poster from Lesson 1) and move them from the bottom of the poster into the tree.

Let's pray some specific prayers for patience together. I am going to read some sentences to you. After each sentence, repeat the phrase, "God, help me be patient."

Read the following phrases to the children and allow them to respond.

Say: **When my little brother or sister keeps asking me questions,**

Children: God, help me be patient.

Say: **When I want my parents to take me somewhere but they have to work,**

Children: God, help me be patient.

Say: **When I am waiting for my turn to play a game,**

Children: God, help me be patient.

Say: **When I am hungry and want my mom to fix my lunch,**

Children: God, help me be patient.

Say: **When I am waiting for an answer to prayer,**

Children: God, help me be patient.

Close with a prayer for all of the children to grow in their patience.

Materials
"Christian" tree poster (from Lesson 1)