

WHAT IS PATIENCE?

Patience is the ability to wait on God. We can trust that God is working for our best and His glory in His perfect timing. Patience with others grows as we are reminded that God is patient with us.

But if we hope for what we do not yet observe, we eagerly wait for it with patience.

ROMANS 8:25

PARENTS / KIDS

BEST USE

A family time activity to learn about patience

ADVANCE PREP

A Bible, ingredients and the recipe to bake a special treat such as cookies or brownies

Step One

Work together to mix all the ingredients to bake. Put the mix in the oven and then sit on the floor near the oven to watch and wait.

Step Two

As you wait, read Isaiah 40:31 together (King James Version if possible). Talk about the meaning of patience – to be content while waiting for God’s timing. Try to come up with a list of characters in the Bible who needed to wait for God’s timing (e.g. Waited well = Joseph in prison, Jacob waiting for his wife, Abraham, Prodigal son’s father. Not so well = The children of Israel waiting in wilderness, prodigal son).

Step Three

If you have the time, go ahead and read a few of the character’s stories together in the Bible. Discuss if the character(s) “waited well” for God’s timing? Were they patient? Did they complain and grumble while waiting or did they choose to trust God and be content?

Step Four

Once your yummy treats are finished baking and are ready to eat, spend some time talking about ways your family can “wait well” and areas in which each of you may need to practice the art of patience.

Pray

Thank God that He is faithful and we can trust His plans. Pray that He will give each of you the grace needed to grow the fruit of patience.

PARENTS / TEENS

BEST USE

An activity with older children/teens used to discover and understand patience from a Biblical perspective

ADVANCE PREP

A Bible or device that has a Bible, index cards and something to write with

Step One

Talk about a time each of you were impatient over the last few days. What were the circumstances? What happened as a result of your impatience? How could things have gone differently if you would have shown patience instead?

Step Two

Read James 5:7-11 and Galatians 6:9. What do these passages teach us about patience? What do we know about a farmer and his crops? How does this apply to the situations in which we become impatient?

Step Three

Discuss situations where you struggle the most with patience like in your car, at school, on your team, or with a family member or friend.

Step Four

Each person take an index card and write out Ephesians 4:2. Then put the card in a place where you might need the reminder to practice patience the most (e.g. car, school locker or binder, etc.). Let this verse remind you to be patient with others and in every circumstance as God is patient with you.