



# Patience

## LEADER and PARENT GUIDE

No one likes to wait, but waiting is something we encounter on a daily basis. From waiting in lines, to waiting for someone's help, to taking your turn, it can be tough to show patience, especially when you have to wait for the things you really want. Patience means waiting until later for what you want now. Thankfully, God can help us find the patience we need to wait well. God is patient, in control, and He knows what's best for us. Because God's Holy Spirit lives within us and patience is a Fruit of the Spirit, we can reflect His patience in our lives. Through the stories of Simeon, the Israelites, and Esau, we can easily see what Godly patience should and shouldn't look like.

Simeon waited patiently after God promised him that he would get to see the Messiah before he died. God's people had already been waiting for hundreds of years for the Savior. But when Mary and Joseph came to the temple with baby Jesus, Simeon realized that this was the One he had been waiting for. Through the Holy Spirit, Simeon recognized Jesus as the Messiah, the Savior of the world. He was so excited that he took baby Jesus into his arms and praised God. Simeon could have easily lost hope since he waited for so long, but he chose to trust that God would fulfill His promise. Like Simeon, if we choose to trust God, we can wait patiently, even when it's tough. When we know that God is with us and that He always keeps His promises, it makes the wait more bearable. What you are waiting for will happen in God's timing, and we can trust in that. Whenever you have to wait, remember that God is with you, giving you patience through His Holy Spirit.

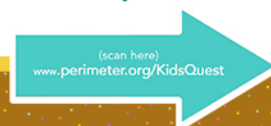
An example of people waiting impatiently happened during the Exodus, when God called Moses up to Mount Sinai. Moses left Aaron in charge as the Israelites waited for his return. Rather than waiting patiently, they built a golden calf and worshipped it instead of God. God repeatedly saved the Israelites from slavery, their enemies, famine, and He guided them through the wilderness. But while they waited, they forgot God's truth and chose their own way. Because of their lack of patience, God judged their entire nation. If we're honest, we can all sometimes act like the Israelites when it comes to waiting. We get impatient, we don't understand why we have to wait, and sometimes we feel like God has forgotten about us. We can't avoid waiting, but we can choose how we respond. No matter what's going on, we can remember God's truth. We can always rest in the fact that God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to die for our sins, and that He send the Holy Spirit to be our helper. When you remember what's true, you can choose to show patience, even when you don't feel like it.

Through the story of Esau, we can clearly see the terrible consequences of his impatience. After a hunting trip, Esau was exhausted and hungry. His younger brother, Jacob, took advantage of the situation by offering Esau a bowl of stew in exchange for his birthright. Esau couldn't resist, and foolishly forfeited one of his most valuable possessions for a bowl of soup! Esau missed out on many opportunities because of his impatient decision, including being in the family line of Jesus. Through the story of Esau, we can see why it's important to have patience and wait. We will all face moments when we want to rush and take the first choice that comes our way, but that might not be God's best. When you wait, you can experience something even better than you can imagine. The next time you're tempted to react with impatience, stop and think about what it could cost you.

Every year at Passover, God's chosen people celebrated how He delivered them from slavery, and they looked forward to God sending a Savior, like He promised long ago. When Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, just like the prophecy foretold, people celebrated and worshipped Him as they waited on the fulfillment of God's promise. Celebrating might feel like a strange way to wait. However, when we remember how much God loves us and that Jesus came to save us, we can't help but celebrate and have joy, even while we are waiting. Instead of focusing on what you are waiting for, you can celebrate God's faithfulness right now. When life gets tough and patience seems too difficult, remember that God can give you the strength to wait. You can find patience and hope through knowing that God is with you, that He gives you patience through the Holy Spirit, that He always fulfills His promises, and that one day He will come again and make all things new.



Wait for the Lord. Be strong and don't lose hope.  
Wait for the Lord. - Psalm 27:14







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### Read Luke 2:25-32 & Matthew 21:1-11

1. In what ways did Simeon show patience? How did he know that God's promise was fulfilled? Simeon showed patience by waiting on God to fulfill His promise that Simeon would see the Messiah. Simeon never lost faith. Simeon knew God's promise was fulfilled through the Holy Spirit.

2. Why did the people celebrate, even though they were still waiting? The people thought that Jesus was their Messiah, the one who they'd been waiting for. Jesus was the Savior for everyone, even if He didn't come in the way they expected.

### Read Genesis 25:29-34 & Matthew 1:1-2

3. What did Esau sell to Jacob because of his impatience? Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of stew.

4. How did Esau's impatience cost him, both during his life and in the future? During his life, Esau lost his birthright. He lost his inheritance, as well as the opportunity to be the leader of his family. In the future, Esau lost the chance to be in the family line of Jesus.

### Read Memory Verse

5. Why should we show patience and wait for the Lord? We should show patience and wait for the Lord because He always keeps His promises. He sent Jesus to save us at just the right time, He's always faithful, and He will never leave us.

6. How can we wait on God and not lose hope? We can wait on God by continuing to trust Him, by not giving up on His promises, by praying, by reading Scriptures, by reminding ourselves of the promises He has fulfilled in the past, and by talking to other believers.

### Life Application Questions

7. When do you struggle to have patience? In traffic, waiting in lines, waiting for lunch/recess, waiting for a friend to come over, waiting on candy, waiting for a new video game/toy to come out, etc.

8. Name 2 things you can do to practice having patience with those around you. Answers will vary. You can choose not to lose your temper when you become frustrated, you can pray for those around you, you can forgive your family members when they make a mistake, you can choose not to be critical and give grace instead, etc..

9. What's something you're waiting on right now? Answers will vary. It could be waiting on a new game or book to come out, but many people are waiting on things they've lost due to the pandemic, like waiting to go back to school in person, to start their activities, to give people hugs, to see their grandparents, to go to the movies, etc.



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