

MAY 5

## COOKOUT: It's Worth The Wait

**Today's Bible Story:** The Waiting (A Patience Proverb) • *Proverbs 14:29*

**Today's Bottom Line:** Waiting can make you wise.

**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.

## SOCIAL ACTIVITY

### Early Arriver

**What You Need:** Offering container, paper or plastic cups, and paper plates

#### What You Do:

- Warmly greet each kid by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who have brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- As kids arrive, form groups of two or three.
- Give every group of kids a set of eight to twelve cups and four to six plates.
- Challenge the kids to work together to create the tallest tower possible.
- Support the kids' play with open-ended questions and thoughtful comments, for example:
  - What do you want to put on top next?
  - What are some other ways to keep the tower from falling down?
  - You were careful and patient when you put the last cup on top! You didn't knock the tower over. Great job!

## SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

### 1. Wait Well

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

#### What You Do:

- Ask the kids to name times they need to wait.
  - Prompt them with examples, if needed. For example:

- waiting in line at school
- waiting for your turn
- waiting for a sibling to get ready
- waiting for an adult to get off the phone
- waiting for a party
- Lead the kids in a variation of Mother May I? to practice different ways they can wait well.
- Guide the kids to line up shoulder-to-shoulder at one end of your environment.
- Read the phrases below.
- As you read each phrase, instruct the kids to act out each "wait well" strategy.
  - **[Bottom Line]** "Waiting can make you wise. While you wait, take three deep breaths. (*Pause to demonstrate.*) Great job! Take \_\_\_\_\_ (number) \_\_\_\_\_ (baby steps, tiptoe steps, itty-bitty slide steps) forward."
  - **[Bottom Line]** "Waiting can make you wise. While you wait, ask God to help you wait well. (*Pause to demonstrate.*) Excellent. Take \_\_\_\_\_ (number) \_\_\_\_\_ (baby steps, tiptoe steps, itty-bitty slide steps) forward."
  - **[Bottom Line]** "Waiting can make you wise. While you wait, color a picture. (*Pause to demonstrate.*) Ooh. Nicely done! Take \_\_\_\_\_ (number) \_\_\_\_\_ (baby steps, tiptoe steps, itty-bitty slide steps) forward."
- Continue with the strategies below or add your own.
- Encourage kids to act out their own "wait well" strategies!
  - Put dishes in the dishwasher.
  - Sing a song in your head.
  - Take five deep breaths.
  - Take out the trash.
  - Read a book.
  - Play with a pet.
  - Cheer for your teammates.
- Praise the kids for showing "great understanding" by waiting well.

**What You Say:**

MAY 5

“Great job, everyone! When you make the wise choice to wait well, you show great understanding. We say it this way: **[Bottom Line] Waiting can make you \_\_\_\_\_ (wise).**”

“Patience is a gift from God’s Spirit. So when you have to wait, ask God to help you. And while you wait, find something good to do. Take a deep breath. Help someone. Encourage someone. God has a good plan. God will be with you while you wait! And remember—waiting can be a GOOD thing because waiting can make you more like Jesus. So remember: **[Bottom Line] waiting can make you wise.**”

## 2. Wait for the Lord

**What You Need:** Bibles, cups, and paper plate

**What You Do:**

- Make sure each kid has a Bible. (Bibles should be marked at Psalm 27:14 for Kindergarteners.)
- Guide kids to look up and “read” together the verse using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

**Finding verses with kindergartners:** Guide kids to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word *Psalms* at the top of the page as you say “Psalms” aloud. Then guide kids to find the big number 27 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 27 for the little 14; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.

- To unpack what it means to “wait for the LORD,” ask:
  - Who is “the LORD”? (*God, Jesus*)
  - What do you think it means to “wait for the LORD”? (*to trust God, to wait for God’s best, to wait for God to help us, to wait for God to show us what to do*)
  - If kids are stuck for ideas, ask, “How did Joseph and David ‘wait for the LORD’? (*They kept trusting God even though they had to wait A LONG time for what God promised.*)”

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle with you.
- Hold the paper plate and the cup.
- Say: “One helpful thing we can do while we ‘wait for the LORD’ is to help and encourage others.”
- Balance a paper plate on the top of a cup.
- Pass the cup and plate to the kid beside you as you say: “*Wait for the LORD.*”
- Instruct the kids to continue passing the cup and plate around the circle, saying the first phrase of the Memory Verse each time.
  - The kids will need to be patient as they wait their turn *and* as they carefully pass the cup.
  - Praise kids for helping and encouraging each other.
- Add a challenge by balancing a second cup on top of the plate!

### What You Say:

“Psalm 27:14 tells us it’s best to wait for God. God wants us to be strong and hopeful while we wait. Why is it good to wait for God? (*Invite responses, like: God’s way is best, God loves us, etc.*) Great ideas!

“God knows that waiting isn’t always easy. That’s why God gives us the Holy Spirit to help us. So, when it’s hard to wait, ask God to help you. And remember: **[Bottom Line] waiting can make you wise.**”

## 3. Pray With Your Group