

# Are We There Yet?

**Bible:** Are We There Yet? (A Patience Proverb) • *Proverbs 14:29*

**Bottom Line:** When you think you can't wait, keep your cool.

**Memory Verse:** "Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD!"  
*Psalm 27:14, NIV*

**Life App:** Patience—Waiting until later for what you want now

**Basic Truth:** I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

## Social: Setting the Tone for the Experience (9:00, 10:15, 11:30)

**9:00 & 11:30**

### Early Arriver

- No supplies needed

**10:15**

### Keep Your Cool

- "Keep Your Cool" Cards

## Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (9:15, 10:30, 11:45)

- Bible Presentation in Large Group

## Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (9:40, 10:55, 12:10)

**9:00 & 11:30**

### Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down

- "Great Understanding or Foolishness?" Activity Page; one for each small group

**10:15**

### WAIT

- Bible marked at Psalm 27
- Print the "WAIT" Activity Pages and cut out; one set for every 3-4 kids
- Straws (nonflexible); one for each kid

## Prayer (9:50, 11:05, 12:20)

- Ice cubes, baking soda ice cubes (see below), white vinegar colored with food coloring, droppers, a white plastic plate
  - Keep the ice cold until Prayer, but it's okay (even good) if it melts a little.

## Dismiss (10:00, 11:15, 12:30)

- GodTime cards
- Parent Cue cards

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## **Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)**

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's Bible Truth.

*Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for kids to develop the self-control to keep their cool in patience-testing situations. Ask God for insight into their lives so that you may be able to give kids practical ideas for how to wait when it's difficult.*

**9:00 & 11:30**

### **Early Arriver Idea**

*Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding*

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

### **What You Do:**

Ask kids about a time they lost their temper or someone lost their temper with them. What happened? How did they feel? Were they able to make it right with whoever was affected?

**What You Say:** "Have you ever heard someone say 'Simmer down' or 'I lost my cool'? (*Pause*) Yes, to 'keep your cool' means to keep yourself from getting angry quickly. **[Transition] Let's go to Large Group and hear what the Bible says about keeping our cool.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

**10:15****Keep Your Cool**

*Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group*

**What You Need:** “Keep Your Cool” cards from the Activity Page

**What You Do:**

- Guide kids to get into groups of two or three.
- Give each group two sets of cards.
- You can adjust the number of picture pairs you give each group based on the kids’ skill level. Younger kids might be able to handle six pairs while older kids might master eight.
- Lead kids to set the cards face down in a grid. (Don’t worry if a grid is wonky. The fact that the kids arranged the cards themselves means that a lot of brain cells were firing!)
- Guide kids to take turns flipping over two cards at a time, Concentration™-style, to find a match.
- Decrease competition by instructing kids to take only one turn at a time, regardless of whether or not they make a match.

**What You Say:**

“What pictures do you see on your cards? (*a sprinkler, a pool, an iced drink, etc.*) What do all those things have in common? (*They’re all things that help us cool down when we’re hot.*) Yes, they all help you keep cool.

“There’s another meaning for the phrase, ‘Keep your cool.’ Do you know what it is? (*Pause.*) Yes, to ‘keep your cool’ means to keep yourself from getting angry quickly. **[Transition] Let’s go to Large Group and hear what the Bible says about keeping our cool.**”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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## Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 25 minutes)

### GETTING READY

#### 1. Opener/Closer

##### What You Need:

- Host
- Fast food burger (or what appears like one), wrapped in white tissue paper
- Two boxes of the same size
- Lots of white/off-white tissue paper

#### 2. Bible Truth

##### What You Need:

- Host
- Bible
- Two big pieces of poster board
- Thick black marker
- Broom
- Folder with papers in it (to represent homework)
- Toy shopping cart
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste

#### 3. Worship

##### What You Need:

- Power Praise Team

##### *Music and Sound Effects (SFX):*

- "Happy Day"
- "Let It Be Known"
- "Oceans"

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## **Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 25 minutes)**

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible Truth, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

**CG: 10 Second Count Down**

**CG: Road Trip Slide**

*Historyteller introduces the Power Praise team.*

### **Worship**

**SFX: "Happy Day"**

**SFX: "Let It Be Known"**

**SFX: "Oceans"**

*Host enters, eating a fast food burger (or what appears like one), wrapped in white tissue paper.*

### **Opener**

**HOST:** "I know it's a little early to be eating a burger, but all this talk about road trips this month had me really craving some fast food, and I just couldn't wait. I guess all the road trip talk canceled out all the patience talk for me.

**CG: Patience Slide**

"Patience is waiting until later for what you want now. Clearly, I've got some work to do—at least when it comes to fast food. Who else in here eats fast food when you're on trips with your family? Where do you guys usually stop to eat? *(Let kids respond for a minute or two.)* Man, now I'm even hungrier.

"Well, let me tell you, I think I experienced two things on just about every road trip I took as a kid. One is that we would always stop at Whataburger and I would order the Just a Burger Kids Meal. By the time we got to our destination, the floor was usually littered with fast food wrappers like this.

*Pick up the box with the tissue paper balls and turn it sideways so the kids can see it.*

“I know. Gross, right?”

“And two, my [brother/sister] and I would always end up messing with each other as we drove. My parents would get SO frustrated that they would draw an imaginary line between us and tell us not to cross that line. Have any of you ever had your parents do that?”

*Note: If you don't have any personal experience with childhood road trips to share, feel free to edit the text to talk about this being common on road trips in general.*

“Yep. Fast food and imaginary lines—that’s what I think of when I think of road trips. How about we play a little game that involves both? I’ve collected some fast food wrappers, and I’m going to draw an imaginary line right . . . here.

*Walk down the middle of the room. Then divide the kids into two teams on either side of that line. Toss half of the “wrappers” on each side of the line.*

“Each of you is getting your fair share of fast food wrappers. The goal of the game is to clean up your side of the room by tossing the wrappers to the other side of the imaginary line. I’m going to set a timer for 30 seconds, and whichever team has the least amount of food wrappers on their side when the timer goes off is the winner!

“Now, no touching of the wrappers until I say, ‘Go.’ Only the wrappers are allowed to cross the line. YOU have to stay on your side of the line. And when time’s up, I’ll say, ‘Freeze,’ and you’ve got to . . . *(pause for response)* right—freeze!

“Okay, are you ready? On your marks, get set, GO!

**SFX: Upbeat music (optional)**

*Set a 30-second timer on your phone. Allow the kids to keep tossing the wrappers until time is up. You can remind them of the imaginary line as they play.*

“Aaaannnnnd . . . FREEZE! Let’s see who won!

*Walk the imaginary line, kicking the wrappers that are on the line (or close to the line) to each side so it’s easier to count them.*

“It looks like we’ve got [number] on this side, and [number] on this side. *(Point.)* This side is today’s wrapper champions! Now, can everyone help me by tossing your wrappers back into your boxes? Thanks!

*Give them a minute to toss the wrappers back into the boxes.*

“That was awesome! A paper ball fight is one thing, but in real life, fighting isn’t so cool. So how do we keep our patience, whether it’s a road trip with our family or any other kind of situation?”

*Host exits. Historyteller enters.*

### **SETTING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH**

**HISTORYTELLER:** “Hello, hello! I’m [Historyteller’s name] and I’ve got a question for you. I really want to know what you think. Do you think it’s EASY to be patient, or do you think it’s hard? Raise your hand if you think it’s easy. *(Pause for response.)* Raise your hand if you think it can be hard. *(Pause for response.)*

“Yeah. It can be really difficult to be patient. The thing is, when we want something, we want it NOW. We don’t want to wait.

“We know that we SHOULD wait. We know that’s what God wants us to do. But have you ever thought about why? Why would God want us to be patient? Why would He want us to do the difficult thing and wait patiently even if we don’t really feel like it?”

“Check out this verse from Proverbs. *(Hold up Bible.)* Proverbs is full of great advice that helps us know what to do and why we should do it. This is Proverbs 14:29.

*Open the Bible to Proverbs 14:29 and read.*

*“Anyone who is patient has great understanding. But anyone who gets angry quickly shows how foolish they are (NIRV).*

“So patient people have great understanding. Can I get two of you up here to hold this sign for me?”

*Bring up two kids and hand them the “PATIENT” sign. Place them on one side of the stage.*

*(To the two kids)* “You two look so patient. You really know how to keep your cool!”

“But the verse said something else, didn’t it? People who get angry quickly are foolish. They’re not always fun to be around, because you don’t know when they’re going to explode! Now, [Host’s name] is one of the kindest, most patient people I know, but just for now, he’s going to hold this sign for us.

*Host enters. Historyteller hands him the “ANGRY” sign and places him on the other side of the stage. Host has a goofy smile.*

*(To Host)* “Ummmm, [Host’s name], you’re supposed to be angry.”

**HOST:** “Oh! Right. GRRRRR!”

*Host makes a ridiculous angry face.*

**HISTORYTELLER:** “You see, in any situation where we have to wait, we have a choice to make. We

can choose to keep our cool and be patient (*point to 'Patient' sign*) . . . or we can choose to let ourselves get angry (*point to 'Angry' sign*).

**HOST:** "GRRRRRR!"

*Host makes a ridiculous angry face.*

**HISTORYTELLER:** "Let's look at a couple of situations where YOU might have to wait."

### **CHORES AND HOMEWORK FIRST**

**HISTORYTELLER:** "Raise your hand if you have to do chores at home.

*Hold up the broom.*

"Okay, raise your hand if you have to do homework.

*Hold up the folder.*

"Cool. Now, you probably have to do your chores or your homework before you can watch TV or play outside, right? You have to wait until all the work is done before you can go have fun.

"There are two ways to act in that situation.

*Walk over to the "angry" Host.*

"You could whine and complain and get angry about it.

*Walk over to the "patient" kids.*

"OR you could choose to be patient and keep your cool. You could choose to just take a deep breath, focus, and do the things you need to do now, knowing that you'll get to go play soon enough."

### **GROCERY SHOPPING**

**HISTORYTELLER:** "Do you ever go to the grocery store with your mom or dad?"

*Hold up the toy shopping cart.*

"Sometimes it's a quick and easy trip. But have you ever gone when it seems like you have to go down EVERY single aisle and get boring things like canned beans and dish soap? Ugh! I know! It takes forever!

"There are two different ways you could act.

*Walk over to Host.*

"You could choose to get mad and frustrated and say, 'MOM! Are we EVER going to leave?'" (*Nudge the Host.*)



**HOST:** *(Comically)* “Mom! Are we ever going to leave?”

*Historyteller walks over to the kids.*

**HISTORYTELLER:** “OR . . . you could keep your cool. You could remember that your mom probably wants to leave and get on with the day just like you do, but she’s trying to do what she needs to do to make sure you and your family have the food and supplies you need for the week. If you wait patiently, it would be a LOT easier for her to concentrate and get it done.”

### **WAITING FOR THE BATHROOM**

**HISTORYTELLER:** “I’ve got another one for you. If you have to share a bathroom at home, there are probably some times when you have to wait for your brother or sister, right? It seems like it’s usually when you woke up late and you’re trying to get ready for school, and your sister is fixing her hair, and all you need to do is get in there and brush your teeth!

*Hold up the toothbrush and toothpaste.*

“In those moments, you’ve got to make a choice about how you’re going to act.

*Walk over to Host.*

“You could yell and scream at your sister, pound on the door, and say, ‘HURRY UP, OLIVIA!’”

**HOST:** *(Comically pound on the floor.)* “HURRY UP, OLIVIA!”

*Historyteller walks over to the kids.*

**HISTORYTELLER:** “OR . . . you could keep your cool. You could take a deep breath, knock softly on the door, and ask Olivia if she could pass you your toothbrush and toothpaste. I bet she wouldn’t mind. And then you could brush your teeth in another bathroom or even the kitchen sink. By the time you did that, she’d probably be done in the bathroom, and you could finish getting ready without having to get angry or yell at all.

“[Host’s name], next time, do you think you could keep your cool like [kid helpers’ names]?”

**HOST:** “I think so.”

**HISTORYTELLER:** “Great. *(To audience)* How about a big hand for our helpers? *(To helpers)* Thanks so much. You can head back to your seats.”

*Kids go back to their seats. Host exits.*

### **WRAPPING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH**

**HISTORYTELLER:** “If you have to wait, don’t get angry. Don’t lose your temper. Keep your cool! Sometimes you might get so frustrated from waiting that you feel like you CAN’T keep it under control. In those moments, stop. Take a breath. Pray and ask God to help you.

“Check out our Bottom Line. This is something we ALL need to remember. Let’s read it together.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line]** “When you think you can’t wait, keep your cool. Can you say that with me?”

**KIDS and HISTORYTELLER:** **[Bottom Line]** “When you think you can’t wait, keep your cool.”

*Pick up the “Angry” and “Patient” signs.*

**CG: Memory Verse Slide**

**HISTORYTELLER:** “Our memory verse reads ‘Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord!’ Being strong and having faith comes before the wait. We wait BECAUSE we have a strong faith in who our God is and that no matter what; He loves us.”

**HISTORYTELLER:** *(Hold up the “Angry” sign.)* “If we get angry too quickly, that’s foolish. *(Hold up the ‘Patient’ sign.)* If we’re patient, we have great understanding. That means we can make things better for ourselves and the people around us. I know I want to have great understanding! I’m so glad God gives us HIS understanding and helps us to be patient. Let’s talk to Him right now.”

**Prayer**

**HISTORYTELLER:** “God, thank You for teaching us about patience. We want to be patient friends. We want to be calm and keep our cool when we have to wait for what we want. Remind us of today’s verse any time we feel like getting angry or frustrated while we wait. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

“If you have an offering with you today, raise your hand and we will bring the bucket over to you.”

*Historyteller exits as Host enters.*

**Closer**

**HOST:** “[Historyteller’s name] is right. You’ve got to keep your cool when you have to wait. It’s not easy, but it’s SO worth it!

*Hold up the “Angry” and “Patient” signs.*

*(Hold up the “Patient” sign.)* “God wants us to be patient because it’s better for US. It makes us a lot happier than if we’re *(hold up the ‘Angry’ sign)* whining or complaining or getting mad about it.

*(Hold up the “Patient” sign.)* “Keeping your cool is also a lot better for the people around you. It shows them that you care about them. It makes everyone a lot happier if you choose to get along and wait patiently.

“Remember, keeping your cool doesn’t just happen! It’s a choice you make. It means **[Basic Truth]** **treating others the way you want to be treated** and choosing to be patient instead of getting angry.

*Open the Bible to Proverbs 14:29 and read.*

*“Anyone who is patient has great understanding. But anyone who gets angry quickly shows how foolish they are (NirV).*

“God really knows what’s best for us. He wants us to keep our cool and choose to be patient! Here’s the one thing we need to remember today.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line] “When you think you can’t wait, keep your cool.** You all are the COOLEST. I know you’ll have fun in Small Group talking about how to KEEP your cool. Have a great time!”

*Dismiss children to their Small Groups.*

**CG: Small Group Slide**

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## **Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (10 minutes)**

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible Truth applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

**9:00 & 11:30**

### **Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down**

**[Talk about God | Bible Truth Review | Application Activity]**

*Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment*

**What You Need:** Bible, "Great Understanding or Foolishness?" Activity Page

### **What You Do:**

- Invite a volunteer to open the Bible to Proverbs 14:29. Read the verse aloud.
- Unpack the phrase "great understanding," explaining that a person who is patient shows that he or she is very wise.
- Read the scenarios on the Activity Page.
- Guide kids to decide if the child in the scenario practiced patience or got angry quickly.
  - If the child showed patience, direct kids to stand and give two "thumbs up."
  - If the child got angry quickly, lead them to squat and give two "thumbs down."
- After the game, lead kids to brainstorm what the kids who got angry quickly could have done to keep their cool. Ask prompting questions as necessary to spur the kids' thinking.
- Finally, encourage kids to tell one thing they'll do this week to practice patience and show "great understanding." They might suggest praying, walking away from a situation, taking a few deep breaths, singing a song in their heads, or thinking about a Bible verse. *(Note: Younger kids may need you to ask prompting questions to help them along.)*

### **What You Say:**

"Each of you can have great understanding. It doesn't matter if you're young. If you have patience and don't get angry quickly, the Bible says that you have more understanding than a grownup who knows a lot but acts silly when he can't wait. So remember, **[Bottom Line] when you think you can't wait, keep your cool.**"

**10:15****WAIT****[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]**

*Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body*

**What You Need:** Bible marked at Psalm 27:14, "WAIT" cards from the Activity Page, straws

**What You Do:**

- Help kids get into teams of three or four and guide them to line up at one end of your room. Place the "WAIT" cards about 10 feet away, one set opposite each team.
- Give each child a straw.
- At your signal, lead kids to take turns running to the verse cards, placing the end of the straw close to a card, sucking on the straw to "vacuum" the card to the straw, and then running back to their team all the while sucking on the straw to keep hold of the card.
- If a card falls as the child returns to his team, simply guide him to use the straw to pick it up again.
- When a team has all its cards, guide kids to work together to put them in order.
- Invite a volunteer to open the Bible to Psalm 27:14. Read the verse aloud with the kids, guiding them to point to the words on their cards as you read.

**What You Say:**

"There are lots of things you wait for. You wait for a red light to turn green . . . but does it turn green? (Yes!) You wait for your birthday to come . . . but does it finally come? (Yes!) You wait for Christmas to come . . . and does it come? (Yes!)"

"Psalm 27:14 tells us to WAIT for God because HE WILL ALWAYS COME! He is faithful, and He keeps His promises. He loves you! Now, He might not always answer our prayers in a way we wanted or thought, but He loves us and He knows what is best for each of us. So **[Bottom Line]** when you think you can't wait, keep your cool and ask God to help you WAIT for what's best."

**All Service Times****Pray and Dismiss (10 minutes)****[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]**

*Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application*

**What You Need:** Prepared ice cubes, colored vinegar, droppers, a white plate

**What You Do:**

- Guide kids to gather around you.
- Set one of each kind of cube on your tray.
- Briefly review and then quote Proverbs 14:29.
  - When you say, “Anyone who is patient has great understanding,” drop some vinegar onto the “plain” ice cube.
  - When you say, “But anyone who gets angry quickly shows how foolish they are,” drop some vinegar onto the baking soda cube.
  - Be prepared for exclamations of surprise.
- Encourage kids to talk about how the second ice cube is like a person who gets angry quickly. Ask prompting questions if needed to help kids make the connection.

**What You Say:**

“Proverbs 14:29 tells us: *Anyone who is patient has great understanding, but anyone who gets angry quickly shows how foolish they are (NirV)*. So when you’re tempted to get angry quickly, **WAIT**, take a few deep breaths (*lead kids to do so*), get by yourself if you need to, and ask God to help you be patient. Because when you’re patient, you show others what God is like, and that’s a **REALLY** good thing! Let’s pray.

“Dear God, thank You for being patient with us, even when we sometimes get angry quickly. Please help us learn to keep our cool by being patient. Thank You, God, for always hearing our prayers and helping us. We love you very much. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to echo Proverbs 14:29 after you. Break the verse into two, three, or four phrases depending on the level of your kids.