

# 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!"  
*Psalms 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**

#### **Get Your Head in the Game**

- 16-foot (or longer) rope with ends tied together
- One blindfold for each student

### **10:15**

#### **Follow My Lead**

- "Follow My Lead" Activity Page; one copy for each kid
- Markers

## **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**

#### **Grain by Grain**

- Tweezers or chopsticks
- Bowl of Cheerios® or similar (you can use anything small that has a rough texture to create the friction needed for kids to pick up the item using chopsticks)
- Timer

### **10:15**

#### **Deeep Breath!**

- No supplies needed

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

- One large ice pack

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

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

*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**

### **Get Your Head in the Game**

**What You Need:** Rope, blindfolds

#### **What You Do:**

- **Invite** everyone to stand in a circle.
- **Ask** each student to put on a blindfold.
- **Place** the rope inside the circle.
- **Instruct** the students to find a section of the rope on the floor in front of them and take hold of it with both hands.
- **Tell** them to work together to form the rope into the shape of a huge ice cube (square) on the floor while remaining blindfolded.
  - When they think they have accomplished the task, let them remove their blindfolds and see how closely their rope resembles a square.
- **Repeat** by having students move to a new spot in the circle, but this time tell the students they cannot talk to one another.
- **Tell** kids to sit down when they are finished.

#### **Wrap Up and Say:**

"All this month, we've been talking about patience—waiting until later for what you want now. In other words, keeping as *cool* as an ice cube when you have to wait for something. **[Transition] But what do you do when you have to keep your cool but don't have an enormous ice cube to help you? Let's go to Large Group and find out about something much cooler than ice.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

**10:15****Follow My Lead**

*Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing*

**What You Need:** “Follow My Lead” Activity Page, make one copy for each kid; Markers

**What You Do:**

- Give each kid a copy of the Activity Page.
- Instruct them to follow the directions on the bottom of the page. (The last direction tells them not to start until you give the “okay.”)
- Wait a couple minutes for kids to read directions. The kids who read the directions thoroughly should end up patiently waiting for you to tell them it’s time to start drawing.
- If any kids start drawing before you tell them it’s time to start, wait a minute or two to see if they notice that some kids haven’t started yet.
- Keep it lighthearted, but point out the last line of instructions (#8) to the kids who started drawing. See how they react!
- Then give the entire group the “go-ahead” to follow the instructions.
- When they’ve drawn and colored everything according to the directions, kids can color and decorate their page however they want.

**What You Say:**

“You guys did a great job of following the instructions on your Activity Page. It was funny to realize you had missed something, wasn’t it? The pictures you came up with look really good. ***[Transition]*** **Today in Large Group, we are going to talk about a book with a lot of instructions that, if you follow them, will help things go smoothly for you in life.”**

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:

- Historyteller
- Host
- Bible
- Flip pad (see "What You Do" below)
- Thick black marker that will show up well from a distance
- Four pieces of paper (see "What You Do" below)
- Easel or stand for the flip pad

#### 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**

*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.*

## **SETTING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH**

*Historyteller enters with the reference sheets.*

**HISTORYTELLER:** “Hey, everybody! Here’s a question for you. Why do you think patience is such a big deal? I mean, is it really such a huge problem if you get impatient or complain when you have to

wait for something? When we have big questions like this, the best place to find answers is God's Word, the Bible. Let's find out what God says about this." (*Hold up Bible.*)

### EXPLAINING THE VERSE

**HISTORYTELLER:** "This verse comes from the book of Proverbs, chapter 14. Proverbs is a collection of wisdom that helps us understand how God wants us to live. Read this verse with me.

**CG:** *Proverbs 14:29 Slide (leave up)*

*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 (Proverbs 14:29 NIV).*

"Okay, so if you're patient, you have great what? (*Pause for response.*) Great understanding. Wouldn't you like to have GREAT understanding? I would! And if you get angry quickly, that shows how (*pause for response*) foolish you are. Yikes!

"There's something I notice as I read this verse. It sounds like our patience—or our impatience—says a lot ABOUT us. Patience is almost like a sign on the outside saying what kind of person we are on the inside. No wonder patience is so important to God! It's REALLY important that we learn to keep our cool when we have to wait for something.

"You can choose to be patient . . . or not so patient. Let's look at an example of what might happen when you're trying to keep your cool."

### BUILDING THE SILLY STORY

**HISTORYTELLER:** "You all are actually going to help me come up with the story today. It's going to be one giant silly story, and I'm counting on YOU to fill in the blanks. This story is about a guy named . . .

*Pause for response. Do the 'come on' motion with your hands to show that you're looking for a name.*

"Right. Perfect. So here's what I need. [Host's name] is going to come out and write down your answers for me.

*Host enters with the silly story written on a large flip pad. He'll write in the words as the kids choose them. (But this shouldn't be visible to the audience, just him.)*

*Note: This will free up Historyteller to be able to interact with the kids and get their answers. This also allows Host to help Historyteller keep track and fill all the blanks.*

"First, let's see what you can come up with. We're going to go super fast, so give me your best ideas as fast as you can!

*Historyteller asks kids to shout out answers so he can ignore the inappropriate ones and choose really good ones. Be sure to keep this moving quickly.*

"We've already got our main character named [main kid's name]. We need an . . .

- adjective
- adjective
- past tense verb
- past tense verb
- adjective

"Now we need a . . .

- past tense verb
- type of food
- type of sauce
- crazy kind of shout
- time of year
- school subject
- type of transportation
- verb

"All right, now for the next section. We're going to need a . . .

- verb
- type of loud noise
- noun
- past tense verb
- noun
- plural noun
- crazy kind of shout
- type of emotion (adjective)

(To Host) "Are you getting all this, [Host's name]?"

**HOST:** "Got it!"

**HISTORYTELLER:** "All right, last section. We need a . . .

- type of emotion
- restaurant
- type of food
- app
- noun
- noun
- noun
- adjective
- verb
- type of liquid



“All right, that’s everything! This is going to be one silly story. Let’s get some background music, and we’ll get started.

**SFX:** *Happy, fun instrumental music*

*Host brings the flip pad over to Historyteller (on an easel or stand) and flips the pages so Historyteller can read it with drama and enthusiasm.*

## READING THE SILLY STORY

**HISTORYTELLER:** “Presenting \_\_\_\_\_ [main kid’s name]’s Not-So-Cool Day.”

“\_\_\_\_\_ [main kid’s name] was a regular kid. He lived in a \_\_\_\_\_ [adjective] apartment on the most \_\_\_\_\_ [adjective] street in town. One morning, he woke up and \_\_\_\_\_ [past tense verb] his eyes and \_\_\_\_\_ [past tense verb] his teeth just like he always did. But his day was about to get \_\_\_\_\_ [adjective].

“\_\_\_\_\_ [main kid’s name] \_\_\_\_\_ [past tense verb] excitedly as he thought about eating his favorite breakfast, \_\_\_\_\_ [type of food] covered in \_\_\_\_\_ [type of sauce]. But sadly, it was not to be. The fridge was completely empty! ‘\_\_\_\_\_’ [crazy kind of shout], he yelled. He lost his cool. He was going to have to wait until \_\_\_\_\_ [time of year] when his mom went to the store to get more. Not only that, he completely forgot that today was the day of his sister’s \_\_\_\_\_ [school subject] test, and she was trying to study before the \_\_\_\_\_ [type of transportation] came. She completely lost her focus when she heard \_\_\_\_\_ [main kid’s name] \_\_\_\_\_ [verb].

“\_\_\_\_\_ [main kid’s name] really hoped to turn his day around. But unfortunately, it only got worse. The \_\_\_\_\_ [type of transportation mentioned above] was \_\_\_\_\_ [verb]-ing right along like normal, but then, \_\_\_\_\_ [type of loud noise]! The \_\_\_\_\_ [noun] \_\_\_\_\_ [past tense verb]. They weren’t going anywhere anytime soon. There were going to sit there, stuck on the side of the \_\_\_\_\_ [noun] like \_\_\_\_\_ [plural noun]. ‘\_\_\_\_\_’ [crazy kind of shout], he yelled. He lost his cool completely. And let’s just say the driver was not too \_\_\_\_\_ [type of emotion] with \_\_\_\_\_ [main kid’s name].

“School came and went, and the day ended being okay. \_\_\_\_\_ [main kid’s name] was pretty \_\_\_\_\_ [type of emotion] because he knew that he and his family were going out to eat at \_\_\_\_\_ [restaurant] that night. He just loved getting his favorite dinner, \_\_\_\_\_ [type of food]. While they waited for the food, his mom let him play his favorite app, \_\_\_\_\_ [app] on her phone. But then a screen came up that said, ‘Your phone is outdated. You need to \_\_\_\_\_ [noun] the new \_\_\_\_\_ [noun] first.’ \_\_\_\_\_ [main kid’s name] sighed, but he tried to get it updated. But the \_\_\_\_\_ [noun] in the restaurant was so \_\_\_\_\_ [adjective] that it took forever! He was so frustrated that he totally lost his cool, and he ended up \_\_\_\_\_ [verb]-ing his mom’s phone in a glass of \_\_\_\_\_ [type of liquid]. Uh-oh.

“The end. *(Look at the audience)* Wow. That was definitely crazy! How about a hand for my assistant, [Host’s name]?”

*Host exits.*

**SFX:** *Cut music*

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

**HISTORYTELLER:** “In our story, one bad thing led to another for [main character’s name]. Maybe not as extreme as (*funny example from silly story*), but these things can happen when you don’t keep your cool. But here’s the great thing. Even when you feel like you can’t wait, God can help you keep your cool. Remember our verse from Proverbs? Read it with me.”

**CG:** *Proverbs 14:29 Slide*

**KIDS and HISTORYTELLER:** “*Anyone who is patient has great understanding. But anyone who gets angry quickly shows how foolish they are (Proverbs 14:29, NIV).*”

**CG:** *Bottom Line Slide*

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

**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.”

“Let’s show that we have great understanding. Let’s live like God is really making a difference in our lives with the choices we make. Let’s keep our cool! Of course, that’s often a lot easier to SAY that than it is to DO, so let’s talk to God about it.”

### **Pray**

**HISTORYTELLER:** “God, thank You so much for this really important reminder from the Bible about patience. We know that You understand how hard it can be for us to wait for things. When we feel like we can’t take it any longer, please help us to keep our cool and not get angry. Help us to show others with our actions how great it is to follow You. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

*Power Praise team enters as Historyteller exits.*

### **Worship**

**SFX:** *“Happy Day”*

**SFX:** *“Let It Be Known”*

**SFX:** *“Oceans”*

*Host enters as Power Praise Team exits.*

### **Closer**

**HOST:** “Hey, everyone! Wow, I had a lot of fun doing that silly story with you. It was definitely ridiculous! But, if you think about it, those kinds of situations are actually pretty normal things that you and I might have to deal with sometimes. Like not being able to eat what you want to eat—especially if it’s something you were looking forward to—or getting stuck on the bus in traffic, or if something you own is broken and you have to wait for it to get fixed, or if you have to wait for something to download before you can watch it or play it.

“Anytime we have to wait for something—whether it’s something big or something small—I think our reaction matters way more than we think it does. We can choose to be patient or NOT to be patient. If we keep our cool, then God says we’re showing great understanding. But if we lose our cool and get angry or upset, we just look foolish.

“I don’t know about you, but I’d rather hang out with people who can stay cool when things aren’t going their way. They have a way of staying positive and keeping a good attitude—even if they have to do something not-so-fun, like waiting for what they really want. Those are the people I respect and want to listen to. But if someone has a habit of whining or complaining or getting mad, it can be tough to be around them.

“You can set a great example for your friends and siblings and teammates. You can choose to keep your cool when you’re frustrated or bored. The way we act in those moments is a lot more important than we might realize—because other people can see it. They can see if there’s really something different about us and the way we act because of what God is doing in our lives.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

“So **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice**. Set a good example with your actions. And like our Bottom Line says: **[Bottom Line] When you think you can’t wait, keep your cool**.

“Now you can head back to your small groups to talk about what this means in YOUR world. Have a fun time together! I’ll see you later!”

*Dismiss children to their Small Groups.*

**CG: Small Group Slide**

# Are We There Yet?

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

9:00 & 11:30

Grain by Grain

**What You Need:** Tweezers or chopsticks, timer, bowl of Cheerios® (or similar)

### What You Do:

- Set out a bowl of Cheerios on a table and give two kids chopsticks or a pair of tweezers.
- Set the timer for 30 seconds.
- Instruct the two kids with the tweezers/chopsticks to use them to take out as many Cheerios as possible before the timer goes off. (They don't have to use chopsticks properly. Kids can put one chopstick in each hand and bring them together to squeeze the Cheerio.)
- Encourage the spectators to cheer on both kids.
- When the timer goes off, count how many each person got and declare a winner.
- Then let two other kids give it a try.
- Continue as time and interest allow.

### What You Say:

"That game was pretty exciting to watch, but it might not have been as exciting to play! How did you feel when you were trying to get the Cheerios out of the bowl, but you couldn't grab very many at a time? (*Pause for answers.*) I bet you definitely felt frustrated and rushed because you were trying to grab them fast and you couldn't use your hands—only those tiny tools. Maybe you even felt like you were going to lose your cool. You guys did a great job of being calm under pressure. Also, those of you who were waiting did a great job of being patient until it was your turn to give it a try. In both situations, you had to remember: **[Bottom Line] When you think you can't wait, keep your cool.**"

10:15

Deeep Breath!

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

### What You Do:

- Practice saying the memory verse together a group.
- Instruct kids to take a deep breath and say the whole memory verse as they exhale without taking another breath.
- Try it again as a group.
- Then give kids an opportunity to volunteer to say the memory verse individually all in one breath without taking another breath.

### What You Say:

"That was pretty funny to listen to! Bonus points for those of you who also managed to say the verse reference too while spitting all of that out! Even though we said it in a silly way, this verse has a very important message: we need to wait on the Lord and be strong and hopeful while we are waiting. In other words, **[Bottom Line] when you think you can't wait, keep your cool.** This week you might face a situation where you have to wait in line, or wait for someone else, or wait for something you want to do, but in all of those times we have to remember that waiting is sometimes just a fact of life and the best thing to do is just get through it well."

**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:** Large ice pack**What You Do:**

- **Sit** together in a tight circle then **place** the ice pack within reach of everyone.
- **Ask** students to name some things that often try their patience and cause them to lose their cools.
- **After** each person shares, let those who identify with that example place their hand on the ice pack.
  - **Pray** (or invite a volunteer to pray) a short prayer for God's help in that area this week.
- **Repeat** the process several more times with different types of situations where patience can be a struggle.
- If some of the kids don't place their hands on the ice pack, **encourage** them to still pray along.
- If your students have difficulty coming up with suggestions, **draw** from the following examples and prayers.
  - Patience with family members. *(Dear God, help us show Your love to our families by being patient with them the way You are patient with us.)*
  - Losing our cool with kids at school. *(Dear God, help us to be good examples of keeping our cools with our friends at school. Help us to not say or do things we will regret later.)*
  - Getting impatient with ourselves when we mess up. *(Dear God, help us live for You and do our best. When we make mistakes, help us come to You right away and ask forgiveness.)*
  - Getting upset when we have to wait for something we really want. *(Dear God, help us remember that You love us and are always in control.)*
  - Forgetting to be patient until it's too late. *(Dear God, help us to ask forgiveness when we lose our cools.)*