

Souped Up

Bible: Souped Up (Esau's Impatience) • *Genesis 25:24-34*

Bottom Line: When you think you can't wait, think twice.

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 need to make the wise choice.

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

9:00 & 11:30

Which Is Better

- Marshmallows; one for each kid, sealed in a zip-top bag, plus an additional three marshmallows per child to be given during Prayer.
- Permanent marker

10:15

Early Arriver

- Small candies or treats; at least one for each kid

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

Patience Pyramids

- Precut "Bible Verse Strips" taped to the outside of a cup; one set for every three kids

10:15

Lentil Stew

- 1-2 quart metal or plastic bowl
- Dried lentils
- Print the "Stew Review" Activity Page on cardstock and cut out; one card for each kid
- Pour the lentils in the bowl, and tuck the cards into the lentils.

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

- Marshmallows; three for each kid

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 that kids would start applying the things we've learned this month, if they haven't already. Ask God to make kids aware when they're in situations where their patience will be tested. Pray for God's strength to help kids think twice before acting impatiently. And pray that kids would be encouraged, knowing that with God's help, they can do it!

9:00 & 11:30

Which Is Better?

What You Need: Marshmallows

What You Do:

- Give each child a marshmallow sealed in a zip-top bag. Tell kids that if they keep their marshmallow until the end, you will give them three more marshmallows during Prayer. Print each child's name on his/her bag.
- Guide kids to gather around you.
- Name a pair of items kids need to choose between, such as a cookie or a slice of cake, and direct kids to go to one side of the room if they would choose the cookie and to the other side if they would choose the slice of cake.
- Call kids back to you and continue the game.
- For successive rounds you might name:
 - Chocolate ice cream or vanilla ice cream
 - A chocolate chip cookie or a candy bar
 - Playing a video game or going to a movie
 - Playing soccer or watching TV
 - A slice of pizza or a hamburger
 - One slice of cake or a whole cake
 - A penny or a 100 dollar bill
 - Your favorite meal or a million dollars
- Add variety by guiding kids to move different ways: tiptoe, crab walk, walk sideways, walk backward, etc.
- Keep interest high by maintaining a quick pace and high energy.

What You Say:

[Transition] "In our Bible Truth today, we'll hear about someone who made a choice between two things. Let's go to Large Group and find out whether he made the wise choice!"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

10:15

Early Arriver Idea

What You Need: Small treats/candies

What You Do:

- As kids arrive, hold out your closed fists and ask them to choose one.
- If they choose the hand with the treat, they get to keep it.
- Make treats available so kids can also play with each other.
- Talk about how we make decisions. Have they ever heard the expression “go with your gut”? What does that mean? Is it always a good idea?
- Collect offerings.

What You Say:

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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
- Two homemade box cars
- Lots of orange traffic cones to make two lanes for the race
- Painter's tape to mark the starting and finish lines
- Obstacle Cue Cards

2. Bible Truth

What You Need:

- Historyteller
- 252 Story

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Power Praise Team

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- "Happy Day"
- "Unshakable"
- "Sons & Daughters"

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CG: *10 Second Count Down*

CG: *Road Trip Slide*

Host enters carrying the two box cars.

Opener

HOST: "Hello, drivers! Yes, you're all going to be in the driver's seat today. We've been on a road trip all month long talking about patience.

CG: *Patience Slide*

"Patience is waiting until later for what you want now. That can be really difficult, because when we want something, we want it right now. But we can CHOOSE to be patient with God's help.

"I know you really want to know what these box cars are for but we are going to exercise our patience muscles today and first, welcome the Power Praise team in here to lead us."

Power Praise team enters as Host joins the audience.

Worship

SFX: *"Happy Day"*

SFX: *"Unshakable"*

SFX: *"Sons & Daughters"*

Host retakes the stage as Power Praise exits.

HOST: "Honestly, that was an easy way to be patient. But now, what I know you've been waiting for.....I need you to divide up into two teams for our road trip relay race!

Divide the kids into two groups, ideally splitting them so you have a similar range of ages in each group. Put each team of kids behind the starting line and give a box car to the first kid in each line.

"Here's how this works. Each person on the team has to wear the box car, race to the other line, touch it, and race back. The first team to have all of the members drive there and back is the winner!

“But here’s the twist. I’ll shout out obstacles, and you have to think twice about how to avoid that obstacle as you run. I know it’s easy to get so focused on being fast that you might miss something, so be sure and listen. If I shout out, ‘Trash can on your right,’ you have to veer to the left to miss it. Or if I shout out, ‘Pothole in the road,’ you have to jump over the imaginary pothole. Make sense? If I see that you’re not following my directions, I’ll make you turn around and go back and do it again, so you’ve got to listen carefully. And don’t forget you have to touch the line at both ends and stay in between the cones [or cups], or you’ll have to do your turn again too. Three, two, one, GO!

SFX: *Upbeat fun music*

As the kids race, call out obstacles included on the Obstacle Cue Card to create a challenging course for the drivers. If you have another adult volunteer who can help, one of you can shout out obstacles while the other keeps an eye on the drivers to make sure they’re responding to the commands. When the first team finishes, you can either call the race or allow the other team to finish as well, if time permits. Celebrate with the winning team.

“That was epic! What a fun road trip, you guys! Now sit back, relax and let’s take a look at today’s Bible Truth.”

Host sits with the kids.

SETTING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

CG: *252 Story*

Historyteller enters.

WRAPPING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: “You know, it doesn’t say in the Bible (*hold up Bible*) how Esau felt after he ate the stew. But I wonder if he regretted the choice he made. I wonder if he might have done the whole thing differently if he had stopped to think twice—if he had stopped to ask himself, ‘Are you SURE?’

“I mean, think about all that Esau gave up in that moment just because he thought he just couldn’t wait one second longer. He gave up so much good for something that didn’t last!

“I wonder how many times you and I have missed out on something so much greater because we just couldn’t wait. God has some great things planned for your life, but if you want to experience them, you need to be sure to be patient to wait for His timing. It reminds me of our memory verse this month.

CG: *Memory Verse Slide*

“Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.” Psalm 27:14, NIV

“When you think you can’t wait for what God has planned for you, take a minute and ask Him for help.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

"In other words: **[Bottom Line] When you think you can't wait, think twice.**

"When you take the time to slow down and really think about what you're doing, you'll often make a different decision than you would in the heat of the moment. And taking time to slow down and think twice also gives you a chance to ask God for help. That's how you can **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice**. Let's ask God for help right now."

Pray

HISTORYTELLER: "Dear God, thank You for all You do to help us be patient. We know that You have great things planned for us, if we just wait on You and Your timing. Help us to turn to You when we're having a hard time being patient. Help us to stop and think twice when we think we can't wait. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus' name, amen."

Historyteller exits as Host enters.

Closer

Take a seat. Sometimes you make a choice without thinking. You forget to wait. You forget to ask yourself, 'Are you sure?' That can lead to some bad consequences that you never meant to happen. For Esau, that meant losing his birthright as the oldest son. Trust me, that was a BIG deal back then!

"Here's what it might look like for you. You might eat a giant snack in the afternoon because you're SO hungry that you just can't wait . . . but then you miss out on your favorite dinner because you aren't hungry anymore. Your mom made it just for you, but now you can't eat it because you're so full. Do you think that would be frustrating for your mom?"

"Or you might burn your tongue on your hot chocolate because you just couldn't wait for it to cool off, even though your big brother warned you it was still hot."

"Let's say you break a rule because you can't wait for something. When your parents or your teacher find out, you'll probably have to face some consequences. Am I right?"

"The next time you're faced with the choice to be patient or not, and you think you can't wait, think twice. Think about all the consequences of your decision. Think about what you might miss out on if you don't wait. The one thing to remember today is this."

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] "When you think you can't wait, think twice. Say that with me."

HOST and KIDS: [Bottom Line] "When you think you can't wait, think twice."

HOST: "That's great advice. And you'll get to talk about it some more in Small Group. Have fun!"

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

Patience Pyramids

What You Need: Prepared cups

What You Do:

- Help kids get into teams of three.
- Give each group a set of cups and direct kids to work together to stack the cups to make a tower or pyramid.
- They can either stack them in order from top to bottom or from bottom to top. However they choose, they'll need to practice patience to be successful!
- When the groups complete their pyramids, guide them to "read" the verse aloud with you as they point to the words.

What You Say:

"Patience is waiting until later for what you want now. Psalm 27:14 tells us that God wants us to wait for HIS best for us. But God knows that waiting isn't always easy. That's why He encourages us to be strong and not lose our hope in Him. So, **[Bottom Line] when you think you can't wait, think twice,** and remember to wait for God's best!"

10:15**Lentil Stew****What You Need:** Bowl of lentils with “Stew Review” cards from the Activity Page placed inside**What You Do:**

- Guide the kids to sit in a circle. Pass a few lentils around for them to observe.
- Invite kids to name what they are (if they know), and then ask them what they remember about food from the Bible Truth. (*Jacob made a stew, which was made with lentils.*)
- Start the music, give one child the bowl of lentils, and guide her to quickly (but carefully) pass it to the child beside her.
- When you stop the music, the child holding the bowl pulls out a card, shows it to the group, and tells what’s happening in the picture. (*NOTE: If a child is shy or reluctant, don’t force him to share. Instead, invite him to either whisper his answer in your ear or choose another child to answer for him.*)
- Ask prompting questions to help the kids recall as much as possible.
- Also ask questions such as:
 - How do you think Esau felt?
 - What would you have done?
 - What would have been a better choice for Esau to make?
- When every child has a card, lead the group to work together to put the cards in order.
- You can either post the cards on a focal wall or lay them in the center of your circle.
- *Note: There are only four unique cards, so you’ll have multiple cards for one or more events in the sequence. That’s okay. Just group duplicate cards together.*

What You Say:

“Today we’re learning that **[Bottom Line] when you think you can’t wait, think twice.** What do you think it means to think twice? (*To stop and think about something before you do it; to think about the consequences before you do something.*)

“Did Esau stop to think twice? (*No.*) Why not? (*He was just thinking about how hungry he was and how good the stew smelled.*) What choice do you think Esau would have made if he had thought twice? (*He wouldn’t have chosen the stew. He would have made the wise choice.*)

“Esau taught us that when we have a decision to make, we need to stop and think things through. We need to make the wise choice so that we won’t miss out on God’s best for us. So remember: **[Bottom Line] When you think you can’t wait, think twice.**”

All Service Times**Pray and Dismiss (10 minutes)****What You Need:** Marshmallows**What You Do:**

- Ask prompting questions to briefly review the Bible Truth and how Esau's lack of patience cost him a great deal.
- Emphasize that **[Bottom Line] when you think you can't wait, think twice.**
- Reward those who didn't eat their marshmallows by giving them three more.

What You Say:

"What are some times when it's hard for you to wait? (*Pause.*) If it's hard for you to wait when you see something delicious that you want to eat, show me 'think twice' (*do the motion—one forefinger on your temple and then the other—for the kids to copy*). If it's hard for you to wait for something you really want, like a pet or a video game or cool toy, show me 'think twice.' If it's hard for you to wait when there's something you really want to do, like playing with your friends or going to an amazingly fun place, show me 'think twice.'

"Sometimes it can be really hard to wait. But who can help us when we need to wait? Yes! God can. Let's pray and ask God to help us when we need to wait.

"Dear God, Your Word tells to wait for You. Lord, please help us make the wise choice to wait for You and for Your best. Help us not be foolish like Esau. When we think we can't wait, help us think twice. Thank You, God, that when we wait for You we NEVER miss out on what's best. We love You, Lord. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to show their adults what they can do when they think they can't wait. (Do the "think twice" motion.)