

Aim: To discuss why we need to learn patience; to encourage the Juniors to trust God and their parents and be patient.

Have you ever noticed how much patience a baby has? What do they do if you are a bit slow to pick them up, or to give them their bottle or dummy or something?

Patience is something that people have to learn; one of the first things you learned when you started school, or even before then, is how to stand in a line and wait your turn.

What things do you have to line up and wait for? (School, shopping, sports/games etc)

Can you think of other times you need to have patience? Here are some suggestions: waiting for...

- Dinner
- Mum or Dad's attention
- Birthdays, Christmas or special days
- To save enough money for something
- Permission to do something

What do you find the hardest thing to wait for?

Have you ever prayed and then had to wait for the answer or maybe you didn't get any answer at all? Was it easy or hard to wait? Did you wonder if God was even listening?

Read 1 John 5:14 "We are confident that He hears..."

The Bible says that we can be confident that God hears us, so if we don't seem to be getting an answer, it might be because God is saying "No" or "Wait"

Read Psalm 27:14 "Wait for the Lord..."

Moses wanted to do something for the Israelites, but he didn't have the patience to ask God's guidance or wait for God's answer. As a result, he had to run away from Egypt, and go look after sheep in the desert; and I imagine that looking after sheep might be quite boring and he probably learned to have lots of patience.

Have you heard stories, or even seen it happen, where someone is impatient and they don't wait and they stuff up whatever they were trying to do?

Patience is usually better than impatience; in fact it is listed as one of the fruits of the spirit.

Do your parents ever say: "Be patient. When you are older you can...?"

Discuss: What your parents want you to wait for. Consider why they want you to wait and what could happen if you don't.

Read Proverbs 1:8

It can be hard to have patience and to wait, but if we wait for God's answers, our lives will definitely work out better, and if you listen to your parents and teachers you might save yourself a lot of trouble too – and you will make your parents happy.

Read Isaiah 55:8 and Jeremiah 29:11