



**READ: ECCLESIASTES 7:8**

**DAY 1**

Patience is hard. No one likes to be told to wait. Waiting until later for what you want now doesn't come naturally. If you want something, you want it RIGHT NOW!

But waiting is the better choice. Look at the verse again. It says the end of something is better than the beginning. In other words, waiting patiently for something means we can enjoy it more later on.

Think of an event that's coming up in the near future. Maybe it's your birthday. Maybe it's your school's spring break. Whatever it is, grab a calendar and figure out how many days there are between today and your big event. Make a paper chain with that number of links to count down the days. Place it somewhere you can see it every day. Taking a chain off each day leading up to your big event will help you get excited about all that future fun!

**THANK** God for helping you wait patiently so you can enjoy what you're waiting for!

**READ: PSALM 40:1**

**DAY 2**

This month is all about patience. Patience is waiting until later for what you want now. Like we said yesterday, patience is HARD! But guess what? When you wait, God is always right there to help.

One way to make things easier the next time you have to wait is to think of some things you can do while you're waiting. Grab a piece of paper and make a list. What are some things you could do while you wait? Give yourself 2 minutes to make your list.

Now, read through your list and cross out anything you don't think you'll actually do. Try to narrow your list down to no more than five things.

Write those 5 things in the space to the right. Next time you need to wait for something, try one of the things you've listed, and see if it helps you show patience next time.

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**ASK** God to help you choose patience when you think you can't wait.

# When you think you can't wait, think twice.

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**READ: PSALM 37:7****DAY 3**

Has anyone ever had to remind you to sit still or get back in your chair at the dinner table or at a restaurant? Being still isn't always easy. It requires patience. Waiting is sometimes the LAST thing we want to do.

Try a little patience challenge with your whole family this month. Grab a clear jar or container and several small objects like pennies or buttons or marbles. Explain the patience challenge to your family.

Here's how it will work: Let's say you chose pennies as your small object. For a whole month, every time someone shows patience, put one penny in the jar. Easy enough right? Wait, that's not all. If someone is impatient, you have to take TWO pennies out of the jar! Whoa, that's a whole different level right? The goal is to see how many pennies you end up with at the end of the month. Anyone in the family can put pennies in or take them out. Remember to show patience to everyone, even a sibling who might be bothering you.

**LOOK** for ways to be patient with your family this week.

**READ: GALATIANS 6:9****DAY 4**

Have you ever been to a pumpkin patch to find the perfect pumpkin for Fall? That pumpkin you picked was actually the result of months of work. Someone planted the seeds and cared for the pumpkin for several months before you were able to take it home to your house. The farmer knows that beautiful pumpkins are the result of months of patient waiting.

The same rules apply when it comes to our lives. We grow in our relationship with God when we keep working at doing what He says, including being patient. We can respond in patience when we're frustrated. We can also choose patience when we'd rather rush ahead. And just like a farmer who faithfully and patiently tends his crop, we will see beautiful results in our relationships with others if we don't give up.

Why not plant a seed yourself this week? With an adult's permission, gather the following supplies: a seed, a small plastic cup, some potting soil, and a small amount of water. Punch three small holes in the bottom of the cup and pour about two inches of soil in the bottom. Place the seed in the center of the soil and then cover it up with another inch of soil. Put the cup on a plate to catch the extra water. Water the seed enough to moisten the top of the soil. Place your cup in a sunny spot. Add water as needed.

**KNOW** that God loves when you choose patience.