

Patience

waiting until
later for what
you want now.

READ: NEHEMIAH 9:17-18

DAY 1

The story of the golden calf is pretty crazy. Can you imagine creating a gold statute with your own hands and then bowing down to pray to it? Crazy, right?

But chances are, the Israelites aren't that different from you and me. We can be pretty impatient. No one likes to wait—especially when they're hungry or tired. When you have to wait, you can become a whole different person who's not so much fun to be around.

But guess what? Even when you become that angry, impatient person, God is still being patient with you. He is tender and kind. He is slow to anger. He won't leave you, just like He didn't leave the Israelites.

Grab an index card or a sheet of paper and decorate it with the phrase "God is patient with me!" Post it somewhere you'll see it every day. When you notice the card, say a quick prayer asking God to help you show patience this week.

THANK God for being patient with you no matter what.

READ: PSALM 130:5

DAY 2

How much longer?

When is it going to be MY turn?

When will I be old enough?

Are we there yet?

But I want it NOW!

How many of those phrases have you ever heard yourself say? Waiting is HARD. You can't snap your fingers and get what you want, the minute you want it.

You can't avoid waiting. So when you have to wait, what will you do? Will you choose to whine or complain? Will you stomp your feet and scream? Or will you stop and think about what's true? ... And just what is true? God is with you when you wait, and you can always put your hope in Him.

List some things that are worth waiting for. How can you patiently wait for these things? How can you trust God while you wait?

ASK God to help you remember what's true as you wait for Him.

When you think you can't wait, think about what's true.

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READ: PSALM 33:20-22**DAY 3**

Have you ever seen a picture of a knight? What did a knight typically wear? That's right! A suit of armor. And what did he carry? Right again! A sword and a shield. The sword was for fighting. The shield was for protection.

This verse isn't talking about knights but it IS talking about how God protects you! No matter what you face, God is with you. When you become impatient about how things will work out, just remember that He is like a shield that keeps you safe. No matter what happens, nothing and no one can separate you from His love. You can put your hope in Him.

Grab a piece of paper and draw a simple outline of a shield. Across the front of the shield write the word "PATIENCE" in large block letters. Decorate your shield and then hang it somewhere in your room to remind you that God is like a shield, and He will help you patiently wait and trust in Him.

LOOK for ways to show patience and trust God this week.

READ: COLOSSIANS 3:12**DAY 4**

When you read this verse, what did you think? Did you think, "But what about that one kid at school? He drives me crazy. I need to be gentle and patient with that guy? Really?"

Here's the truth. If we would always choose to treat people the way they treat us, this world would be a pretty crazy place. God has called you to something different. Because God loves you, you should treat people the same way. And because God has chosen you, you can show kindness and patience to others.

Grab a jacket or another piece of clothing you wear most every day. Find a piece of tape and write the word "patience" on it. Place this patience tag inside your jacket (or in your pocket) to remind you to clothe yourself with patience. When you wear it, ask God to help you treat others with patience—the way He always treats you.

KNOW that God loves you and wants you to show patience to others around you.

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