

Patience

waiting until
later for what
you want now.

READ: PSALM 38:15

DAY 1

Have you ever baked cookies? The worst part is putting those cookies in the oven and waiting for them to bake. What happens if you pull the cookies out of the oven too soon? They won't be ready to eat, and you might even ruin them. You have to wait patiently for the timer to buzz before you pull those cookies out.

The same is true for situations in our lives that require patience. As much as we might want to rush ahead, sometimes we just have to wait. If we want to truly enjoy whatever it is we're waiting for, there's really no way to avoid the actual waiting. You can however, find a better way to pass the time while you hope for what you do not have!

Ask an adult in your house to bake some cookies with you today. While the cookies are baking, have a dance party with your family. Turn the music way up and show off your best dance moves. Then when the timer beeps, enjoy a hot, delicious cookie!

THANK God that His timing is better than ours.

READ: PSALM 27:14

DAY 2

Waiting can seem like the worst thing ever. When you're waiting it's easy to ask yourself why you have to wait for something you want RIGHT NOW.

Waiting takes strength. It takes self-control. It takes patience. The waiting actually makes you grow stronger in your faith.

Thankfully, you don't need to do this on your own. God will provide everything that you need. He loves you more than anyone or anything. And He can help you stay strong and show real patience while you wait.

Try some endurance exercises as you learn this verse. Write out each word of the verse on an index card. Place the cards a foot apart and jump from one card to the next, saying the words of the verse over and over. How many times can you jump and say the verse without stopping? Five times? Seven times? See if you can jump and say the verse ten times in a row!

ASK God to help you have real strength by showing patience as you wait this week.

Remember that God's plan is bigger than yours.

READ: JAMES 5:8

DAY 3

Have you ever tried to stand on one foot? How long can you hold that position? Go ahead and try it right now. Have someone time you as you attempt to stand on one foot for as long as you can. No holding onto anything and no cheating!

How long were you able to stand strong? Now set the timer again and stand on both feet. How long did you make it this time? Probably a lot longer, huh?

To stand firm, it really takes both feet. Well guess what? The same rule applies to patience. It's really impossible to show patience if you just rely on your own strength. But the cool thing about God is that He doesn't expect us to do anything on our own. When you ask Him for help, He is always right there. His plans for you are bigger and better than anything you could ever dream up on your own. So while you wait, remember to ask Him to help you stand firm.

LOOK for ways to stand firm and show patience with God's help this week.

READ: HABAKKUK 2:3

DAY 4

Do you ever wonder why there is so much stuff that happens that just doesn't seem right? Do you ever wonder why people get sick? Or why some kids are just mean? Or why some things make you sad?

The amazing news is that God has prepared a place for all of those who trust in Him where we'll never have to experience pain again. Do you know where that is? That's right. HEAVEN! Heaven is the most amazing place you could ever imagine. There will be no pain, no sadness, no tears and no sickness.

But you have to know how to get there! The way to heaven is through a relationship with Jesus! When you trust Him as your Savior, God promises that one day you will be with Him forever in this perfect place. In the meantime, you have to wait. You have to have patience and believe that the promise of heaven is real and waiting for you.

Check on your patience jar one more time. Have you filled it? Talk about the patience challenge with your family. Then go out and celebrate your month of patience with some ice cream or another special treat.

KNOW that God has a plan to make all things right.