

Patience is waiting until later for what you want now.

DAY 1

Read Galatians 6:9

Have you ever carved a pumpkin? Did you know it took months for that pumpkin to grow? A farmer knows that beautiful pumpkins come after months of patient waiting and a fair amount of hard work.

The same is true when it comes to our lives. In order to live in a way that pleases God, we need to be patient with the people around us. And just like a farmer who patiently tends his crop, we will see beautiful results in our relationships with others if we don't give up.

Plant a Seed

You'll need 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 in about two inches of soil. Place the seed in the center and then cover it up with another inch of soil. Water just enough to moisten the top of the soil. Place your cup in a sunny spot. Add water as needed. If you don't have any on hand, look around your neighborhood with your adult's permission and ask what plants you can help water and grow.

DAY 2

Read Psalm 37:7

When you were younger, did your parents have to remind you to sit still? Did they have to remind you to 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.

Patience Challenge

Let's try a little patience challenge with your whole family this month. Grab a clear jar or container and buttons, pennies, or other small objects. For a whole month, every time someone shows patience, put one penny or button in the jar. Easy, right? Wait, that's not all. If someone is impatient, you have to take two pennies out of the jar! The goal is to see how many pennies you end up with at the end of the month. And remember, anyone in the family can put pennies in or take them out, so you have to show patience to everyone, even when it's hard.

DAY 3

Read Psalm 40:1

Patience is waiting until later for what you want now. When it comes to waiting, we don't always get it right! But there is someone who is always right there to help. God sees us when we aren't patient but is NEVER impatient with us. What a good God!

Waiting Games

There is one way to make the waiting easier. Grab a piece of paper and make a list of things you could do to make the waiting more fun. Have a parent or sibling set a timer for 2 minutes as you work on your list. All done? Read through your list and try to narrow it down to five things. Write those five things in the numbered box. The next time you need to wait for something, try one of these ideas and see if it helps you show patience.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

DAY 4

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4

Jesus said the NUMBER ONE thing we can do is love— love God and love others. Today's verse explains what love looks like. It's kind. It's not jealous or braggy or proud. But the first part might actually be the HARDEST.

Love is patient.

Love doesn't hurry. . . or yell. . . or push to the front. . . or insist one way is the only way. Love lets others go first.

Love waits its turn.

Think back over your day. Were you impatient with anyone? What could you have done differently to show LOVE to that person instead of impatience?

Patience Art

On a piece of paper, write the words "LOVE IS PATIENT" in big block letters. Decorate the page with lots of color so it will really stand out. Post your masterpiece on the fridge or where everyone in your home can see it. When you read it, ask God to help you show love to others by choosing to be patient. Then thank God for always being patient with you.

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