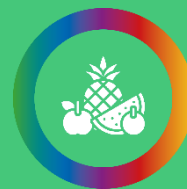




Faith Adventures for Children Together



Free to use – please acknowledge when using beyond local church children's and youth work so others can find and use the resource themselves.

*Committed to URC Children Together:
enabling everyone to grow more like Jesus
together in the home, church and beyond.*

For guidance on the purpose of the resource and how to use it as a launch pad for your engagement with children and families, please use this link: www.bit.ly/FACT-how-to-sheet

Title: James 5: 7–10a

Theme: Patience – waiting in hope

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Introduction: What would be helpful to know in my planning?

Welcome to our fourth week looking at the Fruits of the Spirit. In this material we'll be exploring patience – the only one after which a card game is named!

It's important to recognise that being patient is not the same as just accepting your fate. It has been described as 'waiting with hope'. There are some things we just have to wait for – birthdays, Christmas, holidays – and there is nothing we can do to make them come sooner. The passage gives the example of farmers having to wait – you can't harvest your crop in the winter! But there are things we can do while we are waiting.

We can also shorten the wait for some things: if we are saving up for something, we might be able to do small jobs around the house to earn a little bit more money so that we reach our target sooner.

We also need to remember that, sometimes, the thing we have waited for can be a disappointment. It only takes one bad storm to ruin the farmer's crop – and their plans for the harvest.

For now, the wait for this week's material is over – we hope you enjoy exploring patience with your group.

Together – prayer and games

How do I help my group to come together and get started with the theme?

Gathering prayer

Jesus, our friend,

(use alternate index fingers to point and tap the middle of opposite palms)

Be with us today

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move up and down twice)

As we share together,

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move one forward and one back and alternate twice)

Pray together,

(hands together, palm against palm, as though praying)

Play together,

(hands to each side, palms up, make two small circles outwards)

And get to know you better

(point up with one hand)

As children together in your family.

(one hand out, palm down in front of you, move it sideways and up in three 'steps' as though to indicate children of three different heights)

AMEN

(Two thumbs up, and bring fists slowly together to meet in front of you)

OR

Thank you, God, for bringing us together today.

Help us to grow closer to you in all we do.

Help us to speak and to listen, to learn and to grow together,
adventuring together with you wherever we may go.

Amen

Active games

Play any of the group's favourite games that involve waiting your turn and creating tension, Here are some examples.

Duck, Duck, Goose

The group sits in a circle on the floor. Someone is chosen to be the farmer. The farmer walks around the outside of the circle tapping each child on the head, calling each one a

duck. When the farmer is ready, they tap a child on the head and call them a goose. The farmer then begins to run round the circle, trying to get to the goose's original space before the goose catches them.

Grandmother's Footsteps

All children stand in a line at one end of the room. A leader or child volunteer stands at the other end as the grandma, with their back to the room. The group asks 'When is teatime, Grandma?'. The grandma answers with a number, for example in four minutes, in six minutes, in 20 minutes, and so on. Each time, the group take that number of steps towards the grandma. When Grandma is ready, she will answer 'NOW!' Grandma turns around and tries to catch one of the group before they can make it back safely to the end of the room.

Cut the cake

Ideal for smaller groups. Sit the group around a table. Fill a small bowl with flour and turn it over to make a flour sandcastle; place one jelly baby on top, in the centre. The children take it in turn to slice a section of the flour away without disturbing the jelly baby. This continues until one child makes the jelly baby fall. This child then tries to get the jelly baby out of the pile of flour using their mouth.

Quieter game – Sit down in a minute

The group stands in silence; you explain that in one minute they should sit down. You have a timer. Wait until all children have sat down. The child who sits down the closest to a minute is the winner.

Experience – Bible story and songs

Hear, watch and sing the Bible story

For this story we recommend using the Easy-to-read version

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passages/?search=James%205%3A7-10&version=ERV>

⁷ Brothers and sisters, be patient; the Lord will come. So be patient until that time. Look at the farmers. They have to be patient. They have to wait for their valuable crop to grow and produce a harvest. They wait patiently for the first rain and the last rain. ⁸ You must be patient too. Never stop hoping. The Lord is coming soon. ⁹ Brothers and sisters, don't complain against each other. If you don't stop complaining, you will be judged guilty. And the Judge is ready to come!

¹⁰ Brothers and sisters, follow the example of the prophets who spoke for the Lord.

[Easy-to-Read Version \(ERV\)](#)

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Where can I find the story online?

Under-fives: Patience, by Wesley's Wuppets

https://youtu.be/iL1BRPEjMZA?si=7CbsWUm_c8mOo_F9

Five-to-elevens: Patience while we wait, by Cornerstone Kids

<https://youtu.be/tsM2bkthAYs?si=Ga0BUBNbfCMkUL6X>

Songs to support the story

Under-fives: Patience, by KidSummit

https://youtu.be/rrdTk2vb4YE?si=C9_dfLOlqJ8K1ThK

Five-to-elevens: Everlasting God, by Shout Praises Kids

https://youtu.be/86NluEfVwU4?si=x_t-FofcJCRkeTkm

Explore – ways into the theme

Ideas and activities to explore this week's Bible passage together

A new way to explore the theme

You will need enough Lego for the group to have fun building scenes. A shout out to the people in our churches usually brings a good response to Lego collections.

Explain that this passage tells us to wait patiently and speaks about how we can have hope while we wait and rely on God and God's promises.

What does waiting patiently look like? Take some suggestions.

Explain that there are many stories in the Bible about people who were waiting for something that God had promised. Can the group think of any? Share ideas together to create a bank of ideas, e.g. Mary waiting for Jesus, Israelite slaves waiting for rescue, Jonah waiting in the belly of the whale, disciples waiting for the Holy Spirit.

TASK: Encourage the group to work in pairs or individually to choose a story from the Bible that is about waiting patiently and to build the scene of the story using the Lego.

Allow plenty of time for the building activity.

Once complete, bring the scenes together. You could place them in chronological Biblical order in a line. Each builder introduces their scene as they place it.

Sit back and look at the scenes. Use some wondering questions to explore further.

- I wonder what these Bible stories say to us about how to wait patiently.
- If you could shrink down and jump into one of these scenes, which would it be and why?
- Where do we see God in each scene?
- Where is the hope in each scene?

Decide as a group what you want to do with your creations. You could create a display for people to see and be reminded to wait patiently with hope.

This session is released at the start of the summer holidays. The group could consider the following: You have patiently waited for your summer holidays; now you are being rewarded for your patience as the holidays have arrived. What are you going to do with that time to ensure you are making the most of it?

Modern parables

Jesus used stories to help people understand the things of God, even though they weren't necessarily overtly Christian stories. Lots of children's books can be used in a similar way as a conversation starter on the week's theme. Examples are shared here but you may think of others too. If you are to use the modern parable, consider buying a copy or

borrowing it from the library so children see the actual book and can explore the illustrations more (and support the author).



Little Rabbit Waits for the Moon by Beth Shoshan, read by children at Rainbow Readers

Published by Parragon 2011. ISBN 10: 1445407965

Watch the story about a little rabbit who is waiting for the moon to watch over him while he sleeps. He asks many people when it might come and no one can tell him the exact time.

- How do you fill your time when waiting for something? Do you make the most of your waiting time?

The Bible tells us that Jesus will come back one day and put all the wrong things right, but nobody knows when this will be. How do we make the most of our time while we wait?

Talking together: How might we talk about the Bible story together?

- How do you make the most of your waiting?
- What are you waiting for?
- Why did they use the story of crops in the Bible story?
- Are you patient? What helps you to be patient?

Wondering: ways to reflect on the theme

- You've patiently waited for the summer holidays; now you are being rewarded for your patience as the holidays have arrived. What are you going to do with that time.

What's in the box (for under fives)

Use the special box or bag and sing, "What's in the box/bag? What's in the box/bag? Let's see, let's see, what's in the box/bag" (to the tune of The Farmer's in the Dell). Pull out the things one by one and then let the children play with them, talking about the theme or the story in simple terms.

This week's box could include:

- Sand egg timers – talk to the children about how we have to wait for the sand to run through the egg timer. We have to be patient while waiting.
- Clocks – clocks help us tell the time but waiting for something to happen makes time seem to drag.
- Farming toys – farmers have a lot of patience. They wait for all their crops to grow and then for the perfect time to harvest them. For example, farmers know when wheat is ready when the heads drop. Then they must wait for the right weather conditions to harvest it. It's a lot of waiting.
- Seeds and plants (sunflower seeds and plants would work well) – these seeds have taken a long time to grow into such a large plant. I wonder how long it's been since they were tiny seeds.
- A tactile cross of wood or fabric (a cross shape reminds us of Jesus. Jesus/God loves us and it's always in the box because Jesus/God always loves us!)
- A set of play people to act out the story or random shapes/bits you can move around to make pictures from the story as you tell it (e.g. stones, felt, twigs etc.)

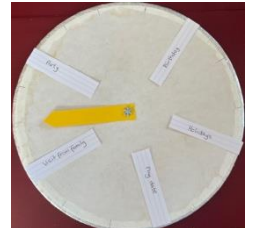
Express – prayer and creative activities

Praying together: enabling your group to respond spiritually

Prayerful activity – Waiting Prayers

You will need a circle of card marked with spaces to be written on, with a pointer in the middle.

As you pray, invite each person to write down the thing they are waiting for. Encourage the children to think about what they are excited for or what they are worried about, or something that comes around every year that they are waiting for.



Spoken prayer

God give me the patience
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.

Amen

Responding together

Here is a suggested craft activity, and there is a colouring sheet at the end of this resource. You could also use small play toys and/or have a basket of resources available so children can choose their own way to respond.

With an online group, plan whether to deliver any resources in advance or how you will encourage them to use what they've got to hand in their response.

However you do it, it is good for the adults to engage in the response too, and all chat together.

Patience Candle

You will need:

- a tall candle
- a ruler
- decorating pens
- some leaves, or dried flowers to decorate
- glue

What you do:

There might be an event or activity you are waiting for. It might be in two days or in two weeks. Think about how long we have to wait and what we're waiting for. On the candle make little marks going down from the top of the candle to represent how long you need to be



waiting (two marks for two days or 14 marks for two weeks) and write 'Patience' with a marker. Glue flowers and leaves onto the candle. Burn a little each day until the time arrives (with adult supervision).

Everyday with Jesus – Walking the Way

What could we do this week to carry on what we've learned? Maybe members of the group could come up with a suggestion. If not, get them to choose from these two challenges:

- Talk to someone older or younger than you and ask them to tell you any stories they can think of in the Bible that are about waiting.
- Go on a waiting walk. As you walk along, notice things that take time such as flowers growing, birds making nests, clouds moving, a park being built, etc.

We hope you enjoyed exploring **patience** with us.

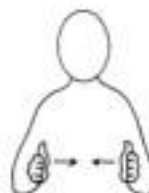
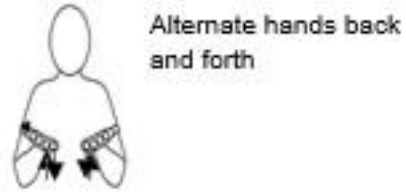
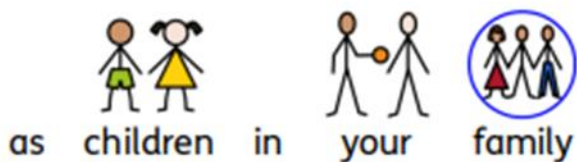
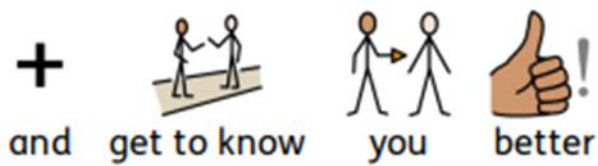
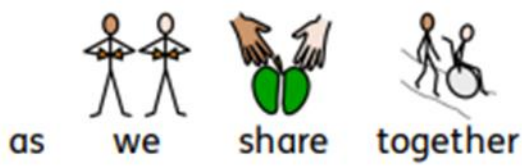
Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing

sharon.lloyd@urc.org.uk

Please join the Faith Adventures Facebook Group **bit.ly/FACT_FB**

Why not have a look at next week's resource on **Self-control**






 The Lord's Prayer

 Our  Father,  who art  in  heaven,  hallowed be  thy  name.

 Thy  kingdom  come,  thy  will  be done






 on  earth  as it is  in  heaven.

 Give  us  this day  our  daily  bread

 and  forgive  us  our  sins  As  we  forgive  those  who  sin  against  us

 Lead  us  not  into  temptation  but  deliver  us  from  evil

 For  thine  is the  kingdom,  the  power  and  the  glory

 For ever  and  ever  .  Amen



