

Faith Adventures Youth Resource



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

Embedded in Faith Adventures: Children Together, this youth resource is intergenerational in nature and designed to foster God-connection in church, home 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/How-To-FAYR

Title: James 5: 7–11

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

Let's start our time with God and each other well

Use this opening prayer or encourage young people to open the session with a prayer of their own.

All mighty God,

Be with us as we learn more about you through stories and people in the Bible.

Help us to walk in your way and follow your path.

Be with us as we make decisions that affect our lives, and the lives of those around us.

Amen

Alternatively, you may join with the widgeit prayer found in Faith Adventures: Children Together, or else the Lord's Prayer found at the end of this session.

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 – Your Number's Up

I wonder what the opposite of patience is. Maybe it's frustration. This game can be very frustrating!

Invite your group to close their eyes (you can join in, too). The aim of the game is to count aloud up to 20, BUT participants can only call out one number before someone else has to call the next number. If two people call out the same number at the same time, you have to go back to one and start all over again. It sounds easy to do, but...

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

This link takes you to James 5: 7 – 11 in the Easy-to-read version

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

You may wish to research different versions of this reading on www.biblegateway.com
Recommended versions to try are NRSV, Easy-to-read, The Message, NIRV

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. They suffered many bad things, but they were patient. ¹¹ And we say that those who accepted their troubles with patience now have God's blessing. They suffered many bad things, but they were patient. You have heard about Job's patience.^[b] You know that after all his troubles, the Lord helped him. This shows that the Lord is full of mercy and is kind.

Easy-to-Read Version (ERV)

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Watch: Patience (God's story), by Crossroads Kids' Club

https://youtu.be/WMFuhWH-IRI?si=mF3GRka-ZOjnz_RW

Questions for discussion

- How do you patiently wait?
- I wonder if you find it a struggle to patiently wait?

Listen: Strength will rise (Everlasting God) (Chris Tomlin), by Hadleigh Baptist Church
<https://youtu.be/f2us61f-4Ak?si=szn1GI4XxNMON9Xr>

This song encourages us to turn to God for the strength and ability to patiently wait. While listening, think of what it is you are struggling to be patient about, and give it to God.

Explore

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

A new way to explore the theme

This is a new way to explore the Bible passage and the theme for this week.

Alternatively, you may wish to use the Explore section from this week's Faith Adventures: Children Together to guide your exploration of the theme this week.

Patience

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.

ASK: 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.

Consider what people are waiting for in the stories, such as coming down from the mountain, waiting for rapture, Mary waiting to embalm Jesus. What are we as Christians waiting for now?

Modern parables

This section includes references to TV programmes, films, books, TED talks, TikTok etc aimed at this age group that will have been widely seen, or where a clip is available to use as a stimulus for discussion. You may also enjoy the picture book recommended for Faith Adventures: Children Together and explore the relevance of the story to the theme of the session in more depth – young people and adults are often well tuned in to the deeper meanings in materials aimed at younger people and the authors are often very aware of the adults reading the books to or with younger ones.

In the film *The Terminal*, the main character finds himself stranded at the airport after his country enters into a coop – this means that no one officially owns the country and so he cannot be let into America or back home. Therefore, he has to stay at the airport and wait until a resolution is found in his country.

The Terminal – discovering the quarters

https://youtu.be/asteNsql_Co?si=7mQx2Eny9DzPUIII

- What do we learn about patient waiting from this clip?

I wonder if you would have the same hope and optimism as the character in the film if you were in the same situation.

Group discussion

- 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?
- Are there situations when waiting patiently isn't appropriate?

Personal reflection

- 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.

Express – prayer and creative activities

Praying together: enabling your group to respond spiritually

Praying together

Prayers Respond to the theme by writing or saying a short prayer. Alternatively, use the creative prayer from Faith Adventures: Children Together for this session, or use the prayer activity below. Alternatively, light a candle and play some music while you listen and talk to God together.

Spoken prayer – Serenity prayer

God grant me the serenity
 to accept the things I cannot change;
 courage to change the things I can;
 and wisdom to know the difference.
 Living one day at a time;
 Enjoying one moment at a time;
 Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
 Taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world
 as it is, not as I would have it;
 Trusting that Jesus will make all things right
 if I surrender to his will;
 That I may be reasonably happy in this life
 and supremely happy with him
 Forever in the next.
 Amen.

Responding together

This is an opportunity for a social justice challenge, some research, craftivism, or a craft or STEM activity. You may have a specific activity chosen but free choice is also an option. Here are some suggestions for this week's theme. Choose whatever will work best for your group.

Job

There is a common saying which goes like this:

'The patience of Job' – find out who Job is and why he had to be patient.

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/permission).



Challenge

Discipleship doesn't stop when you walk out of the church door – it is a part of everyday life. Take a challenge with you and try to make it part of your week.

You may think of your own suggestion of what you as an individual or a group might do in the coming week in response to what you have explored today? If not, here are some suggestions:

- Use one of the 'conversation starter' questions or the question below to talk with someone of a different generation or from a different setting and share your questions, thoughts, insights together. **I wonder how you manage when you need to wait for an answer/ resolution to a difficult situation.**
- Research something suggested by JPIT Resources (jpit.uk) or *Commitment for Life* (cforl.co.uk).
- Can you practice active patience this week? That means looking to see what you can do in a situation to help, such as saving more pocket money for the thing you've been saving for so it happens quicker, or reading the Bible more each day so that your relationship with God grows.

Thank you for exploring the **James** passage with us.

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing sharon.lloyd@urc.org.uk or by sharing it on www.bit.ly/FACT_FB

 
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

