



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Wait for Your Color

[10 min]

Supplies

- multiple colors of construction paper (1 sheet per child)
- fifteen 3x5 notecards
- markers that match the colors of construction paper
- chairs

Easy Prep

- Cut sheets of construction paper into fourths.
- Draw a large dot on each 3x5 card, using ink colors that match the paper colors.

Line Up the Colors

Have kids sit in a circle in chairs. Place the pieces of construction paper in the center of the circle. Say: **Today we heard that Jacob had to wait a long time to get married. It's hard to wait, especially when you're excited about something. Sometimes when we're playing a game, it can be hard to wait for our turn. Since we're learning that patience is a fruit of the Spirit, let's play a game where we practice waiting patiently for our turn to play.**

- Allow kids to each pick three pieces of paper from the pile in the center. Kids can choose papers that are different colors or all one color.
- Explain that the goal is to get rid of all three sheets of paper, but kids must wait patiently until their colors are called.
- Draw a card from your pile of 3x5 cards. Anyone with a paper the same color as the dot on the card can put one paper down in a line along the wall. Each child may put down only one paper at a time and then return to his or her seat.
- Continue drawing color cards until kids have played all their papers.
- When kids have put all their papers in the line, gather the papers and play again as time allows.

Talk About It

Say: **Sometimes the hardest part of playing a game is waiting for your turn.**

Share a game *you* like to play where you need to be patient and wait your turn, and why that can be hard. You may love to play Monopoly and are anxious to get a chance to build on Boardwalk, or you may love baseball and can't wait for your turn at bat.

Ask: • **What games do you play where you need to wait your turn?** Kids may love to play Hide-and-Seek; Duck, Duck, Goose; or Candy Land. Encourage kids to share why it's hard to be patient when they play.

Say: **There are lots of times we need to be patient, but God can help us because patience is a fruit of the Spirit.**



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

Let It Snow

[10 min]

Supplies

- “Let It Snow” teaching video

Discuss and Watch “Let It Snow”

Say: **We’re learning that patience is a fruit of the Spirit. But sometimes it’s just hard to wait!**

Ask: • **What’s something that’s really hard for you to wait for?** Share your own example first, such as waiting to eat dinner when it smells really good or waiting for Christmas in the beginning of December.

Say: **Waiting can be hard! Our friend Awesome Andy doesn’t like waiting either. Let’s see how he solves his patience problem.**

Watch “Let It Snow.”

Ask: • **If you could make it snow right away, what would you want to do in the snow?**

• **Andy wanted snow so he could use his rocket-powered tri-ski-scooter invention *now*. But Cami said, “Sometimes a great idea won’t work because it’s just not the right time.” Tell about a time waiting made things better for you.** Share your own story first, such as a time you left later than you planned and then passed a bad accident you might’ve been in if you’d left on time.

• **Andy came up with an idea for another fun invention while he waits for snow. What can you do while you’re waiting?**

Say: **We don’t always get to do what we want right when we want to. But patience is a fruit of the Spirit, so God can help us wait patiently.**



DEEPER BIBLE Delayed Fun

[15 min]

Supplies

- kids' favorite game or activity

Easy Prep

- Choose a game or activity kids really enjoy. Have everything available to play, but make sure there are 5 minutes of setup to do, even if you need to create delays with "missing" items.
- Have an adult or teen helper ready to help kids wait patiently for the activity by suggesting a song they can sing or some other activity they can do while they wait.

Get Ready to Play

Say: **Let's play [chosen game] today! That'll be so much fun! You'll just need to be patient for a few minutes while I get everything ready.**

Make a big show of getting everything ready, looking for supplies, setting things out, and getting them just right. Make sure setup takes about five minutes. After a minute or two, when kids start to get restless, the adult or teen helper can offer to lead kids in a song or other activity while they wait.

When everything is ready, say: **Now I think we're ready to play our game.**

Thank you for being so patient while I got everything ready. And thank you, [name of helper], for helping us be patient.

Play the game for seven or eight minutes. Then gather kids back together.

Talk About It

Say: **That was a fun game. It's good we *finally* got to play. We had to wait patiently for our game today. We often have to wait to do things we want to do. Sometimes it's hard to wait, but God can help us be patient because patience is a fruit of the Spirit. One way God helps us be patient is by giving us someone to help us, like [adult helper who helped earlier] did today. Other times, God helps us find ways to be patient on our own.**

Share about ways someone could help *you* be patient. Maybe it's a friend who keeps you company while you wait in line at the store or someone who prays with you about something you're waiting for.

Ask: • **Tell about someone who helps you wait patiently.** Have kids share what the person might do to help. Kids might tell about a sibling who plays games with them on a long car ride, a friend who talks to them while they're waiting for their turn on the swings, or their mom who sings songs with them while they wait for dinner.

Say: **Jacob had to wait a long time to get married. Sometimes we worry when we have to wait. Jacob trusted God and was patient. God doesn't want us to worry. He wants us to trust him. He can help us be patient and not worry because patience is a fruit of the Spirit. God gave Jacob patience to wait, and God helps us be patient, too.**



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Lower Your Bucket Into the Well

[5 min]

Supplies

- jar
- crayons
- “Bucket” handout (1 for every 4 kids)

Easy Prep

- Use any available supplies in your classroom to decorate the jar to look like a well. For example, you might draw bricks on a piece of paper and wrap the outside of the jar with that.
- Cut the “Bucket” handout into fourths so every child will get a bucket.

Draw Things We’re Waiting For

Say: **Today we learned that patience is a fruit of the Spirit. We learned that Jacob waited patiently for a wife. In the beginning of the Bible story, Jacob waited to draw water out of a well. Show the “well” you made ahead of time. Let’s pretend this is our waiting well. Since you draw water out of a well using a bucket, let’s draw something we have to wait for on these buckets.** Give each child a bucket from the handout, and set out crayons.

Encourage children to draw on their buckets something they have to wait for. Help them think of possible things they might have to wait for, and encourage them to talk about waiting as they draw. They might draw a cookie because their parents make them wait for treats. Or they might draw a friend because they have to wait for a friend to get back from vacation so they can play with him or her. Or they might draw a toy because they have to wait their turn to play with a special toy.

Put Our Buckets in the Well

Say: **When we wait, we can ask God to help us wait calmly and quietly and without complaining. We’ve all drawn pictures of things we have to wait for. Let’s put our buckets down into the well and ask God to help us wait patiently like Jacob did. Patience is a fruit of the Spirit, so God will help us be calm as we wait.** Lead each child to put his or her picture into the well.

Lead kids in a prayer, asking God to give them the fruit of the Spirit of patience.

Say: **We’ll leave our buckets in the well since we still have to wait for the things we drew on our buckets. I hope you’ll come back next week and we can share together about how we practiced waiting patiently.**



ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A POINT

Patience With Pennies

[10 min]

Supplies

- “Fruit of the Spirit: Patience” Coloring Page
- pennies (1 per older child)
- pompoms (1 per older child)
- crayons

Older Kids: Do an Activity Page

Say: **Today we’re learning about the fruit of patience. When we follow Jesus, he helps patience grow in our lives. Jacob had to wait a long time for Rachel, but it didn’t feel like long because he loved her so much. When we love God, he can help us wait patiently, too. Let’s see if you can wait patiently as you try to succeed in this game.**

Distribute the activity pages, pennies, and pompoms. Kids will place a pompom in the semicircle and try to flick a penny from the start line to knock the pompom out. They can continue to try patiently until they get it.

Ask: • **How did you feel if you had to try a lot before you got it?**

• **Tell about a time you lost patience and gave up on something because it was taking too long.**

Say: **Patience is a fruit of the Spirit. That means when God promises us something, we don’t give up! We wait patiently for God to do what he says.**

Younger Kids: Color a Coloring Page

Distribute the coloring pages and crayons. Say: **Today we learned that patience is a fruit of the Spirit. Jacob had to be patient while he worked and waited to marry Rachel. Let’s color that.**

Allow time for kids to color.

When kids finish coloring, three-hole-punch their pages and put them into binders, if desired.