

# MISSION: POSSIBLE

# Character Development

## Lesson 8: Patience

### Lesson Keys

- Introduction
- Definition
- Joseph
- Church History
- Patience Application

### Preparation

There is a lot of information in this lesson. Be sure to be very familiar with the content so that you can decide how it best fits with the way you want to teach. Most likely you will want to leave certain parts out and spend more time on other parts.

### Supplies

- Patience Card Game
- Candy Reward

### Scripture Guide

Hebrews 6:12  
Proverbs 14:29  
Hebrews 12:1

### Teaching Coach

While watching the kids play the game, write down the names of the kids who get distracted and look away. Reward the kids who endured the test with candy. Give away the candy after you say that they will do it again for twice the time.

### Introduction

Inform the children that you have candy for everyone this evening. However, it is important that everyone pays attention and participates in the exercises. If anyone has to be corrected, then they will lose their candy.

Have everyone put their hands in their laps, locate a spot or object on the wall and stare at it. Instruct them to look only at their spot and not to look anywhere else. They are not allowed to move or speak until the time is up. When everyone is ready to start...begin.

(wait at least 2 minutes)

After the time is up, ask how long they thought that this time period lasted.

Ask them if they are ready to do it again, but for twice as long. (Ask this just for the reaction)

This was a test of your patience. Some people are very patient. Others are not. If you had great difficulty sitting still and keeping quiet, perhaps patience is a character trait that needs to be improved. If you complained about having to stare at the wall for four minutes, you may need to relax and build patience.

### Definition

Patience. The quality of being able calmly to endure suffering, toil, delay, vexation, or any similar condition without complaint.

In many ways patience is very similar to perseverance, a character trait we already studied. Perseverance is most often a character trait that really develops during a crisis or intense situation. Patience, however, is the quality that one develops and has the opportunity to show nearly every day. Patience is being able to make it through delays without complaint. It is knowing that something is coming and being able to calmly await the appointed time.

# MISSION: POSSIBLE

# Character Development

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It may be possible for the cards to be out of order and still make sense. However, to be fair, judge based upon the order given at the end of this lesson.

You might want to come from the angle that Joseph's patience was the path to his future. He would not have become the ruler if he had not been in jail all those years. If he had lost patience, he would have strayed off the path that God had destined for him.

Gauge this upon how much time you have left. Discuss the problems that Abraham's impatience still causes to this day.

## Joseph Game

Divide the children into two groups and give each group the stack of mixed up papers telling the story of Joseph. They will have 2 minutes to put the story of Job in the correct order. The team who finishes first and is correct wins. If neither team finishes before 2 minutes, then the team with the story line most correct will win.

## Joseph's Story

Review the story of Joseph with the children. Be sure to point out how Joseph was patient and God's plan eventually worked itself out.

Explain how what Joseph endured was different from what Job endured. Job needed Perseverance to make it through the tough time. He didn't know if he would ever see health again. However, Joseph found himself in prison. He had had dreams as a child of being a mighty ruler. Joseph showed incredible patience as he calmly waited for his time to come.

## Extras

If time allows tell how God had promised that Abraham's descendents would number the earth like the sand on the beach. However, Abraham had to wait for a very, very long time. In a time of impatience, he had a son outside of his marriage and that son Ishmael became the father of the Arabs.

You can talk about how we need to be patient and trust in God. When we act out of impatience, then there are consequences to pay. Talk about how the Arab world is now in contention with Israel, a situation that may not have existed if Abraham had been more patient.

## Patience in the Church

In Western Africa, it was fourteen years before one convert was received into the church, in East Africa it took ten years.

In New Zealand, it took nine years before there was one baptism.

In Tahiti, it was sixteen years before the first harvest.

William Carey labored seven years before the first Hindu convert was baptized.

# MISSION: POSSIBLE

# Character Development

God is sovereign and has a plan. We as Christians must continue to work and minister, regardless of the results or lack of results. Giving up could spoil the results that could be only moments away.

Challenge the kids to think about all the times that they are impatient and report it to the class next week. Waiting in line for lunch, commercials etc...

If you still have time; read, discuss and apply the following scriptures:

Hebrews 6:12  
Proverbs 14:29  
Hebrews 12:1

In Burma, Judson toiled for seven years before he had one, once writing England: "**Beg the churches to have patience. If a ship were to carry me to any part of the world, I would not leave my field. Tell the brethren success is as certain as the promise of a faithful God can make it.**"

If the missionaries working in these areas of the world had not had patience, millions would not know the Lord today. The church has been founded upon patience. We must continue to press on each day. We already know how the end will turn out, we just need to be patient until that day comes.

We can get real excited about the end times, the rapture and other events of that nature. Rather let's be patient and focus on the job at hand... telling the world, our neighbors and classmates about Jesus.

## Application

Ask the kids about things that they can get impatient about. Perhaps use the statement, "I can't wait until \_\_\_\_\_? What are common things that fill in that blank?"

## Patience Challenge

You would probably be amazed at how impatient you can be. Try to pay attention to all the times you are impatient this next week.

Sometimes children get in too much of a hurry to grow up. They can't wait to drive, to go to college, have a job and those sorts of things. It is very important that kids learn patience and learn to enjoy being a kid. Adulthood will come eventually.

## Quote

C.H. Spurgeon said, "If you are tempted to lose patience with your fellowmen, stop and think how patient God has been with you."

Relate to the kids how wonderfully patient God is with us. If we were in God's shoes, we probably would have given up on ourselves a long time ago.

## Closing

Wrap up the discussion in patience. Pray with the kids to develop this trait.

# MISSION: POSSIBLE

# Character Development

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Joseph card game order.

## Joseph Card Game

Joseph was born from Jacob's favorite wife... and was therefore Jacob's favorite son... Jacob made a beautiful coat for Joseph... To show him how much he loved him... Joseph knew that great things were in store for his life... Joseph's brothers were very jealous... and eventually sold him into slavery... Joseph arrived in Egypt and became the slave of Potiphar... Joseph did well under Potiphar... and eventually became the head of the house... Joseph was set up after resisting Potiphar's wife... and was then sent to prison for many years... After a very long time, the cup-bearer to the King remembered Joseph... and gave him the opportunity to interpret the Pharaoh's dreams.... Joseph interpreted correctly... and was put second in command over all of Egypt.