

A Character study:

Patience

“And how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:15-17

This character study is designed to illustrate this character trait using verses, stories, consequences of sin and blessings of obedience found through out the Bible.

Each day you will learn a verse, read a story where this sin is illustrated, then discuss the consequences of this sin followed up by the blessings of obedience. I encourage discussion with your children on ways they can help one another to stay free from this sin.

Resources: This study was created using references from the Bible and the book “For Instruction in Righteousness” by Pam Forster

Patience

Memory Verse:

Ephesians 4:2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Day 1

What does patience mean? Patience is "waiting until later for what I want now". It is a good-natured tolerance of delay, or endurance under difficult circumstances. Another word for patience is long suffering.

What kind of attitude does patience ask for?

God is our perfect example of this as He wants our love and affection now, but He waits patiently until we are ready to yield to Him: *Peter 3:15* "And remember, the Lord's patience gives people time to be saved. (NLT)

Story:

Numbers 20:1-13 Moses was impatient, hitting the rock

Blessings of Obedience:

Deuteronomy 31:7 Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the presence of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous, for you must go with this people into the land that the LORD swore to their ancestors to give them, and you must divide it among them as their inheritance. The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

Consequence of impatience:

Num 20:12 But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them."

Deuteronomy 34:4 Then the LORD said to him, "This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it."

Questions:

1. If God has patience with us, do you think we should have patience with others? *Ephesians 4:2* Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.

Note: As parents, our patience is tested daily, this is when we need to take a moment to rest in God's Word knowing through His power we can endure anything.

1. *2 Peter 1:6* Knowing God leads to self-control. Self-control leads to patient endurance, and patient endurance leads to godliness.

2. *Colossians 1:11* ...being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience.

Activity:

1. Set a timer for 1 minute. Give a treat for those who wait patiently.

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Day 2

Story:

Exodus 32:1-6 The Israelites were impatient waiting for Moses to return and decided to worship idols.

Blessings of Obedience:

Exodus 32:29 Then Moses told the Levites, "Today you have ordained yourselves for the service of the LORD, for you obeyed him even though it meant killing your own sons and brothers. Today you have earned a blessing."

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

Consequence of Disobedience:

Exodus 32:33 But the LORD replied to Moses, "No, I will erase the name of everyone who has sinned against me. ³⁴ Now go, lead the people to the place I told you about. Look! My angel will lead the way before you. And when I come to call the people to account, I will certainly hold them responsible for their sins."

Exodus 32:35 Then the LORD sent a great plague upon the people because they had worshiped the calf Aaron had made.

Questions:

Why did the people ask Aaron to make a golden calf?

Why do you think Moses tried to get God to forgive the Israelites for disobeying Him?

What did God do when Moses pleaded for his forgiveness? (Ex 32:14)

Challenge: Today's challenge is to be patient with your siblings, & help them if they need help.

Activity:

1. Play a game, have kids demonstrate patience in waiting their turn.

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Day 3

Story:

Genesis 15-16 Abraham and Sarah became impatient waiting for the son God promised them and took the matter into their own hands.

Blessings of Obedience:

Genesis 15:6 And Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD counted him as righteous because of his faith.

Consequences of sin:

Genesis 21:1-21 God was faithful to give Sarah a son as He promised, but she was jealous of Hagar's son so she sent them away.

Questions:

1. Do you think it would have been better for Sarai and Abraham to be patient and wait for the son God had promised them?
2. How did their impatience affect others?
3. Did God follow through with His promise to Abraham?
4. Do you think God always follows through on His promises?

1 Corinthians 1:9 God will do this, for he is faithful to do what he says, and he has invited you into partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (NLT)

Challenge: Be patient in all things

Activity:

1. Have your children act out what it looks like to be patient and impatient. Your kids will be surprised at what they look like!

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Day 4

Story:

Exodus 16 The people grew impatient even though God had saved them from slavery in Egypt.

Blessings of Obedience:

Exodus 16:17 So the people of Israel did as they were told. Some gathered a lot, some only a little. But when they measured it out, everyone had just enough. Those who gathered a lot had nothing left over, and those who gathered only a little had enough. Each family had just what it needed.

Consequences of disobedience:

Exodus 16:19 Then Moses told them, "Do not keep any of it until morning." But some of them didn't listen and kept some of it until morning. But by then it was full of maggots and had a terrible smell. Moses was very angry with them.

Questions:

1. How did God show patience towards the Israelites?
2. Did the Israelites show patience towards God?

Patience Card: Add the patience apple to your character tree! *(If you haven't already, put up a tree using brown and green construction paper. Each week you will add a new apple to the tree)*

Review Questions:

1. How does our patience effect others?
2. How would our lack of patience effect others?
3. How does disobedience effect our relationship with God and with our parents?

Application:

1. What does patience look like in our home?
2. How can we practice patience?

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, Please help me to have a heart of patience. I ask that you would give me the strength to be patient in all circumstances so that I can glorify You. I thank you and praise you for all you've done for me. Amen.



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Additional Verses:

1 Corinthians 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

Galatians 6:9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

Hebrews 10:36 You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

Romans 12:12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. (ESV)

Romans 15:5 Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus. (NKJV)

Hebrews 6:10-12 God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

Romans 5:3-5 More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Genesis 25:29-34 Esau lost his birthright because he was hungry and couldn't wait for stew.