

Alley SG—September 4th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: Unforgetful You (Abraham and Isaac) • *Genesis 15:1-6; 18:1-15; 21:1-7*

Today's Key Question: When have you had to wait for something big?

Today's Bottom Line: Trust God even when you have to wait

Monthly Memory Verse: *Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding.* Proverbs 3:5 (NIV)

1. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Bibles, dry erase board, dry erase markers, eraser (1 set per Group)

What You Do:

- Gather kids together.
- Give kids a Bible and look up the memory verse, Proverbs 3:5.

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Our verse is from Proverbs. Ask kids to tell you whether that's in the Old Testament or the New Testament. (*Old*) We know it's toward the middle of the Bible. When they find Proverb, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 3. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to then find verses 5 in chapter 3.

- Write the verse on a white board.
- Ask for a volunteer to read the verse out loud. After they read it, tell them to erase one word of the verse.
- Ask for another volunteer to recite the verse, filling in the erased word. After they recite the verse, tell them to erase another word.
- Continue until the entire verse has been erased. Challenge kids to recite the verse from memory.
- (*Optional*) To make this a competition, instruct kids to sit down. Erase a word and the first kid to stand up gets to try to recite the entire verse. If they recite it correctly, award them two points. If they don't recite it correctly, subtract a point from their total. The kid with the most points at the end wins.
- Consider asking:
 - What does the writer of this verse say about trust?
 - In Hebrew, the word for heart doesn't just refer to your emotions, but it also meant your mind and thoughts, too. It's the place where you make sense of the world. So what does it mean then to "trust with all your heart"?
 - What if you are waiting for something that hasn't happened and you begin to wonder if it will happen—what would help you to remember to depend not on *your* understanding but to trust God?

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: “Star” Activity Cards (4 stars per pair of kids, per Service), pens, Bibles

What You Do:

- Pair kids up.
- Give each pair four stars.
- Instruct pairs to think of four sentences to retell the story of Abraham and Sarah waiting to have a child.
- Ask pairs to write one sentence on each star.
- When they finish, guide pairs to swap stars, making sure none of the pairs ends up with one of their own stars.
- Challenge teams to put the stars in order of the story.
- When teams have their stars in order, compare and discuss the story lines.
- Potential discussion questions are:
 - Did Sarah and Abraham wait well? Why or why not?
 - Why are stars important in our story? What did they represent? (*Refer to Genesis 15:5, The stars were a reminder of God’s promise; God promised Abraham’s descendants would number the stars in the sky*) What can help remind us to trust God when we have to wait?
 - How do you know Abraham trusted God? (*Refer to Genesis 15:6*) When Abraham believed, did he have what God promised yet?
 - What do we learn about God from the story? (*Refer to Genesis 21:1-2.*)
 - When we’re waiting for something big, like to find out whether or not we’re moving or waiting for a new sibling to be born or adopted, what does it look like to wait well? (*What is our attitude like when we are waiting well? Are we patient? Are we complaining? Do we talk to God or give God the silent treatment because we assume God isn’t listening?*)
 - How can waiting well show others that God can be trusted?

3. Wait for the King

What You Need: Decks of cards (2 per Group)

What You Do:

- Divide kids into 2 groups of three to four.
- Tell kids they will play a game of “Slap Jack,” but instead of slapping the jacks, they will be looking for the kings.
- Give each group a deck of cards.
- Kids shuffle and pass out all the cards. It doesn’t matter if everyone receives the exact same number of cards, just as long as it’s basically even.
- Kids place their cards face down in a stack.
- Kids take turns placing a card from their deck face up in the middle of the circle.
- When a king is placed on the pile of cards, kids race to be the first to slap the king.
- The first kid to slap the king picks up the pile from the center of the circle and adds the cards to the bottom of their deck.
- If a kid slaps any card that is not a king, they must give one card from their deck to each kid in the circle.
- If a kid runs out of cards, they are *not* out of the game.

- Instead, they must watch and wait while the game continues.
- If they are the first one to slap the center pile when a king appears they take the card pile, shuffle it, and rejoin the game.
- The kid with the most cards at the end wins.
- Provide help with shuffling as needed.

What You Say:

“You really had to pay attention as you were waiting for a king to show up. ***[Transition]*** In **Large Group today, we heard about a couple who had wait a LONG time for someone to show up. KING Jesus is the one that we wait for, and know that He will always show up, and always be on time!**”

4. Discussion Questions

- Think of someone you trust. Why do you trust them? What do you know about God that helps you to depend on and trust God no matter what?
- What does trusting God look like while we are waiting for *(fill in with examples from the Take a Snapshot Activity)*?
 - For example: What does it look like to trust God when my friend is mad at me and not speaking to me? Or what does it look like to trust God when I am waiting for my broken arm to heal?
- What can we take from Abraham and Sarah’s story to encourage us to trust God even when we have to wait?
 - Encourage kids to share stories of people they know who were waiting and trusting God at the same time. What do these stories remind us about God?
 - ***[Make it Personal] (Share an age-appropriate story of a time you had to trust God while you were waiting. How did you wait well and trust God? Would you do something differently next time you had to wait and trust God?)***

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Say:

“God, You are . . . *(fill in examples why You can trust God)* You are trustworthy! Your ways are perfect! Your timing is perfect! We don’t understand sometimes why we have to wait, but we know we can trust You no matter what! God, we pray for those in our group who are waiting right now. Help them to wait well and to trust You as they wait. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”