

# City 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 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 (NirV)

## 1. Worth the Wait

**What You Need:** "Review Cards" (6 sets per Group)

### What You Do:

- Divide the kids into groups of three.
- Tell the group that you're going to play a different version of "Memory."
- Each set of matching cards is worth the points written on the set of cards.
  - In each group, the kid with the highest number of points at the end of the game, wins.
- Give each group a set of cards.
- Ask the kids to place the cards in rows, face down.
- Invite the kids to take turns flipping two cards over.
- If the cards match, direct the kid to keep the set.
- If the cards do not match, direct the kid to turn the cards back over.
- Tell kids that once someone in a group makes a match, they have to wait until everyone in their group makes a match to play again.
- Once all the matches have been found, instruct each group to tally the points and determine a winner.
- Ask the kids to place their cards in front of them, face up.
- Instruct the kids to place the cards in numerical order according to the points assigned to each card.
- Together, guide kids to look at their pictures and take turns sharing the connection between the picture and today's Bible story.

### What You Say:

"In this game, you had to wait for your turn as well as wait to get back in the game until everyone made a match. How did it feel? (*Invite responses.*) How did the pressure of scoring the highest points affect how you played the game? (*Invite responses.*)

"Sometimes, it's tough to wait, especially when you feel the pressure of waiting for something big to happen. Waiting can make us anxious, impatient, sad, and even discouraged. Abraham and Sarah probably felt sad and discouraged that they couldn't have a baby, yet they never stopped trusting God's plan for their lives. God did give them a baby. God also made another promise to Abraham, that the whole world would be blessed through his family.

"And hundreds of years after Abraham and Sarah's baby, the whole world was blessed because one of Abraham's descendants was Jesus. Jesus came to save us from our sins. He gave up His life because He loves us so much that He wants to have a relationship with you and me. When we place our trust in Him, we get to be His friend now and forever. We get to experience His constant presence and comfort through the Holy Spirit every single day. When you [**Bottom Line**] **trust God even when you have to wait**, God can help you deal with the anxiety, impatience, sadness, and discouragement that sometimes come from waiting."

**[Make it Personal] (Share about a time you had to wait for something big to happen. How did waiting make you feel? How did placing your trust in God help you get through the waiting and the emotion it brought?)**

## 2. Wait and Trust

**What You Need:** Bibles, Trust/Wait Cards (10 per group)

**What You Do:**

**Finding verses with your Group:** Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to “Proverbs” at the top of the page as you say, “Proverbs.” Then guide children to find the big number 3 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 3 for the little 5; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.

- Ask kids what they think it means to “trust in the Lord with all of their heart.”
- Explain that we don’t always understand why things happen the way they do or why we have to wait a long time for something. God is always good and does what is best. God wants us to trust with all of our heart or *no matter what*. We learn to trust God by learning to be patient and remembering that God knows what is best.
- Form two teams and send them to opposite ends of your Small Group space.
- Scatter all of the hearts on the floor between the two teams.
- The hearts should be randomly placed.
- Make sure that 5 of the hearts have “WAIT” facing up and 5 have “TRUST” facing up.
- Tell one team that their job is to turn the hearts with “WAIT” over to the “TRUST” side.
- Tell the other team to turn over the “TRUST” side of the hearts to the “WAIT” side.
- Signal teams to begin and after a minute or so, pause the game and count the number of hearts with “TRUST” face up.
  - If it’s more than ten, that team leads the others in saying the memory verse.
  - If the WAIT hearts have more, ask that team to lead.
  - Be sure to help the team that’s leading, especially since this verse will be new to most of them.
- Repeat as time allows, leading kids in reciting Proverbs 3:5 after each round.
- Allow each kid to take one heart home with them.

**What You Say:**

“Trusting and waiting go together just like on the hearts in our game. One of the ways we show we trust God is to wait with a patient attitude. And the reason we can wait and not get worried or upset is because we know that God is with us and always does what’s right. Think about Proverbs 3:5 this week when you’re waiting for something and it seems to take FOREVER. **[Bottom Line] Trust God even when you have to wait.** Let’s TRUST God with all of our heart because God is faithful and can be counted on.”

## 3. Ways to Wait

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- From the list below, read the situations which describes a time it might be hard to wait.
- Ask kids to show you how easy or hard each situation might be for them.
  - If they think it’s easy to wait, they should turn around slowly.
  - If they think it’s hard to wait, ask them to turn quickly.
- Vary the actions but continue using slow movements for when the situation is easy to wait and fast for when it’s hard for them to be patient.
- Ask: Is it easy or hard for you to wait when . . .
  - Christmas is only a week away?
  - you’re hungry but it’s too close to dinner time for a snack?
  - there’s a long line for a ride at an amusement park?
  - it’s taking a long time for your food to be served at a restaurant?
  - a parent has to finish a job before they can take you to a friend’s house?

- you're sick and want to feel better so you can play?
- your birthday party is a few days away?
- you want a pet but your dad says, "Maybe next year"?
- it's not your turn in a game?
- you want to watch a show but you have to clean your room first?
- you're on a long car ride to a fun place?
- you want to do something an older kid is doing but you're not old enough to do it, yet?
- Add more situations that your kids can relate to or let them come up with some of their own to share with the group.

#### **What You Say:**

"Sometimes it's really hard to wait, isn't it? If you had to wait many, many years for something you wanted very much, you might feel like giving up. **[Transition]** In today's Bible story, we learned that God kept His promise for 2 people who had to wait almost their entire lives for something God had promised them. That was a LONG time to wait and trust God! Luckily we know that God kept that promise. He is a promise keeping God!"

#### **4. Pray and Dismiss**

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

#### **What You Do:**

- Name a time kids might have to wait and trust God. Use ideas from previous activities, the list below, or others your kids can relate to.
- Invite everyone to wiggle and move as if they're impatient until you say today's Bottom Line. **[Bottom Line]** Trust God even when you have to wait.
- Then prompt everyone to freeze as you lead them in a sentence prayer for God's help in that specific situation.
  - For example, "God, help us trust You even when *(describe the situation)*."
- Repeat with other scenarios and pray a similar prayer after each one.
  - waiting for dessert or your favorite snack
  - waiting to feel better when you're sick
  - waiting for it to stop raining so you can go outside and play
  - waiting for a family trip to a fun place
  - waiting to be a little older so you can do "big kid" stuff
  - waiting for a special day

#### **What You Say:**

"When you're upset because you have to wait, remember to stop and ask God's help. God knows what's hard for you and how you feel. God also knows what is best, and sometimes WAITING is what is best for you. So ask God to help you not complain or worry or do something that will get you in trouble. When you have no choice but to wait, stop and think of something you're thankful for. It will help you feel better and learn to **[Bottom Line]** trust God even when you have to wait."