

Patience means waiting until later for what you want now.



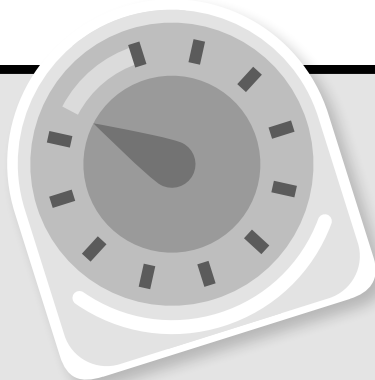
DAY 1

Read Psalm 33:20-22

When a warrior goes into battle, he wears protective gear to keep him safe. Shields are used to ward off arrows and sword blows. God is like a shield, keeping you safe. No matter what happens, no matter what you're waiting for, you can always put your hope in God. You can trust Him because He is holy. And nothing, not even your impatience, can separate you from His love.

Grab a piece of paper and draw the outline of a shield. Write out the words of today's verse on the front of your shield, writing in your name as indicated in the example below. You can celebrate the truth that God is holy, He is faithful, He is with you and He loves you even as you wait!

"(Your name) waits in hope for the Lord. He helps (Your name). He is like a shield that keeps me safe. My heart is full of joy because of Him. (Your name) trusts in Him, because He is holy. Lord, may your faithful love be with me. I put my hope in you." Psalm 33:20-22



DAY 2

Read Galatians 6:9

Waiting for cookies to come out of the oven. Advancing to the next level of your favorite video game. Acing a test you studied hard for.

In each of these examples, it would be easy to be impatient or give up. But what happens if you pull the cookies out of the oven before the timer goes off? What happens if you get so frustrated that you throw your video controller across the room? What if you decide not to look over your notes the night before the test?

Everyone gets tired of practicing patience. But that's when it's most important to keep going. And there is some really good news. You can ask God for help, always. So, the next time you find yourself becoming weary, remember what you're working toward. Just like a farmer can harvest a big healthy crop after months of hard work, patience pays off!

Did you know you can turn that weariness you feel into praise and celebration? It's true. The next time you find yourself working hard towards a goal, stop and sing your favorite worship song. Think about a time when you worked hard before and it paid off. **Thank God for his faithfulness to help you then and now. Because you can celebrate even when you're waiting.**

DAY 3

Read Psalm 5:3

You know how it feels when you're lying in bed the night before the first day of school? It's a mix of being excited and maybe a little bit nervous! That expectation or anticipation you're feeling can make it hard to go to sleep sometimes. Maybe you toss and turn and think about all the possibilities.

What if I don't like my teacher?

Who will I sit by?

Will this year be harder than last year?

There is someone who already knows the answers to all these questions. Your heavenly Father sees tomorrow (and that first day of school) as clearly as you see the words on the page you're reading right now. And you can trust Him, even when it feels like a swarm of butterflies have found a home inside your tummy!

That's why it's a great idea to do what this verse suggests. Each morning, we should pray and thank God for the day ahead and celebrate the truth that He is with us and He loves us! **Write out this verse on a card and stick it the box of your favorite cereal or other breakfast food. Read it each morning as a reminder to trust God and have patience no matter what comes your way.**

DAY 4

Read Romans 8:25

What are some things you wish you could do right now that you have to wait for? (*Ideas: stay up later; stay home by myself; drive*)

Make your own "Can't Wait!" list in the space below.

All those things you "can't wait" for will come soon enough. In the meantime, you get to choose how you wait! You can choose impatience and frustration. You can choose to whine and complain. Or you can choose to celebrate! You can thank God for the anticipation, for the waiting, knowing that one day, you'll appreciate it even more because you didn't get it right away.

To help with the waiting, think for a minute about all the things that make being a kid so awesome. **Spend some time celebrating and thanking God for where you are right now. And thank Him that He will be with you always, even while you wait!**

You can celebrate even when you're waiting.