

Patience is waiting until later for what you want now.

DAY 1

Read Nehemiah 9:17-18

Can you imagine creating a gold statute with your own hands and then bowing down to pray to it? Can you imagine singing worship songs to your soccer trophy? Sounds easy to say no.

BUT not so fast...The Israelites aren't all that different from you and me. We are all pretty impatient people—especially when we're hungry or tired. When you have to wait, you can become a whole different person. An angry, easily bugged, not-so-nice version of yourself.

But guess what? Even when you become that angry, impatient person, God is still patient with you. God is tender and kind. God is slow to anger and won't leave you, just like God didn't leave the Israelites.

Talk To God

Find something you really love at home. Write on a sticky note, "Talk to God!" and stick it on your favorite thing. Each time you look at it this week, say a quick prayer asking God to help you show patience this week.

DAY 2

Read Psalm 130:5

Guess what? You can't always get what you want the minute you want it. Don't believe me? Think of something you want right this instant. Now snap your fingers. Did you get it? Probably not.

When you have to wait, how do you normally handle it?

Do you whine or complain or stomp your feet and scream?

What if you stopped to think about what's true? The *truth* is God is with you while you wait. You might even find that God has something better in store. Maybe in trusting God, you see that the thing you were waiting for wasn't really the best after all. Or maybe, waiting might help you pray and spend more time with God.

Missing Vowels

Fill in the missing vowels in today's verse. Then read it aloud as a prayer, remembering that God is with you, ready to help.

"W.....thll my h.....rt w.....t
f.....r th..... L.....rd t..... h.....lp m.....
p.....t my h.....p.....n h.....s w.....rd."

Ps.....lm 130:5, NlrV

Answer Key: "With all my heart I wait for the Lord to help me. I put my hope in his word." Psalm 130:5, NlrV

DAY 3

Read Psalm 33:20-22

Have you ever seen a picture of a knight? What does a knight typically wear? Yep— a suit of armor. And what did he carry? That's right! A sword and a shield. The sword was for fighting. The shield was for protection.

No matter what you face, God is with you. When you become impatient about how things will work out, just remember that God is like a shield that keeps you safe. No matter what happens, nothing and no one can separate you from God's love. You can put your hope in God.

Wield a Shield

Grab a piece of paper and draw a simple outline of a shield. Across the front of the shield, write the word "PATIENCE" in large block letters. Decorate your shield and then hang it on your mirror to remind you that God is like a shield. Trust in God and you will receive help to wait patiently.

DAY 4

Read Colossians 3:12

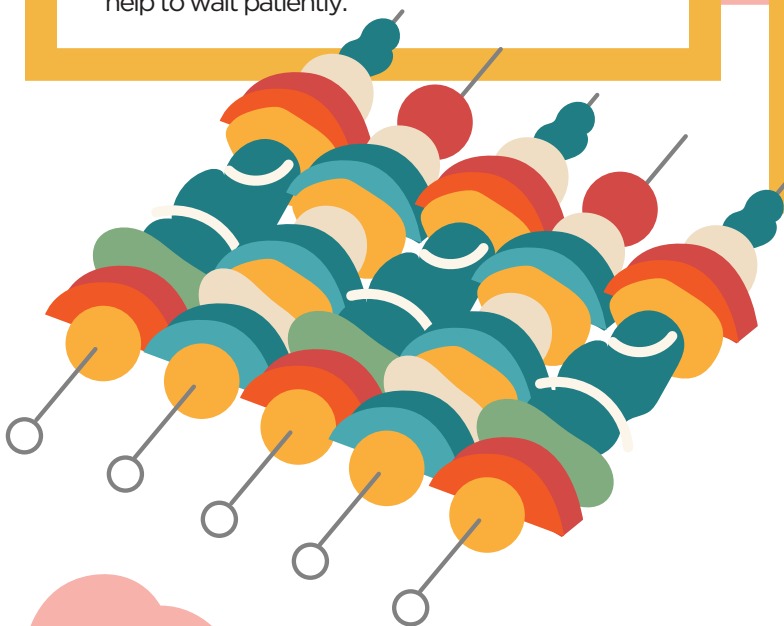
When you read this verse, did you think, "Yeah, God, but you don't know about so and so at school. He's so mean. You want me to be gentle and patient with that guy? And have you met my little brother? He always breaks things and messes with my stuff. It drives me crazy!"

Sound familiar?

The truth is, if we always chose to treat people the way they treat us, this world would be a pretty crazy place. Because you are dearly loved, you should treat people that way too. Because you have been chosen by God, you can show kindness and patience to others.

Clothed with a Patience

Grab a jacket or hoodie you wear almost every day. Grab some tape and write the word "patience" on it. Place this patience tag inside your jacket to remind you to clothe yourself with patience. When you wear it, ask God to help you treat others with patience—the way God always treats you.



When you have
to wait, remember
what's true.