CHRISTMAS "PATIENCE" (page 1)



BIBLE CONNECTION

Luke 2:1-40 (pages 1103-1105)

CHARACTER WORD

<u>Patience</u> – waiting with a happy spirit

TEACHING OBJECTIVE

With God's help,
I can have <u>patience</u>.

MEMORY LINK

Luke 2:14

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" (KBC Study Bible pg. 1103)

SUPPLIES NEEDED THIS WEEK

GET CONNECTED

Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, index cards, pens, highlighters

MEMORY LINK ACTIVITY

Option 1: Resource item, Christmas gift bag, Option 2: Beach ball

BIBLE CONNECTION

Stopwatch, calendar, baby doll

SURF TEAM LEADER

Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, index cards, pens

MAKE-IT-STICK REVIEW GAME

Option 1: Paper, music Option 2: Beach ball, painter's tape

Simeon & Anna Welcome Jesus

WHAT'S THE POINT?

<u>Patience</u> is one of the most difficult lessons for everybody to learn... especially when it comes to being <u>patient</u> for something really big! This lesson addresses the virtue of <u>patience</u> as we wait for something to happen. Simeon and Anna are great examples of individuals who displayed admirable <u>patience</u> (waiting with a happy spirit) while waiting on the Christ who was promised to them. Simeon, who was promised by the Holy Spirit to see Jesus before he died, exercised great <u>patience</u> into his old age.

GET CONNECTED



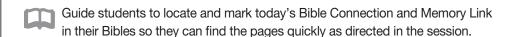
Building relationships in Surf Teams; introducing today's lesson

Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, index cards, pens, highlighters

The Character Word for today is <u>patience</u>. Talk to the students about Christmas, and how it seems like it takes a long time for it to finally get here. You might bring a wrapped gift box and a calendar to let them count down how many more days until Christmas. Use this to lead to a discussion about our need for <u>patience</u>.

Use the following conversation prompts to get to know the kids in your Surf Team and to introduce today's lesson.

- Our Character Word is <u>patience</u>. What does that mean to you?
- Do you know someone that seems to have a lot of patience?
- What is it about their life that shows that they have <u>patience</u>?
- Finish the sentence: I need <u>patience</u> when _______.
- Why is it hard to be <u>patient</u> when waiting for something we really want?



WORSHIP TIME



Pointing hearts toward God

Sing familiar Christmas carols that many of the kids might know. Christmas is an easy time to talk about the meaning of some of the classic carols with rich Christian lyrics.

MEMORY LINK



2 Minutes - Teaching the Bible verse to students

8 Minutes - Activity to help them memorize the verse

Painter's tape, beach ball, timer

Focus on the Bible

Who brought a Bible? Each week in Memory Link, count who remembered to bring their Bible. Encourage kids to hold up their Bibles high in the air while you count. Bringing your personal Bible every week as well will display to the kids your love of God's word. Seeing your love of the Bible will reinforce the importance of scripture.

Focus on Today's Memory Link

Guide students to find Luke 2:14 in their KBC Study Bibles (Page 1103).

The night that Jesus was born, the very first Christmas, an angel came and appeared to a group of shepherds. After the angel told them not to be afraid, he told the shepherds about Jesus being born, and that they would find the baby in Bethlehem. Immediately after that, there were a lot of angels who joined the first one. They worshipped God, and said, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" Some other words that can be used for "glory" are honor, praise or greatness. Some other words that can be used for "goodwill" are compassion, kindness and goodness.

Option 1 - WHAT DID THE ANGEL SAY?

Resource item: shepherds and angels, Christmas gift bag

Prepare

Copy the resource item of the shepherds and angels. Cut and fold each picture and place them in the gift bag.

Hand the gift bag to the first person on your left in the Surf Team, and let them reach in and select a piece of paper. If they get a shepherd, they put it back in the bag and pass it to the next person. If they draw out an angel, then they get to say the Memory Link to the group. When they finish, they place their angel back in the gift bag and pass it to the next person who will also draw out a picture. Continue around the circle until time is called.

Option 2 - ROUND AND ROUND

Beach ball

Start with the first person to the left of the leader. Hand them the beach ball and let them say the first word of the Memory Link. They hand the beach ball to the next person and that person says the next word. Continue around the circle until the verse is completed. After the teams do this several times, they could make it a race to see which team can complete the verse the fastest. You might also try going around the room and letting each Surf Team say one word until the entire group has completed the Memory Link.

CHRISTMAS "PATIENCE"

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Luke 2:14

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" (KBC Study Bible pg. 1103)

Bible 101

Let students know the Christmas story is found in four different books in the Bible called the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Encourage them to read the Christmas story from each of these books because they will learn something different each time.

Teaching Tip

This will typically be your last Beach Club of the semester. Remind your students of when Club will resume in January. Let them know that they will be missed and invite them to your church's Christmas Eve Service or other Christmas activities at your church.

BIBLE CONNECTION



Teaching today's Character Word through a gospel-centered Bible story

Stopwatch, calendar, baby doll

Set the Stage

Today's Character Word is <u>patience</u>. That means that we are able to wait for God to do His work in and around us. Sometimes when we are waiting for something, we might use a stopwatch (hold up your stopwatch) for example, a race or a Beach Club contest. Other times, when we are waiting for something, we might use a clock or wristwatch (hold up the clock or wristwatch) for example when we're waiting on dinner or waiting for school to be out. But other times when we are waiting for something, we might use a calendar (hold up the calendar) for example when we're waiting for Christmas, our birthday or summer! In today's Bible story, you will learn about two people who showed great <u>patience</u> as they waited many years for Jesus to come to the earth.

Tell the Story

Our lesson today begins when Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem, and while they were there it was time for her baby to be born. This is a true story. There are so many exciting parts. After baby Jesus was born, angels came and told some shepherds what had happened. The shepherds were so excited that they went and found the baby just like the angels had told them. About six weeks later, Joseph and Mary carried Jesus to the temple to present (or dedicate) Him and to worship God. This is where today's Bible story takes place.

Guide students to find Luke chapter 2 in their KBC Study Bibles (page 1103). Explain that Luke 2 contains the most detailed account of Jesus' birth out of the four gospels.

Invite your first boy and girl volunteers to come up to the front. They will portray Mary and Joseph as you tell the story. Let them hold the baby doll to represent the baby Jesus.

Guide kids to follow along in their KBC Study Bibles as you read Luke 2:25-35. (Page 1104)

At this point, invite the other boy that you've recruited to come forward and let "Mary & Joseph" give him the baby doll. As you re-tell the story of Simeon, have your volunteer act out the story as an old man.

The Bible tells us that Simeon was a very righteous and good man. In fact, God had shown Simeon that he wouldn't die until he saw the One that would be the Savior of the world. As soon as Mary and Joseph brought Jesus into the temple, Simeon recognized that Jesus was the One that he had been patiently waiting to see all those years. He immediately took Jesus in his arms and blessed God.

Simeon prayed and thanked God for being true to His promise. He said, "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word." He went on to say that he could see that Jesus was the One that would bring salvation to the world.

Guide kids to follow along in their KBC Study Bibles as you read Luke 2:36-38. (Page 1105)

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As You Prepare

Ask two boys and two girls to help with the story. The focus of this lesson is on Simeon and Anna and their introduction to baby Jesus in the temple. You also may want to spend a little time going over the earlier verses that cover the birth, shepherds and angels.

At this point, invite the girl that you've recruited in advance to come and get the baby doll from the boy portraying Simeon. Instruct the boy volunteer to sit down.

The next person that they saw in the temple was a lady named Anna. She was a very old lady who loved God very much. The Bible tells us that she stayed at the temple all of the time and prayed and fasted day and night as she served God. Just like Simeon, as soon as she saw Jesus, she recognized that He was the One who God had promised to save the people. The Bible tells us that she gave thanks to God right then, and she told everyone about Jesus and that He was the Savior.

Now your girl volunteer can give the baby doll back to "Mary and Joseph" and return to her seat. Thank your actors for their help, take the baby doll, and ask the other actors to be seated.

Guide kids to follow along in their KBC Study Bibles as you read Luke 2:39-40.

These verses let us know that Mary, Joseph and Jesus went back to their home in Nazareth. Hold up the doll as you remind the children that Jesus didn't remain a baby. In verse 40, the Bible tells us that Jesus grew up physically, that He grew in wisdom and that God's grace was on Him. In fact, we like to think about the baby that was born and how sweet He would have been, but Jesus was born so that He could live a full sinless and perfect life and die on the cross for our sins. It is pretty crazy to think about, but Jesus was born so he could die.

We've talked a lot today about how long Simeon and Anna waited on Jesus to be born and become the Savior of the world. They showed a great deal of <u>patience</u> as they waited for years until they finally were able to see Jesus. But Anna and Simeon are not the only ones who have <u>patience</u>. The Bible tells us that God shows <u>patience</u> for each of us, because we sin a lot, more than a lot, all the time. But God still loves us, and asks us to come to him and to love Jesus more than our sin. Because God loves us so much, He made a way for Jesus to be our forever friend.

Application

As you follow Jesus, there will be lots of opportunities to learn to be <u>patient</u>. When you exercise or lift weights, you get to be stronger and have bigger muscles. In much the same way, as you continue to wait for God to do His work in and around you, you will become more and more <u>patient</u>.

Gospel Connection

If you have been thinking about asking Jesus to be your "Forever Friend," God has been <u>patiently</u> waiting on you. God's word tells us His plan for how people can become followers of Jesus. God tells us to repent or turn away from our sins, the bad things we do that we know we're not supposed to, and the good things we know we should do, but don't. And to BELIEVE in Christ alone. Believing that Jesus is who He said He was and did what He said He did and that only He can save us from our sin. All you need to do is ADMIT you are a sinner and ASK Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your life. Next, BELIEVE that Jesus died on the cross for your sin and CHOOSE TO FOLLOW Jesus by turning away from your sin and choosing God's way rather than your own way.

Invite students wanting to know more about praying to ask Jesus to be their forever friend to move to the designated counseling area to talk with a leader one on one. Be sure to have all the decision supplies available.

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Gospel Tip

Be on the lookout for students who continue to ask good questions about Jesus and the gospel. This could be a sign that God is calling them to Himself. Remember, we, too, must show patience as God works in these students' hearts. Don't try and "talk them into" a response to Jesus. Listen carefully as they ask questions that progressively show their love for Christ, and for them to ask you questions about salvation.

It's All About the Bible

It is important students realize the importance of bringing their Bibles each week. Ask your Surf Team leaders to be ready to walk around and help children find the Bible story in their Bibles during large group time and to share with a friend who forgot theirs.

SURF TEAM TIME

5-10 MINUTES

CHRISTMAS
"PATIENCE"
(page 5)

Connecting with kids in small groups; applying today's Bible Connection and Character Word

Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, index cards, pens

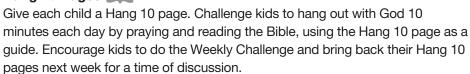
Today's Bible Lesson

- Before you begin, ask if there are any students who would like to talk with the Bible Connection leader about praying to ask Jesus to become their forever friend. If so, let them go to the designated area.
- What questions do you have about today's story?
- Who did the angel tell about Jesus being born?
- How did Simeon and Anna show patience?
- How does God show patience to us?

Use the Bible

Give each child a Memory Link card. Review today's Memory Link and Character Word. Guide kids to use cards to mark today's story in their KBC Study Bibles. Lead them to highlight today's Memory Link.

Hang 10 Pages



• Let's look at Day 3. After the shepherds saw Jesus, they told everyone about Him. Who can you tell the true Christmas story? Who can you tell that Jesus wants to be their forever friend?

Pray

Give kids a few minutes to share their prayer requests or write them on index cards. Ask someone to lead the group in prayer. Take the cards home and remember to pray for the kids in your surf team this week.

Thank You, Jesus, that even though it can be hard, You give us the strength to be <u>patient</u>, and that in You, all of our waiting is totally worth it. In Jesus' name, amen.

Teaching Tip

As a Surf Team leader, you may be the only "pastor" that the students in your group have. Try to use the brief time that you have with them each week to model the behaviors that we teach. As you teach them about patience, ask God to give patience to you in your ministry to these boys and girls.

Christmas Tip

All kids love Christmas! If the students in your group are mostly unchurched, they may only associate Christmas with Santa, Frosty and Rudolph. It's not our place to straighten out their views about those characters, but it is our responsibility to point them to Jesus as the reason for the Christmas season.

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MAKE IT STICK - REVIEW GAME

5-10 MINUTES



Playing a game to review today's Bible Connection and Character Word

Option 1 - WELCOME HOME

One sheet of paper per student, music

Write the word "Welcome" on one of the pieces of paper. This game is a variation on "Musical Chairs." Place one piece of paper on the ground (in a circle) for each member of your Surf Team. One of the pieces of paper should have the word "Welcome" on it. This paper represents a welcome mat, since Simeon and Anna welcomed Jesus at the temple. Begin playing music, and lead the children to step from sheet of paper to sheet of paper. When the music stops, ask the child standing on the welcome mat the first question. When the music begins again, they will move around the circle again. Repeat this process until all questions have been asked, or until time is called.

Option 2 - WAIT FOR ME

Beach ball, painter's tape

Put two pieces of painter's tape on the floor about 10-15 feet apart. Guide each Surf Team to line up single file behind one of the pieces of tape. Direct the first child to put the beach ball between his knees and walk to the other line and back. When he gets back, ask him the first question. After he answers the question, he will give the beach ball to the second child who does the same thing. Continue until all questions have been asked, or until time is called. Encourage children who are waiting for their turn (or who have already gone) to cheer for the kids while they patiently wait.

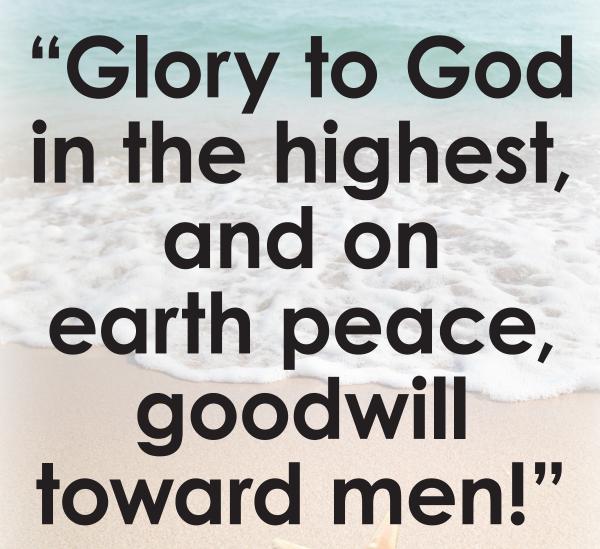
REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1. What is today's Character Word? (Patience)
- 2. What does patience mean? (waiting with a happy spirit)
- 3. Where was Jesus born? (Bethlehem)
- 4. Who did the angels tell about the new baby? (shepherds)
- 5. What did the shepherds do after they heard about Jesus? (they went to see Him)
- 6. Who was the man Mary and Joseph met in the temple? (Simeon)
- 7. What did Simeon do when he saw Jesus? (he blessed God and thanked Him for sending Jesus)
- 8. Who was the older woman Mary and Joseph met in the temple? (Anna)
- 9. What did Anna do after she saw Jesus? (she thanked God for Him, then told everyone she saw about Him)
- 10. What are some ways that you can show patience with your family and friends?
- 11. How does God show patience to us?
- 12. The angels told the shepherds and Anna told everyone she saw. Who is someone that you can tell about Jesus?

Christmas Snack

As you plan your snack for this week, you may want to choose something special to celebrate the occasion. It could be birthday cupcakes (Happy Birthday Jesus!) or something else that feels festive for Christmas.

about Jesus?	•	



Luke 2:14

