

PATIENCE

Verse of the Month: Don't be proud at all. Be completely gentle.
Be patient. Put up with one another in love.
(Ephesians 4:2)

Bible Story: The golden calf (Exodus 32:1-7, 15-24, 30-34)

Bottom Line: Wait without complaining.

ELEMENTARY

2nd-3rd Grade

October 18, 2026

BEFORE LARGE GROUP

Early Arriver Idea

✂️ SUPPLIES:

- Early Arriver (Activity Page) - 1 per kid
- Markers or colored pencils

≡ HOW-TO:

1. Ask the kids to decode the phrase by matching symbols to letters and filling in the blanks.
2. After they solve the mystery (decoded message: "**MEGA AWESOME COSTUME PARTY IS NEXT WEEK!**"), remind them about the Mega Awesome Costume Party next week!
3. Give them a hint (without giving it away) about your costume next week to build excitement!
4. As the kids are working, ask them some "**HIGH FIVE**" questions below.



ENGAGE EVERY KID: Use the High Five questions to engage every kid and get them excited about the Mega Awesome Costume Party! Learn more about each kid's personality by asking them what they want to dress up as this year. **Use this time to tell the kids in your group what YOU are going to dress up as for the Mega Awesome Costume Party!**

HIGH FIVE (Optional Conversation Starters):

1. What is the best costume you've ever seen?
2. If you could pick a costume for me, what would you choose?
3. Is there someone you'd like to invite to the Mega Awesome Costume Party?
4. Are you going to make your costume or buy it?
5. Would you rather have to trick-or-treat without a bag and hold your candy, or trick-or-treat without a costume?

Opening Activity

✂️ SUPPLIES:

- No supplies needed

≡ HOW-TO:

1. The kids will play a game called Categories. Name a category (e.g., animals).
2. Go clockwise around the circle and have each kid say something from the chosen category. (e.g., for animals, they could say a bear, dog, cat, sloth, or ferret).
3. Each kid has three seconds to say a new item or they're out. When no one can think of another item, the round ends.
4. Play another round with a new category. The kids can come up with category ideas too!

HEAD TO LARGE GROUP > > >

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CATEGORIES

- Things you eat for dinner
- Fruits
- Vegetables
- Board games
- Mega Awesome Costume Party costumes
- Things that begin with "W"
- Things you take to the beach
- Things you do in the fall

AFTER LARGE GROUP

Bible Story Review

SUPPLIES:

- No supplies needed

HOW-TO:

1. Review what the kids heard in Large Group by talking through the discussion questions below.

SAY THIS:

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who was in charge of talking to God and then passing on his message to the Israelites? (**Moses**)
2. When Moses went up the mountain to talk to God, it took a long time. What did the people begin to do? (**Complain!**)
3. Who did the Israelites complain to? (**Aaron, Moses's brother**)
4. What did the Israelites ask Aaron to do? (**Make them a new god**)
5. Why did the people want a new god? (**They thought Moses wasn't coming back. They were tired of waiting.**)
6. What did Moses see when he came down the mountain? (**He saw the Israelites worshipping the cow.**)
7. How did Moses feel when he saw what the Israelites had done while he was on the mountain? (**He was angry.**)

Bottom Line Review

SUPPLIES:

- Bottom Line Review (Activity Page) - 1 per group
- Scissors - 1 pair per group

HOW-TO:

1. Tell the kids to sit in a circle to play a game to practice being patient.
2. Cut out the Activity Page. Fold the cards in half and spread them in the center of your small group area. Ask the kids the questions below as you do that.

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- Can you be patient and complain at the same time? (**No**)
 - Can you complain without speaking? (**Yes. Body language, such as tapping your foot, sighing, or rolling your eyes, can communicate impatience.**)
3. Next, stand up and walk around the circle, putting your hand over the head of each kid as you say, **[Bottom Line] "Wait with-out com-plain-ing."** (Break the words into syllables.)
 4. Stop on the last kid (when you get to "ing") and have them select a card from the floor. Read it aloud to them. Then have them step out of the circle and perform that task for the rest of the game.
 5. Continue playing the same way until everyone is performing a random task.
 6. Once all cards have been drawn, have the kids stop and sit back down in their original spots.
 7. Talk through **"SAY THIS"** below.

SAY THIS:

Waiting without complaining is hard work sometimes! It is for me, and, like we heard in Large Group, it was definitely hard for the Israelites too! Let's choose the opposite of what we feel like doing—huffing and puffing our way through hard stuff—and wait without complaining! Who's up for the challenge?

Say this with me: **[Bottom Line] Wait without complaining.** Let's ask God to help us practice patience this week.

Today, we learned to
[Bottom Line] Wait without complaining.



**If you haven't had a chance to pray with your small group yet,
take the time now.**

Prayer

Be sensitive to any visitor during this activity, and don't ask them to pray out loud if they're not comfortable.

SUPPLIES:

- No supplies needed

HOW-TO:

1. Have the kids huddle up close and lead them in the following prayer.

SAY THIS:

Dear God,

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Thank you for being patient with us, even when we mess up. Thank you for forgiving us when we complain while we wait. Help us make the wise choice and choose to be patient with others. We love you. Amen.

MEGA AWESOME COSTUME PARTY INVITES

✂️ **SUPPLIES:**

- Mega Awesome Costume Party Invites - 1 invite per kid (if they didn't previously receive them)

☰ **HOW-TO:**

1. Pass out the invite to each kid.
2. Use the "SAY THIS" below to have kids think of some friends they want to invite to our Mega Awesome Costume Party.
3. Ask the group if anyone has already passed out their invitations to their friends.
4. At dismissal, connect with parents about the invitations.

💬 **SAY THIS:**

Think about some friends you know who would have an awesome time partying with you here. I am going to give each of you one of these cards. (Hold up the invite.) You can use these invites to invite some friends to join you at our Mega Awesome Costume Party!

I can't wait to meet all the friends you're going to invite. When your parents come pick you up, I want you to hand them these invitations and ask them to help you invite your friends to come party with us! Has anyone already given any of their invitations to their friends? (Let kids respond.) Who did you invite? (Let kids respond.)

I can't wait to meet all these friends you're going to invite. When your parents come pick you up, I want you to hand them these invitations and ask them to help you invite your friends to come party with us!

CONNECT WITH PARENTS



The Mega Awesome Costume Party is happening in NEXT week! Today we talked about the friends that [KID'S NAME] would like to invite. Ask [KID'S NAME] who they'd like to come, and make a plan to invite them! I can't wait to see everyone in their costumes!

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Verse Activity

SUPPLIES:

- Bibles – 1 per 2 kids
- Verse Cling Activity Page – 1 per group

≡ HOW-TO:

LEARN IT! (Find the verse and understand what it means.)

The Bible is full of wisdom from God. Let's look up our verse to learn why God says being patient with others is so important.

1. Divide the kids into pairs and give them each a Bible. Explain that the Bible is divided into the Old Testament and the New Testament. Demonstrate how to find the verse.
2. Have them find the book of Ephesians under the New Testament heading in the Table of Contents.
3. Have them find chapter 4 (big number), verse 2 (little number).
4. **Read the verse aloud from the Verse Activity Page.**

LOCK IT! (Memorize the verse to lock it in our hearts.)

It's important to lock the verse in our hearts. One way we do that is with these motions and this activity.

1. Review the motions below.
2. Have everyone sit in a circle. Each kid will place their left hand on top of the hand of the kid to their left and their right hand under the hand of the kid to their right. Go around the circle and have each kid say one word of the verse as they slap the hand of the kid to their right.
3. If a kid's hand is slapped on the last word of the verse, they're out. The last kid remaining wins!

MOTIONS

"Don't be proud at all." (wave index finger "no")

Be completely gentle. (hug yourself)

Be patient. (tap index finger on imaginary watch on opposite arm)

Put up with one another in love." (make a heart with both hands and pulse like a heartbeat three times)

Ephesians 4:2 (open hands like a book)

SAY THIS:

LIVE IT! (Apply the verse to the way we live every day.)

Now that we've learned the verse and locked it in, we need to live it out. Living out the verse is knowing what it means and applying it to the way we live every day.

That phrase at the end of the verse, "put up with one another," simply means to be patient with others. It shows them that what they want or need is more important than what we want. When we "put up with one another" and love the people we're with by being patient, we're treating them the way we'd

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want to be treated. That's how God wants us to treat the people around us. So the next time you have to wait, don't roll your eyes, don't stomp your feet, and don't whine or complain—choose patience!