



TNCC
CHILDREN'S
CHURCH

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: PATIENCE

RECAP & HOOK

Can you remember which fruit of the Spirit you learnt last week? Peace. We learnt that we can have peace even when we are facing problems because we have Jesus in us.

Galatians 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

Today we are going to learn more about the fruit of the Spirit, "Patience."

Bring some treats (something non-messy which they can just eat it quickly) for the children. Make everyone queue up for the treats, give them out as slow as you can and tell them that they can only eat when everyone has received their treats. You can then tell them that you were testing their patience. Compliment the children who demonstrated the most patience.

-- or --

Put bowls of snacks and give each kid a pair of chopsticks to take the snack out → lesson in patience.

Once there was a boy who was having some problems with patience. He decided to pray to God. He said "Dear God, please give me more patience ... and I want it now!"

Do you think he was patient? No. What makes you think so? He wanted patience immediately.

Here is a video showing a cute little boy who could not wait for his father to finish praying before he ate.

Praying and eating kid: www.youtube.com/watch?v=tnyZVLXWNLs



STORY

Let's look at how patient Jesus was with people:

Jesus was patient with unbelieving Philip

Jesus' disciples have been with him for 3 years. They travelled from town to town together. They were with him almost all the time. Jesus told them a lot about God and himself, the Son of God. Not only that, he healed the sick, raised the dead and casted out demons, who recognized him as the Son of God. Despite of all this, his disciple, Phillip didn't understand that Jesus, the person he was with for 3 years was actually God. Then Philip said to Jesus, "Lord, show us the Father. That is all we need." You would think that Jesus would have told him off. But Jesus answered him patiently, "Philip, I have been with you for a long time. So you should know me. Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father too. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me".

Jesus was patient with unfaithful Peter

Peter told Jesus, "*Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.*" (Luke 22:33). Despite Peter's boast, Jesus replied that before the rooster crowed, Peter would deny him three times. Sure enough, after Jesus was arrested, Peter was asked 3 times if he knew Jesus, and all 3 times, he said "no". However, Jesus was patient with Peter. Peter was one of the first persons that Jesus appeared to, after his resurrection. Jesus told Peter to feed his lambs, which meant taking care of the people who believed in Jesus. Peter later became one of the key leaders of the early church.

Jesus was patient with doubting Thomas

Thomas, one of the 12 disciples, was not with the disciples when Jesus appeared to them after he rose from the dead. When the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!", Thomas said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." This was despite Jesus having told his disciples before that he would rise from the dead. One day, when Thomas was together with the other disciples, Jesus came, stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas believed. He said to him, "My Lord and my God!"



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LESSON

Jesus is patient with us

1 Timothy 1:15-16 *Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners — of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.*

Jesus is patient with us even when we rejected Him, when we didn't listen to Him, when we wanted to do things our own way.

Jesus shows us His patience so that we may believe in Him and receive His eternal life.

Jesus is our patience

Unlike the boy who prayed for God to give him patience, we do not have to ask God for patience. We have Jesus in us, so if Jesus is patient, so we can be patient.

We remind ourselves how patient Jesus was and how he continues to be patient with us even when we make mistakes, say or do things which hurt others and maybe even hurt ourselves. When we focus on Jesus, we will find that we are more patient with other people and with ourselves.

Let's look to Jesus. Remember, you have his life in you!



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ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

Song: Fruit of the Spirit (by Steve Green) — revision

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLJt_85MNLY

Memory Verse challenge

Game, activity or craft with the memory verse.

1 Timothy 1:16 *I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.*

Close in prayer.