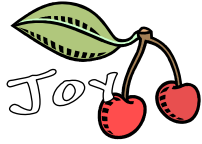


FAMILY MINISTRIES: SEPTEMBER

THE TABLE: A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

The Fruit of The Spirit



This month we are focusing on patience.

The story of the Prodigal Son is a wonderful example of patience. Despite his son disowning him and running away to a foreign land with his inheritance, the father lovingly and patiently waits for the son to return home. The father does not know when, but he waits, ready to celebrate when his son returns home.

The story tells about the relationship between a father and his two sons, but really it is an illustration of God the Father and His relationship with us. He patiently waits for us to return back to faithfully following Him. What a wonderful example of patience for us to use when talking with our kids.

Being patient is hard. Our culture has us moving fast and demands that things be completed quickly. Talk together as a family about how to slow down and be willing to wait. What makes each of you impatient? Discuss how being patient takes effort and that the Holy Spirit can develop the fruit of patience in your lives.

Talk with you child about the Bible story this month: Luke 15:11-31.



MEMORY VERSE:

"Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him." Psalm 37:7



OBSERVATION QUESTIONS:

- † What happened in the story?
- † What did the youngest son do?
- † Why did the son return home?
- † How did the father react to his son?



INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS:

- † Describe the two sons and the father. Why do you think they acted the way they did?
- † Would you have welcomed hom the son the same way as the father?
- † Would you have returned home like the son did?
- † What does this story tell us about the character of the father?



APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

- † What does this story tell us about God?
- † What ways has God been patient with you?
- † Where are some places in your life that require you to be more patient?
- † How do you need God's help so that you can change?

PRAY WITH YOUR CHILD:



- † Thank God that He is so patient with us.
- † Thank God that with His help, we can be patient like Him.
- † Ask Him to help you be more patient with others.
- † If your child has not received Christ, give them the opportunity.



HOME IDEAS

- ☺ Read and talk about *Genesis 6-9* (Noah), *Genesis 12:1-4; 15:5-6; 21:1-5* (Abraham waiting for his promised son).
- ☺ Have a scavenger hunt either in your house or yard. Practice patience as you look for things that have been hidden and are hard to find.
- ☺ Play *Red Light - Green Light*, *Mother May I*, or *Hide and Seek* to practice patience. Talk about how it felt to be patient during the game.
- ☺ Find a puzzle for your family to do together. As you work together, talk about waiting patiently to finish the puzzle or to find the right fit for a single piece.
- ☺ Complete a joint art project together between siblings or parents and kids. Take turns painting, or coloring part of the picture and then switch. Talk about how patience was needed in this activity.
- ☺ Cook together with everyone responsible for certain ingredients. Talk about waiting for your turn and then being patient for the food to be finished.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

JOINT SERVICE @ WEST CAMPUS - SEPTEMBER 12
4TH FRIDAY WORSHIP @ STAFFORD - SEPTEMBER 25

Contact Calyn Hauck, Director of Family Ministries for further information or to sign-up to help with Children's Ministries: calyn@haucks.us or 503-247-8447.

www.thetablepdx.com



SONGS TO SING

As you sing with your child, talk about how drawing close to Jesus helps us to grow in His image, allowing the fruits of the spirit to grow in us.



Everlasting God

Misc 1

Our God You reign forever
Our hope our strong Deliv'rer

Chorus 1

You are the everlasting God
The everlasting God
You do not faint
You won't grow weary
You're the defender of the weak
You comfort those in need
You lift us up on wings like eagles

Verse 3

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord
(2 x's)

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Teach Me Lord to Wait

Chorus 1

They that wait upon the Lord
Shall renew their strength
They shall mount up with wings as eagles
They shall run and not be weary
They shall walk and not faint
Teach me Lord, Teach me Lord
To wait

Verse 1

Teach me Lord to wait down on my knees
'Til in Your own good time
You answer my pleas
Teach me not to rely on what others do
But to wait in prayer
For an answer from You

Verse 2

Teach me Lord to wait
While hearts are aflame
Let me humble my pride
And call on Your name
Keep my faith renewed
My eyes on Thee
Let me be on this earth
What You want me to be

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