

North Texas Conference

Holy Spirit

Director Edition

Summer 2018 Conference Camp Curriculum

Tuesday – Afternoon

Patience

Supplies: 50 Questions found in Appendix, Bibles, 2 pairs of chopsticks, 20 small wooden blocks, purple beads

For the Leader...

Patience is a spiritual gift harder to teach in a straight-up lesson. We often struggle with just wanting to get quickly to the point and meaning of the lesson and patience resists such easiness. This lesson seeks to get to patience via the medium of silence. Often creating space for God lends itself to greater patience. Some translations from the Galatians 5 text use the word “forbearance” instead of “patience.” Another word for forbearance is “long-suffering.” Elijah in this text definitely fits the idea of “long-suffering” and seems to be forcibly patiently waiting for God to show up.

Opening/Centering Prayer – led by Student

Supplies: none

Suggested Time - 5 min

Have the leader read the opening statement and invite everyone to sit quietly for a moment and listen. When enough time has passed, say “amen” as a group.

God, you called us here to camp this week. Time has been set aside to worship, study, play, laugh, rest and to know that you are with us. In this silence, join us as we pray. Amen.

Activity for Introductions & Reintroductions: 50 Questions

Supplies: 50 Questions found in Appendix

Suggested Time - 10 min

Using the 50 Questions found in the appendix to this curriculum, invite each student to pick a question from the list to ask the group. Instruct the group that each question is only answered by choice for each camper.

For the Leader...

While not always the typical scripture about patience, this passage describes what must have been one of the most trying times in Elijah’s ministry. He had faithfully preached God’s word, yet Elijah had many, including King Ahab and his notably wicked wife Jezebel, seeking to kill him. Following this passage, Elijah gathers Elisha as a mentor and eventually through God’s help overthrows all that opposed God. This passage shows a forty day time that was the pivot for this turn for Elijah. The focus is at the end where Elijah patiently waits to feel God’s presence and hear a word from God. Some translations call the quiet Elijah heard “the sound of sheer silence.” This is just like God to wait till we are really listening to reveal God’s self.

Scripture Lesson & Discussion

Supplies: Bible

Suggested Time - 25 min

Earlier in this story, Elijah was following God's word and denouncing the rule of King Ahab and his wife Jezebel. Now the tables have turned and the King is out to get him and Elijah is scared for his life.

1 Kings 19:3-13 (CEV)

³Elijah was terrified. He got up and ran for his life. He arrived at Beersheba in Judah and left his assistant there. ⁴He himself went farther on into the desert a day's journey. He finally sat down under a solitary broom bush. He longed for his own death: "It's more than enough, Lord! Take my life because I'm no better than my ancestors." ⁵He lay down and slept under the solitary broom bush.

Then suddenly a messenger tapped him and said to him, "Get up! Eat something!" ⁶Elijah opened his eyes and saw flatbread baked on glowing coals and a jar of water right by his head. He ate and drank, and then went back to sleep. ⁷The Lord's messenger returned a second time and tapped him. "Get up!" the messenger said. "Eat something, because you have a difficult road ahead of you." ⁸Elijah got up, ate and drank, and went refreshed by that food for forty days and nights until he arrived at Horeb, God's mountain. ⁹There he went into a cave and spent the night.

The Lord's word came to him and said, "Why are you here, Elijah?"

¹⁰Elijah replied, "I've been very passionate for the Lord God of heavenly forces because the Israelites have abandoned your covenant. They have torn down your altars, and they have murdered your prophets with the sword. I'm the only one left, and now they want to take my life too!"

¹¹The Lord said, "Go out and stand at the mountain before the Lord. The Lord is passing by." A very strong wind tore through the mountains and broke apart the stones before the Lord. But the Lord wasn't in the wind. After the wind, there was an earthquake. But the Lord wasn't in the earthquake. ¹²After the earthquake, there was a fire. But the Lord wasn't in the fire. After the fire, there was a sound. Thin. Quiet. ¹³When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his coat. He went out and stood at the cave's entrance. A voice came to him and said, "Why are you here, Elijah?"

- How do you think Elijah felt during the time described in this passage?

Children's Focus:

- What words would you use to describe Elijah?
- What stands out to you from Elijah's journey and experiences?
- What are things that you have to be patient for?
- How do you think silence can help patience?
- Why do you think it is hard to be quiet sometimes?
- Why do you think God likes to use silence sometimes?

Jr. High Focus:

- Do you think it was wrong for Elijah to run away? Why or why not?
- How do you think Elijah felt about himself during this time?
- How do you think his uncertainty and low self-esteem affected how well he could listen to God?
- Why is it hard to have patience sometimes when life is not always going as we plan?
- How do you think listening to God can help us with patience?

Sr. High Deep-End:

- This is obviously a very stressful time for Elijah as people are literally trying to kill him for his work as a prophet. Have you ever felt similarly scared and frustrated with God? Please share if you're willing with the group.
- Why do you think it took the "thin" and "quiet" sound (other translations use the "sound of sheer silence") for Elijah to experience God?
- How do you think we can create "thin" and "quiet" space in our lives to be able to hear God?
- What do you think God's voice sounded like to Elijah?
- Much like how God is seen in this passage, when we talk of the Holy Spirit we often cannot predict when or how She will come. Why do you think it is important that we are not able to schedule when God comes to us through the Holy Spirit?

Chopstick Stack Challenge

Supplies: 2 pairs of chopsticks, 20 small wooden blocks

Suggested Time - 10 min

Invite the students to a chopstick block stacking challenge. Especially younger students do not need to hold both chopsticks in one hand. This can be done with individual students or with pairs of students seeing how many blocks they can do. Run several rounds so that everyone who wants to participate has a chance. At some point up the challenge by adding a minute timer. Once done reflect with questions below.

- What was hard about this activity?
- How was it being timed for the activity? With more time, how would the results of this activity be different?
- Did rushing or focusing too much on time help this activity? Why or why not?
- How was patience useful in this activity?
- What are ways that we can practice patience in our faith?

Hands-on Activity: Bracelets

Supplies: purple beads

Suggested Time - 5 min

Each session, we will add a small colored bead to represent the Fruit of the Spirit that is studied. For this session add a small purple bead to represent PATIENCE.

Quote/Life Example or Testimony/Relatable Story

Supplies: none

Suggested Time - 15 min

“Patience is the calm acceptance that things can happen in a different order than the one you have in your mind” – David G. Allen

After reading the above quote ask the following questions:

- What do you think about this quote?
- How do you think this relates to the scripture we read?
- How do you think this relates to living out our faith?

Alternative Quote/Life Example or Testimony/Relatable Story

Supplies: none

Suggested Time - 15 min

Brother Lawrence was a Carmelite monk who lived in a monastery in Paris. He had a unique perspective he developed on his place in comparison to God’s will for his life even in the midst of otherwise unwanted chores.

“We ought not to be weary of doing little things for the love of God, who regards not the greatness of the work, but the love with which it is performed.”

“A little lifting up of the heart suffices; a little remembrance of God, an interior act of adoration, even though made on the march and with sword in hand, are prayers which, short though they may be, are nevertheless very pleasing to God, and far from making a soldier lose his courage on the most dangerous occasions, bolster it. Let him then think of God as much as possible so that he will gradually become accustomed to this little but holy exercise; no one will notice it and nothing is easier than to repeat often during the day these little acts of interior adoration.”

“He does not ask much of us, merely a thought of Him from time to time, a little act of adoration, sometimes to ask for His grace, sometimes to offer Him your sufferings, at other times to thank Him for the graces, past and present, He has bestowed on you, in the midst of your troubles to take solace in Him as often as you can. Lift up your heart to Him during your meals and in company; the least little remembrance will always be the most pleasing to Him. One need not cry out very loudly; He is nearer to us than we think.”

After reading the above quote ask the following questions:

- What stands out to you about Brother Lawrence & these quotes?
- What are practical ways we can practice God's presence?
- What about Brother Lawrence's perspective about God can we take to heart?

How is patience evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit?

We must learn patience to hear the call of God's Spirit.

Closing Prayer/Benediction – led by Adult

Supplies: none

Suggested Time - 5 min

Have the leader read the following and invite everyone to sit quietly for a moment and listen. When enough time has passed, say "amen" as a group.

God, You called us here to camp this week and we're listening. Be with us as we learn to hear your voice. (time of silence) Amen.