

Long-Suffering



Galatians 5:22-23



New Testament 6
Part 2: Fruit of the Spirit

SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 6 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Galatians 5:22-23; 1 Timothy 6:11; 2 Timothy 2:24; 3:10; 1 Corinthians 13:4; 2 Peter 1:5-9; 1 Thessalonians 5:14; James 5:7-8

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "You also be patient" (James 5:8a).

OLDER CHILDREN: "But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength" (Isaiah 40:31a).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["The Fruit of the Spirit"](#)
- ["Have Patience"](#)
- ["He's Still Working On Me"](#)
- ["Fruit of the Spirit"](#)
- ["The Fruit of the Spirit"](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [Paul & the Fruit of the Spirit](#) Bible fact cards (provided under "N.T. 6 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)
- "Summary of the Bible" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- Pictures/drawings from the books listed under 3rd-4th Grader Pre-Class Activities/Learning Centers
- Pictures of famous athletes
- Pictures or visuals to illustrate the story of God's promise to Abraham and the birth of Isaac



PERSONAL APPLICATION:

There will be many times in my life when I have to be patient—even when I’m hurting. Patience is learning to wait even when I don’t feel like it or want to—to be long-suffering. One of the fruits of the Spirit that Christians should show is that attitude: patiently enduring struggles.

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Read Galatians 5:22-23, and remind the children that we are studying the fruits of the Spirit. Last week we talked about having joy and peace even when things go wrong. How can we do that?

Do you ever have to wait for something? What about waiting for Mommy to get you a snack? What about waiting for someone to finish playing with the toy you want to play with? Is it hard to wait? When we wait for something without getting upset, we have patience. God is very patient with us, and He wants us to be patient, too, even when we are in pain. Let’s learn about people in the Bible who were very patient.

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Read Galatians 5:22-23, and remind the children that we are studying the fruits of the Spirit. Review last week’s lesson.

Do you know anyone you would describe as patient? Do you think you are a patient person? What does it mean to be patient? Is God patient? Why/why not? The Bible talks quite a bit about being patient, even when enduring suffering. Sometimes it’s very hard to be patient, but to please God, we must be patient. Let’s see if we learn something today that can help us be more patient.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. **PRESCHOOL TEACHERS:** Children will not understand the concept of patience by just talking about it. It will be better to do several activities showing patience while discussing patience with them. [Examples: stand in line to take a turn tossing you a ball; let the children (one at a time) draw on the board; any activity where they must wait a turn before participating.]
2. Patience is the willingness to wait for something. Other words used in the Bible for patience are “forbearance” and “long-suffering.” (“Perseverance” is often used in the New Testament to mean the same thing, but in reference to trials and persecution.)
3. Talk to the children about times they have to wait (in the doctor’s office, before ballgames, before Christmas or birthdays, for a sibling to get out of the bathroom, etc.). There are many times when we have to wait. What can we do during those times so that we don’t get really upset, i.e., don’t become impatient? We can use those times to talk to God, read a book, write a note to someone, draw a picture for someone, etc.
4. Sometimes children are impatient to grow taller or become better at a sport, etc. There is no way to hurry growth; that will happen as God has planned if you take good care of yourself. There isn’t any way to hurry getting better at a sport or playing a musical instrument. Those things take lots of practice. No great athlete or musician became good at what they do/did without years of hard work. We have to be patient with ourselves as we work and learn how to do new things.

5. Abraham was very patient. God promised him a son, but he had to wait 25 years before that son, Isaac, was born (Genesis 12:1-4; 15:1-6; 18:1-15; 21:1-8; Hebrews 6:13-15). Abraham was patient with Lot; he was also patient when God asked him to sacrifice Isaac. God was patient with Abraham, too (about Sodom and Gomorrah)!
6. Noah was patient as well. When God told Noah to build the Ark, there is no indication that He told Noah when the Flood was coming. Noah apparently built the Ark for at least 100 years before the Flood finally came. Noah was patient in trusting God, and at the same time, he was surely long-suffering, considering that people on the Earth around him were probably scoffing at him and making fun of him for working on the Ark so long without the Flood actually coming.
7. Job was also a patient man. Even though his possessions were lost, his children were killed, his friends turned on him, and his good health taken, he continued to trust God and wait for Him to show him why he was suffering.
8. Patience is the willingness to wait for God’s help. Sometimes we beg God for things when we pray. What we ask for sometimes doesn’t come, but God gives us something that is better for us. Many times we don’t even know what we need or what to ask for. Patience is waiting for God to do what He knows is best for us.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the articles “[God’s Patience](#)” by Caleb Colley and “[God’s Suffering is Not Eternal](#)” by Eric Lyons on the Apologetics Press Web site for a discussion about this lesson’s attribute and the nature of God.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#)

Ages 2-5:

- “[Patience Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Lay one M&M® for each child in the class on the table in front of you. Tell the children they can have the candy **if** they **wait** until you do something that will take a couple of minutes (turn over an egg-timer, or pour water slowly from one container into several smaller ones, for example).
- Have pictures showing the progression of a sapling growing into a tree, then blooming, then producing small fruit, then ripe fruit. Discuss with the children how this process takes many years. We have to be patient to wait for the good fruit to eat. Discuss with the children what else we have to be patient for (taking turns on the swing, waiting for cookies to finish baking, waiting in line at the store, etc.).
- Have a small treat for the children in a gift bag or wrapped box (i.e., stickers, stamps, etc.). Set it in the middle of the table, and tell them after the lesson or the end of class, they can open it and each get a treat. Discuss with them how they must be patient and wait to receive their treat.

1st-2nd Graders:

- Play Tic-Tac-Toe with review questions from this unit. (“[Tic-Tac-Toe Instructions](#)” provided in activity sheets)
- “[Word Scramble Activity](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Key Words Card Scramble Cutouts](#)” (provided in activity sheets)

- Write Scripture references about patience on strips of paper, and put them in a box/basket. Let the children take turns pulling a strip out and saying the Scripture reference to the class. Have all the children look up each verse, and let them take turns reading each verse out loud. (“[Patience Scripture References](#)” provided in activity sheets)

3rd-4th Graders:

- Play Tic-Tac-Toe with review questions from this unit. (“[Tic-Tac-Toe Instructions](#)” provided in activity sheets)
- “Find It Fast”: Write Scripture references about patience on strips of paper. Give two to four strips of paper to each student. Using a stopwatch/timer, see who can find all the references the fastest. Have the students read the verses they found. (“[Patience Scripture References](#)” provided in activity sheets)
- “[Key Words Card Scramble Cutouts](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Activity sheets from “Fruit of the Spirit” book from Shining Star Publications
- “[Word Scramble Activity](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Have the children read the following:
 - [A Patient Man From Uz](#), by Kyle Butt, Apologetics Press
 - *Remy the Rhino Learns Patience*, by Andy McGuire, Harvest House Publishers

SONGS:

“THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT”

Author: Jeff Miller

(Tune: See “[Kids Prep](#)” CD)

Get the fruit of the Spirit,
It’s love, joy, peace, long-suffering;
Kindness, goodness, and faithfulness,
Gentleness, and self-control.

“HAVE PATIENCE” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author Unknown*

(Tune: See Internet)

Have patience; have patience.
Don’t be in such a hurry.
When you get—impatient,
You only start to worry.
Remember, remember,
That God is patient, too.
And think of all the times when others have to wait on you.

“FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “Qué Será, Será”)

When you become a child of God, fruits of the Spirit, you must show.
They are not apples, grapefruits, or plums—just sing and you will know.

Love and joy and peace,
You must from the heart give these.
Show patience and gentleness, and show goodness, please.

When you become a child of God, fruits of the Spirit, you must show.
They are not apples, grapefruits, or plums—just sing and you will know.

Wear the shield of faith,
Show meekness and self-control.
When you are a child of God, you will practice these.

“THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: See Internet)

(Have pictures of the fruits mentioned below to use with the song.)

VERSE 1:

The fruit of the Spirit is a cantaloupe. NOPE!
The fruit of the Spirit is a cantaloupe. NOPE!
If you want to be a cantaloupe,
You might as well hear it,
You can't be a fruit of the Spirit!

CHORUS:

'Cause the fruit is:
Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
Faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control!
Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
Faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control!

VERSE 2:

The fruit of the Spirit is a kumquat. WHAT?
The fruit of the Spirit is a kumquat. WHAT?
If you want to be a kumquat,
You might as well hear it,
You can't be a fruit of the Spirit!

(CHORUS)

VERSE 3:

The fruit of the Spirit is a watermelon. WHATCHA YELLING?
The fruit of the Spirit is a watermelon. WHATCHA YELLING?
If you want to be a watermelon,

You might as well hear it,
You can't be a fruit of the Spirit!

(CHORUS)

“HE’S STILL WORKING ON ME”

Author: Joel Hemphill

[See Internet for Tune and Lyrics]

*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



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WEDNESDAY EVENING

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OLDER CHILDREN: "But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength" (Isaiah 40:31a).

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PERSONAL APPLICATION:

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INTRODUCTION:

Review [N.T. 6 Bible Fact Flash Cards](#) (provided under “N.T. 6 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

Review Sunday’s lesson. (see [N.T. 6 Review Questions](#) for example questions)

Review Sunday’s lesson. Emphasize that we often need to be patient with other people. Other people can irritate us or make us wait when we are eager to go somewhere. We need to be willing to forgive others when they ask, help them even when they get on our nerves, etc. Children can relate to being impatient with siblings, classmates, and teammates. They need to remember to treat others as they want to be treated (Matthew 7:12)—**seven** days of the week and **twelve** months of the year. “[B]e patient with all men” (Hebrews 10:36b).

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

See Sunday morning’s lesson

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