

# Youth group @ Home

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2020

## Christian Character – Session 4: Being Patient

Good morning and welcome to session 4 of Youth Group @ Home. Each week we are going to look at a different element of what builds Christian character. Last week we looked at being loving, this week we are going to explore how we can be more Patient. Why not go through today's session with family or friends? You could always Zoom call some friends and go through the activities together.

### Activity

Last week we read Galatians 5:22-23 which listed the fruits of the spirit: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. We can see that patience is another fruit of the spirit that God gives us meaning it important to God that as his followers and his representatives on earth, we are patient people to everyone.

As a test of your patience for today's youth@home, I want you to go and find some chocolate or a sweet that you want and place it next to you while you complete this session, don't touch it or eat it until you are done.

### Think

If you have watched the lion king before (and probably even if you haven't) you will know the song 'I just can't wait to be king' that Simba sings about how he is really excited about when he will become the king of the African plains in place of his Dad, Mufasa. He sings about how he wants to be able to do what he wants and not have to listen to his superiors while Zuzu (the bird tasked with looking out for him) tries to educate him about how he isn't ready. In the end Simba gets impatient and tries to scare a lizard in this video, thinking he is plenty old enough to be ruling over the rest of the kingdom. Watch what happens next in this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tBIDvdIpHlk>

Now think about these points:

Why Should Simba Have waited?

Simba rushes into a situation that he can't handle and ends up in danger-have you ever rushed into a situation that you weren't ready for?

Would you say you are a patient or impatient person?

### Bible Study

Get a piece of paper and note down a couple of times you've had to be patient. For example, waiting for results, waiting to meet someone, waiting to arrive at a holiday house or a present to be delivered. Have there been times that the wait has been very long and you've started to get annoyed or have you always remained calm?

We're now going to look at what the Bible says about similar situations so you'll need a bible, alternatively, you can look up the Bible passage on a phone or laptop.

The Bible talks a lot about 'waiting' and being patient – in many stories and passages, Bible characters have had to wait for God to act in their situations. This isn't because God is mean but because he is using the 'waiting room' to make sure the timing is perfect for them, to teach them and to develop their characters.

Have a look at a couple of these passages and stories where characters in the bible must be patient, perhaps look at the stories you don't recognise:

Psalm 40:1-5: A Psalm of David

Psalm 130: A Psalm about waiting

Luke 1:5-25: The story of Elizabeth and Zechariah

Luke 2:25-38: The story of Simeon and Anna

2 Corinthians 1:3-11: The patience of Paul and the Corinthians in their suffering

In these passages think about the following questions:

Who is, or has, been doing the waiting?

What are, or have, they been waiting for?

What attitude do they have towards waiting?

Does the passage tell you about a conclusion to their waiting – did it pay off in the end?

The attitude we have when we're waiting is important, if we are not calm and trusting in God in these situations, we can be tempted to take matters into our own hands and the outcome of this can be worse than waiting patiently for God to work things out.

There will be times in our lives when God will ask us to wait for things e.g.

answers to prayer, or guidance for the future. However, we can always trust God to deal with things in his perfect timing. And as we wait, God will be at work in us, building our characters and making us more like him. Often, we learn some really important lessons in our 'waiting times' and when we look back these times, often in hindsight, we can see the importance and benefit of having these times.

There are times in the bible when people are impatient and try to take matters into their own hands, for example in Genesis 12 God promises Abraham that he will have numerous descendants (v.2) and would be the father of a great nation. The amazing thing was that Abraham was married to Sarah who was seemingly unable to have children.

Another amazing thing was that when God made this promise, Abraham was already 75 and his wife Sarah 65 (Genesis 12:4), it should have been impossible for them to become parents at such an age! Eleven years passed after God first made this promise, Abraham and Sarah became tired of waiting, and took matters into their own hands. Sarah decided that she would give her female slave Hagar to her husband, Abraham, as a surrogate mother to become pregnant and carry on the family line. Hagar was able to get pregnant and Abraham and Sarah may well have thought this was God's promise kept – it wasn't unusual or unlawful for a man to have a child with another woman if his own wife couldn't have children in those times, especially as Sarah had suggested the idea. But God's promise had always been for Abraham and his wife to have their own children, and 13 years on, God finally fulfils the promise – read Genesis 21:1-7.

Sarah became pregnant and Isaac was born when Abraham was 100 and Sarah was 90. In the waiting game Abraham and Sarah are definitely winners, although their faith wavered. But from this ancient account it can be seen that God always keeps His promises, hard as it is, we have to be patient, God's timing is often not the same as ours, but his plan is ALWAYS better.

Finish by reading the following verses:

“...troubles produce patience. And patience produces character, and character produces hope. And this hope will never disappoint us, because God has poured out his love to fill our hearts.”

Romans 5:3-5

“Be joyful because you have hope. Be patient when trouble comes and pray at all times.”

Romans 12:12

## Challenge

As we all are stuck indoors at the moment often we can get irritated at having to wait for things like the wifi being slower because everyone is using it, or perhaps you are getting impatient at not being able to go outside as much as usual, or maybe you're stuck indoors with siblings and you feel they have worn your patience thin at times and you get cross or argue a lot. This coming week try to make a conscience effort to identify the times when you are getting impatient with someone or something and ask God to help you in these times.

## Remember

Here are some key points for you to remember:

- 1) There is a whole Bible full of examples of how people who have waited patiently, while praying for what they want, have been given what they asked for, even Sarah and Abraham were given a baby when they were about 70 because they waited patiently (Genesis 21:1-3) – Maybe you could try and search out some more examples of this (Google is very helpful!).
- 2) Often there is the temptation to take matters into our own hands when it feels that things aren't happening fast enough for our liking but we have to keep in mind how our timing is never going to be as perfect as God's. The enemy will however try to cause us to veer off of God's path and taking matters into our hands can sometimes be a way he does that, so be careful.
- 3) Sometimes it can be difficult to wait for something that you want but when we ask God for what we want he knows what is best for us, it might be that in fact what we want so desperately could cause problem we don't think about and He may not give it to us but we have trust (remember youth@home session 1) that God knows what is best

## Prayers

As we come to the end of our session on being patient, let us take some time to pray for those that we both do and don't find easy to be patient within our everyday lives. Let us ask God to help us.

*Dear God,*

*We pray for those people we know who find it difficult to be patient with when they get on our nerves (say the names of the people you are thinking of) Help us to be more like you in being more patient with those around us.*

*We pray for those struggling In this unusual time of lockdown with being patient with others in the homes, help us not to allow the tension of being indoors most of the time to affect how we love one another.*

*We pray for people who have been let down by times when we haven't been as patient as we should have been (you may want to pray for a specific situation) Please help them to forgive us, and please help us to be forgiving to those who have not given us time and waited when they wanted something.*

*Please God, lead us and guide us. Help us to remember that you are always with us and love us no matter what.*

*Amen.*

Remember, you can pray anytime – day or night – God is always listening to you and He loves to hear your voice.

We really hope you enjoyed this session (if you managed to stay away from that sweet, well done, you may eat it now!). If you have questions you want to ask, or want to request a certain topic for a future session, you can email me: [Freya@Bedhampton.Church](mailto:Freya@Bedhampton.Church).