

DAY 6

We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

Psalms 33:20 NIV

Waiting is hard, but did you know there are ways to make your waiting better? When you invite God into your waiting, you're no longer waiting on your own. And more than that, you're waiting alongside the One who can help you, protect you, and give you hope. You're waiting with the One who can give you patience to get through it.

So as you find yourself waiting on anything—waiting to get picked up from school, waiting for the bus, waiting for a friend to text you back, or waiting to know what grade you got on the big test—try this: Worship while you wait. Connect with and worship God in your own way to remember that God is helping you have patience in your waiting.

DAY 7

Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track.

Proverbs 3:5-6 MSG

God's words are like a warm blanket on a cold day. They are full of comfort and reassurance. When we memorize Scriptures, we have a blanket going with us wherever we go. We are carrying the wisdom that will comfort us when we need it!

To work on memorizing this verse, say it out loud today. Try repeating it at least ten times without looking to see how much of it you can memorize as you go!

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN
everyday faith.

CHEAT CODES / WEEK 3

MIDDLE SCHOOL

DAY 1

The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride.
Ecclesiastes 7:8 NIV

What's the matter?" Has anyone ever asked you that question? Maybe you're upset because you're in a situation where friend drama came up, or a fight started with your sibling, or a family argument just suddenly broke out. When you're in the middle of that moment, nothing feels worse! You just want it to be over, don't you? Well, Scripture reminds us that in order to get through a difficult situation, we have to have patience. Reaching the end and resolving a difficult situation requires the kind of patience that only God can give.

This week, memorize this short verse. And when you find yourself struggling through a tough situation, reflect on this verse and call on God's patience to get you through to the end.

DAY 2

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.
Colossians 3:12 NIV

As you get dressed and ready for your day today, take a few minutes to think about what you're putting on. In the same way you put on clothes, you also have the chance to put on the qualities of Jesus that will help you with the day ahead. Putting on the patience of Jesus will help you when you're facing a difficult or challenging circumstance. And the more of His patience you choose to have each day, the better you'll be able to handle whatever is in front of you.

Think about the things you have going on today. Ask God to help you have patience like Jesus to help you with anything you've got to face in the day ahead.

DAY 3

I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry.

Psalm 40:1 NIV

Are you waiting for an answer to something? Big or small, when you're waiting on something, it isn't easy. And waiting patiently? Well, that's even harder to do! What's awesome is that Scripture reminds us there's a reward in our waiting. While we may not know how things will turn out, we can be sure that God will hear our cries and be with us in our waiting. When we look to God, we'll be gifted with more patience than we ever imagined possible!

What are you waiting for in your life right now? Big or small, take it to God. Tell God what you're waiting for, ask for patience to help you, and thank God for hearing your cries.

DAY 4

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love
Ephesians 4:2

Who is the most patient person you know? How do you know that they're patient? Maybe it's the way they show you grace when you do something wrong. Or it's the way they speak with gentleness even when they're annoyed. No matter how their patience shows itself, it impacts your life for the better, doesn't it? When other people show us love, it impacts our life with love and shows us more of the same patience that Jesus shows us, too.

Think about a person who is patient with you no matter what. Take time to shoot them a text, write them a note, or have a quick conversation to thank them for their example of patience. Let them know that you appreciate the way they show you love with their patience.

DAY 5

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!
Galatians 5:22-23 NLT

Written by Audri, age 14, from Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, USA

At my church, I volunteer to take care of the kids every week. It's a difficult job for many reasons, but when you do anything with kids, your patience is bound to be tested frequently. I am a person that really struggles with patience. But the more I work with the kids, the easier it gets to stay patient. My mom told me one day that "patience is taking a second to step into the other person's shoes." So, in this case, you have to take a second and think about why they're acting in a way that's pushing your buttons. You never know what the kid's home life is. You never know if this is their only outlet to be hyper and truly express themselves. There's always more under the surface that you don't know

of. And this can apply to any situation! If someone is rude to you in public, they could be having a bad day. If someone at school talks your ear off about things you're not interested in, it could be you're the only person in their life that would listen to them. But we don't have to worry about getting our patience tested, because God's Spirit will meet us there and help guide us through the situation if we ask.

So my challenge for you is the next time that you're struggling with patience, try two things. First, step into the other person's shoes. Remember, they might be going through something you don't know about. Then, ask God to guide you through the situation by giving you the patience you need for that person.