

# Explore It

## FOR LEADERS



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### WAITING FOR CHANGE

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#### Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-6 God's agreement with Abraham

Please refer to the Introduction document for more details.

Each child will need:

→ Pens and paper

### Start It

Here are a couple of options on starting your session.

Play a simple counting game. Together, they must count from one to ten (or any number that is greater than the number of participants).

The rules are:

1. Everyone must say at least one number.
2. No one can say two numbers in sequence.
3. If any two people speak at the same time, you must start again from one.

Use a stopwatch to find out how quickly they can do it.

You will probably find that because everyone is in a rush to get to ten as quickly as possible, you'll have to keep restarting. TIP - try playing the game really slowly.

Alternative idea:

Play a game of Pictionary using the whiteboard feature. Children take it in turns to draw something they've had to wait for, and everyone else guesses what it is. If you have an older group, ask each of them to think of something they really looked forward to doing or receiving, but had to wait. For younger groups, you could use the message feature to send them the word they have to draw with some suggestions in brackets, for example:

- your birthday (draw a cake with candles)
- Christmas (draw a Christmas tree or Father Christmas)
- summer holiday (draw a sandcastle)
- a new video game (draw a computer/Xbox/iPad)

🗨️ **Say:** Last week we looked at how change happens whether we like it or not, but we can get through it if we remember God is beside us through it all. This week we are going to look at how we can wait patiently for something good that we've been promised.

### Sing It

Watch this song with simple lyrics that introduce the theme of patience and waiting.

'P.A.T.I.E.N.C.E.' by Steve Fee, actions by Kidsummit.

<https://youtu.be/rrdTk2vb4YE>

## Tell It

🗨️ **Say:** Last week we looked at accepting the sudden changes that come into our lives. This week we return to the story of Abram/Abraham and ask what we do when we know something good is coming but we have to wait for it.

Read Genesis 15:1-6 and Genesis 21:1-6 together. You could share them from your screen and ask each individual to read a verse. Explain that between the readings Abram's name was changed to Abraham – from 'Super Dad' to 'Father of Many'.

**Ask:** Can anyone remember, from the Bible passage last week, how old Abram was when God first told him he would have children? (75)

How old was Abraham when his son Isaac was born? (100)

Can anyone work out how long Abraham had to wait for God to keep his promise? (25 years)

🗨️ **Say:** It can be difficult to wait for something that you really want, particularly today when most things are so instant – you can order something online and have it the next day or even in a few hours. How did Abraham manage to wait so patiently for God's promise? There are three things Abraham did that might help us as we learn to wait.

🗨️ **Say:** The first thing Abraham did was to question God about it when he was unsure. If we're not careful, we can start to believe we can't be fully open with God or tell him what's really on our minds, because we think we will offend him.

🗨️ **Say:** But in this story, Abraham is very honest with God, asking him what good waiting would do him and telling him that he didn't understand how God would make these wonderful changes he'd promised happen.

🗨️ **Say:** We must remember that whether we're worried, sad, disappointed or even angry about things, God wants us to tell him exactly how we feel. When we're so fed up with waiting for something good to happen, it's a good thing to pray about it and talk to our parents and other people we look up to, as they may have some advice for us.

🗨️ **Pray It**

🗨️ **Say:** The second thing Abraham did to help him wait was to keep listening out for God's voice. And because he did so, he heard God reassure him. Without that reassurance he might have felt lonely, upset, disappointed, cross or given up on God's promise altogether.

🗨️ **Say:** As a group we're going to practise a simple way of listening out for God's voice. We believe that God is always speaking to us, and we just need to learn to tune into what he's saying.

Explain that in a moment you'll say a short prayer, and then you would like everyone to wait silently, trying to be aware of what God might want to say to them. Remind them that everyone is different so they might hear God in different ways.

He might speak through:

- ➔ a story or verse from the Bible that pops into your head
- ➔ the words of a worship song
- ➔ a picture
- ➔ a whisper in your heart
- ➔ the name of someone you know popping into your head
- ➔ a strong feeling about something

Ask them to trust that God will speak to them and that they have the ability to hear him.

**Lord Jesus, please help us to listen to your voice. Help our hearts and minds to be quiet so we can hear you. Holy Spirit, what would you like to say to us today?**

Wait for a while and then ask whether anyone would like to share what they think God was saying to them.

## Action It

- **Say:** The third thing that Abraham did to help him wait was to see the bigger picture. God told him to look up at the night sky and to try and count the stars - that would be the number of descendants he would have. It helped to remind Abraham that as much as God's promise would be a blessing for him, it was also about the millions of others who would be blessed for centuries into the future. And so, what was a few years to wait?

Ask the children to show you a face that represents how they feel when they think about things they have to wait for. Can they explain their expressions?

What sort of things are they looking forward to being able to do as they grow? On a sheet of paper, children could draw or write their ideas in stars. Give children time to share their responses if they want to. Pray together asking God to help us wait.

## Explore It

Remember to share the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.