

Long Story Short: God's Patient Plan

Reflect

- When do you find patience easy to practice? When do you find it hard?
- What area of your life do you struggle with patience?
- What does impatience look like in your life? (i.e. anger, frustration, sarcasm, cutting corners, etc.)

Read Your Bible

- Genesis 12:1-3
- John 20:29-31

Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. Read Genesis 12:1-3. Since Abraham, the "father of our faith," God has promised blessing and hope to all people. But even Abraham got shortsighted about God's plan for blessings when he and Sarah didn't conceive a promised child right away (Genesis 16). That shortsightedness and impatience lead to heartbreak and broken relationships. When was a time you or someone you know became impatient to receive a blessing you desired? How did that affect your relationship with God?
2. Read John 20:29-31. How is it possible to believe and keep faith in Jesus and His promises when we haven't personally seen/met Him?
3. What has helped you to believe in Jesus and keep faith in Him?
4. Why is keeping faith that God will fulfill His promises of blessing and redemption important for our relationship with God? For our relationship with others?
5. God wants you to be a part of His patient plan! God's desire for us is to bless us with the grace offered in His Son, Jesus, to redeem us and for us in turn to share the grace we have received through Jesus with others (we are blessed to be a blessing – Genesis 12:1-3). Who has God placed in your life that you can begin sharing the love of Jesus with, so that they may be blessed?

I hate the phrase, "it's all in God's timing." Why? Because it's not MY timing! (And praise the Lord for that!) God has been working His patient plan of redemption and salvation for the world since the beginning of time and He continues to work that plan into eternity. When we get frustrated with our own faith journey, or the faith of those we love, we need remember that God's been in the business of saving lives for longer than we have. He's been working the long game plan for quite some time and His patience with us and all of creation is deeper and longer than we can imagine. We also need to remember that we have our own role to play in God's patient plan. We have been blessed to be a blessing! God invites us to join Him in His work in this world, by sharing the grace we know and have experienced in Jesus with those around us. Don't give up on you doing your part, telling yourself it's too hard, it's too uncomfortable or not happening in the time you want it to. Don't give up, because God is patient and will never up on you!

Pray

God, thank You for Your plan to redeem the world through Your Son, Jesus. Thank You for Your patience in carrying out that plan. Thank You for inviting me into that plan. I confess sometimes I get frustrated and impatient with Your plan. Even in my own relationship with You I get impatient with You and what I desire in my relationship with You. I know You have blessed me so that I can be a blessing and I desire to be that blessing You've called me to be. Give me patience to wait on You, to trust in You and to let You work Your will and way in my life. Give me the courage and strength to say yes to the opportunities You give me to join You in Your work in this world. I ask all of this in Jesus' name. Amen.