

Children's Time – Waiting and Working Patiently

Materials

A large box with a lift-off lid (for each Sunday); a grain of wheat; a stalk of wheat, and a loaf of bread (provide a gluten-free alternative if necessary).

Message

I wonder what is in this box.

(Take out the grain, the stalk, and the bread)

I wonder what all these things have in common.

(Let the children wonder, and respond with non-judging comments)

I am hungry. So hungry. I want bread, but all I have is these grains of wheat. Do you think I should eat them right now? If I plant them, and water them, look, with patience God will cause it to grow into a wheat stalk, which has many seeds in it. Then I would have more than I started with. But I am so hungry now. Should I eat them now? Or should I wait, grow the wheat seeds, grind my harvest into flour? If I have flour I can make bread, something delicious, and I'll even have enough to share with all of you!

Sometimes we want something now, but if we are patient, with God's help there is a better thing waiting for us. Only God can make the seed grow. It takes time. Can we help God's work? Sure—we can water the plant, and pull weeds while we wait, but it's God who's doing the work. When do you have to be patient, and how can we help when we're waiting? Maybe if we were waiting for supper or a snack, we could help get it ready. Or, if something happens that make us sad, like when people are sick, or get hurt, while we wait for them to become better we can pray for God to be with them, and we can send them notes to let them know we love them. God says, "Sometimes you just have to wait while I work, but you can always find a way to help in my work, too."

Before you go, let's bow our heads and pray. God, thank you for surprising us with your love. Sometimes it is hard for us to be patient. Help us to know that even when we are waiting, you are always at work. In Jesus' name, Amen.

You may take a chunk of this bread as you go back to your seats. Thank you for waiting so patiently!

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