

ELEMENTARY DISCUSSION GUIDE

CHARACTER TRAIT:

PATIENCE

DEFINITION:

Trusting and waiting on God in all things

MEMORY VERSE:

"Yet I am confident I will see the Lord's goodness while I am here in the land of the living. Wait patiently for the Lord. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the Lord." **PSALM 27:13-14**

FINISH LINE:

God's timing is best, so patiently wait on the Lord

READ: GENESIS 39-41

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

(OBSERVATION)

READ GENESIS 39:21-40:8

1. Who was with Joseph in prison and helping him? (*God was.*)
2. Look at verse 40:1. Who was thrown into prison with Joseph? (*Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker*)
3. What happened one day to make them so upset? (*They both had confusing dreams. Joseph told them what they meant.*)

READ GENESIS 41:14-16, 28-46

4. Who did Joseph depend on to interpret dreams? (*He knew only God could tell them what the dreams meant.*)
5. What was God warning Pharaoh about through his dreams? (*There would be 7 years with plenty of food. But then there would be 7 years of famine, a time without enough food.*)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

(INTERPRETATION)

1. Did Joseph know if his waiting in prison would ever end? (*No.*) Do you think it was easy for Joseph to patiently wait on God while he was in hard circumstances? Why or why not?
2. How did God use Pharaoh to change Joseph's circumstances? (*Pharaoh brought Joseph out of prison and made him second in command over all of Egypt.*)
3. Joseph was 17 (see v. 37:2) when his brothers sold him into slavery and 30 (see v. 41:46) when he became a ruler in Egypt. How many years had he patiently waited on God through tough times? (*He waited 13 years.*)

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

(APPLICATION)

1. Do you like or dislike waiting? Why? What are some things you have had to wait for in the past or are waiting for right now?
2. What does God control and have power over? (*God is in control and has power over everything.*)
3. How much does God know about you and your life? (*He knows and sees everything.*)
4. God loves and cares for you. Things may be really hard for a long time, but He is always with you and in control. For those of us who trust in Him, we know that we will get to be a part of His family forever. One day, God will wipe away everything sad and painful when Jesus comes back. How can believing that help you trust Him and give you hope while you wait?