

## Today's Suggested Schedule—April 2024, Week 2

**Today's Bible Story:** Can't Hardly Wait (Esau's Impatience) • *Genesis 25:24-34*

**Today's Bottom Line:** When you think you can't wait, think twice.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!* Psalm 27:14 (ESV)

**Monthly Virtue:** Patience—Waiting until later for what you want now

**Basic Truth:** I need to make the wise choice.

*Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might be visiting your group for the first time. Ask God's Spirit to give you the gift of patience as you prepare for group time. Pray that as the kids of your group encounter situations where they feel like they can't wait, that they would stop and think in order to make the wise choice. Ask God to help them remember that God can help them wait.*

Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSZi> for a visual on some of the activities.

### **LARGE GROUP (35 minutes)**

**STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways**

**WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God**

Welcome/Opener

Worship

Bible Story

Bottom Line

Prayer

Closer

### **SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)**

**GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect**

Story Exploration

Bible Story Review: This or That

Application Activity: Think Twice

Memory Verse Activity: Echo That

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

**HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience**

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App

## The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

*Use this if kids have questions about following Jesus.*

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word gospel. Clarify that the word gospel means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.

God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.

We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)

God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.

Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.

We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

If a child has expressed interest in following Jesus, please let the parents know so they can be a part of the conversation that their child is having about faith.

### What Now?

If you put your trust in Jesus Christ and believe in Him as the One who forgives your sins and makes it possible for you to know God, we are so proud of you! There is no greater single decision that you could make.

We believe that baptism is an important next step for you. Baptism is your way of telling your friends and family, “Hey, I'm a follower of Jesus!” If you're interested in learning more or participating in baptism, talk to a staff member about the next steps you should take.

## **GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)**

### **Story Exploration**

Genesis 25:24-34 recounts the story of Esau and Jacob, twin sons of Isaac and Rebekah, and how it relates to patience. Genesis is the first book of the Bible found in the Old Testament.

In these verses, Rebekah gives birth to Esau, the firstborn, followed by Jacob, who was born holding onto Esau's heel. As they grew older, Esau became a skillful hunter, while Jacob was more of a quiet and peaceful man, preferring to stay at home.

The significance of patience in this story is highlighted through the actions of Esau and Jacob. Esau, driven by his immediate desires and impulses, lacked patience. He came in from the field one day, faint with hunger, and saw Jacob cooking a stew. When Esau asked for some of the stew, Jacob seized the opportunity to bargain with him, offering to give him the stew in exchange for Esau's birthright as the firstborn son.

Esau, in his impatience and hunger, disregarded the value of his birthright and agreed to Jacob's offer, saying, "Behold, I am about to die; so of what use then is the birthright to me?" (Genesis 25:32). He prioritized satisfying his immediate hunger over the long-term benefits of his birthright.

This story shows us about the consequences of impatience and to consider the long-term implications of our actions. It illustrates how impulsive decisions made in the heat of the moment can lead to regrettable outcomes.

### **GOSPEL CONNECTION**

**Inheritance:** The concept of inheritance is central to both the Old Testament narrative of Esau and Jacob and the message of the Gospel. In Genesis, Esau and Jacob's story revolves around the birthright, which signifies the right to inherit the blessings and promises of the covenant God made with Abraham. In the Gospel, believers are heirs of God's promises through Jesus Christ. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus secured an inheritance for believers, granting them eternal life and a share in God's kingdom. (See Galatians 3:29)

**Sacrifice:** Esau's decision to trade his birthright for a bowl of stew illustrates the theme of sacrifice. He was willing to sacrifice his long-term inheritance for immediate gratification. In contrast, the Gospel emphasizes Jesus Christ's ultimate sacrifice on the cross for the redemption of humanity. Jesus willingly gave up His life to reconcile humanity with God, demonstrating the ultimate act of sacrificial love. Believers are called to follow Jesus's example by sacrificing their desires and worldly pursuits for the sake of the Gospel. (See Ephesians 2:4-5, 1 Peter 3:18, John 3:16)

**God's Grace:** Despite Esau's impulsive decision and lack of regard for his birthright, God's grace is evident throughout the story. God's covenant promises are not dependent on human merit or actions but are based on His grace and faithfulness. Similarly, the Gospel emphasizes that salvation is a free gift of God's grace, received through faith in Jesus Christ. No amount of human effort or merit can earn salvation; it is solely through God's grace that believers are reconciled to Him. (See Ephesians 2:8-9)

## 1. This or That

### [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

*Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body*

#### What You Need: “This or That” Activity Page

#### What You Do:

- Choose one kid to go first.
- Read them the first question of the Review Questions, which are listed below.
  - If the kid doesn't get the answer correct, invite them to choose another kid to try.
  - If the kid gets the answer correct, hand the kid the “This or That” Activity Page.
  - Invite that kid to read a choice from the “This or That” Activity Page to the group.
  - Instruct everyone who chooses the first option (this) to run to the right side of the room, or if they choose the second option (that) to run to the left side of the room.
- Continue in this way until all review questions have been answered.

#### Review Questions:

1. What were the two brothers' names from our story today? (*Jacob and Esau*)
2. Which brother was older? (*Esau*)
3. Describe Esau. (*Answers may vary: He was hairy, he liked hunting, and he wrestled with his brother before they were even born.*)
4. Describe Jacob. (*Answers may vary: He wasn't hairy, he liked staying closer to home, and he wrestled with his brother before they were even born.*)
5. After Esau returned from hunting one day while Jacob was cooking stew, what happened next? (*Esau demanded some of the soup Jacob was cooking because Esau was really hungry.*)
6. What did Jacob say when Esau asked for some stew? (*Jacob said that he would trade him the soup for Esau's rights as the firstborn.*)
7. What were some of the rights that the firstborn had? (*The firstborn would receive money and possessions when the father passed away. He also received the opportunity to eventually lead the family.*)
8. Did Esau decide to be wise and patient? (*No. He was impatient and gave up his rights for the bowl of stew.*)
9. Why was this such an unwise choice? (*Answers may vary, like: This was an unwise choice because bad things happened, including a lot of fighting within the family. Esau also missed out on a lot of good things.*)
10. What could have happened if Esau decided to be patient? (*Answers may vary*)

#### What You Say:

“When Esau was faced with a choice of this or that—wait and eat later, or give up his rights for a bowl of stew—what choice did he make? (*Pause for responses.*) You're right! Esau didn't wait, and he gave up his rights as the oldest son.

“Because of Esau's impatience, many bad things happened, including a lot of fighting within the family. Eventually he and Jacob made up, but Esau would still have to live with the consequences of his impatience.

“God never gives up on us. And God forgives us when we show impatience. But, just like Esau, there are real consequences when we don’t wait. So, remember this: ***[Bottom Line]*** **When you think you can’t wait, think twice.**”

## \* 2. Think Twice

### [Live for God | Application Activity]

*Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment*

**What You Need:** “Think Twice” Activity Page, “Think Twice Stickers” Activity Page, and markers

#### What You Do:

- Give every kid a “Think Twice” Activity Page.
- Set out the “Think Twice Stickers” Activity Page for kids to share from during the activity.
  - Explain that the “x2” is a reminder to think twice before reacting.
- Choose one kid to read the first scenario from the “Think Twice” Activity Page.
- Instruct the kids to place a “x2” label from the “Think Twice Stickers” Activity Page in the circle next to the first scenario.
- Ask: “If you choose to think twice, what kind of outcome could you have?”
- Set out the markers.
- Invite kids to use the markers to draw a picture or write out how the story could end when they choose to think twice in the box beside the first scenario on the “Think Twice” Activity Page.
- Invite volunteers to share their “Think Twice” endings to each scenario.
- Repeat with each of the four scenarios on the “Think Twice” Activity Page.
- Keep the extra stickers for the Pray and Dismiss Activity.

#### What You Say:

“Good job thinking twice, friends! It can be easy to make unwise decisions. Our emotions can lead us astray before we even realize it. This could look like anger taking over and yelling at our sister when she borrows your favorite shirt, or greed causing you to feel ungrateful when you’re waiting for a turn to play a game. This is why it’s so important to think twice. Thinking twice gives us a second to breathe. It helps us make a wise decision that benefits everyone, including you!

“The best part is, we don’t have to figure out how to make the wise, patient choice alone. See, when we follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live inside us. Patience is a gift from God’s Spirit. So, **[Bottom Line] when you think you can’t wait, think twice.**”

**[Make It Personal] (Share about a time you showed patience by stopping to think twice and how it helped you make the wise choice.)**

### 3. Echo That

#### [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

*Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group*

**What You Need:** Bibles, paper, and markers

#### What You Do:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Instruct the teams to sit on separate sides of your group space.
- Give each team a Bible, three pieces of paper, and a marker.
- Together, look up the Memory Verse using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

**Finding verses with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders:** Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Psalms in the list under “Old Testament.” When the kids find Psalms, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Psalms. Help the kids find the page. When they find Psalms, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 27. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 14 in chapter 27.

- Instruct teams to write out each of the three lines from the Memory Verse on a separate piece of paper—that’s one line per paper.
- When teams have finished, choose a team to go first.
- Quietly assign each team a voice (see the Voice Ideas below) to recite the Memory Verse, section by section.
  - Instruct Team 1 to recite line 1 of the Memory Verse in the voice idea they’ve been assigned.
  - Instruct Team 2 to echo line 1 the Memory Verse in the voice they heard Team 1 use.
  - Repeat with lines 2 and 3 of the Memory Verse.
- Allow Team 2 to guess Team 1’s assigned voice when finished.
- Continue by assigning a new voice to Team 2 and echoing the Memory Verse in that new voice.
- Continue with other voices as time and interest allow.

#### Voice Ideas:

- Cowboy
- Robot
- Opera singer
- Pirate
- Dog
- Cat

#### What You Say:

“Did you know studies show that people need to hear something seven times before it really sinks in? Whether I’m learning a Memory Verse or just trying to make a wise choice, it helps to think about it over and over again. Our Memory Verse reminds us that with God’s help, it’s possible to wait. It’s possible to think twice. We don’t have to act quickly. God has given us the Holy Spirit to help us stay strong and be patient. **[Bottom Line] When you think you can’t wait, think twice.**”

## 4. Discussion Questions

### [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

*Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding*

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

### What You Do:

#### Ask:

- What are the signs that you're about to lose your patience? Why might it be helpful to know those signs?
- What can you do to be ready the next time you feel yourself getting impatient?
- Why do you think waiting can be hard for us?
- What are some situations you really want to do better at when it comes to waiting and thinking twice before you act?
- Do you think anyone has ever regretted being patient?
- Patience is a fruit of the Spirit. Does that change how you see patience?
- Why do you think patience is a fruit of the Spirit?
- How does having patience reflect a relationship with Christ?

## 5. Pray and Dismiss

### [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

*Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application*

#### What You Say:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember?
- How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission?

**What You Need:** Strips of stickers from the "Think Twice Stickers" Activity Page, and markers

#### What You Do:

- Give each kid a strip of stickers from the "Think Twice Stickers" Activity Page.
- Set out the markers for kids to decorate their stickers.
- Encourage the kids to take these stickers home and wear a different one several days this week to remind them to think twice.
- Close your group time in prayer.

#### What You Say:

"Dear God, thank You for the gift of patience through Your Holy Spirit. We know that when we choose to believe in You and follow You, we aren't left alone in our waiting. You give us a way to be strong and have hope while we wait. Please make it clear this week when we need to show patience. Help us to slow down and remember: **[Bottom Line] When you think you can't wait, think twice.** We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, ask kids to share one of their outcomes from the Think Twice Activity and show their "Think Twice Stickers."



## GETTING READY

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

### **GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)**

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible Story applies to real-life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

**(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)**

*\* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #2.*

### **Story Exploration: No Supplies**

#### **1. This or That**

**[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]**

*Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body*

**What You Need:**

- Print "This or That" Activity Page on paper, one for each Small Group

#### **\* 2. Think Twice**

**[Live for God | Application Activity]**

*Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment*

**What You Need:**

- Print "Think Twice" Activity Page on paper, one for each kid
- Print "Think Twice Stickers" Activity Page on Avery® Labels #8293 or equivalent, four stickers for each kid
  - Print several additional stickers for each kid to have a strip of stickers to take home during the Pray and Dismiss Activity.
- Markers, enough for kids to share

#### **3. Echo That**

**[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]**

*Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group*

**What You Need:**

- Bibles
- Paper, six pieces for each Small Group
- Markers, enough for kids to share

#### **4. Pray and Dismiss**

**[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]**

*Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application*

**What You Need:**

- Strips of stickers from the "Think Twice Stickers" Activity Page, one strip for each kid
  - Before group time, cut the "Think Twice Stickers" Activity Page into strips that contain several stickers.
  - Make one strip for each kid.
- Markers

*NOTE: Week 4 will require one empty water bottle for each kid. Continue asking leaders and others to save their bottles!*

**HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience**

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Parent Cue app**