LJ & FAMILY · MINISTRY KIT · EPISODE 21

Patience, LJ!

A 20-minute lesson for Sunday school, VBS or midweek kids · Galatians 5:22 and Genesis 8:1–22

Questions or a church request: hello@ljandfamily.com · ljandfamily.com

AGES	4–10 (adaptations for 3–5 and 10–12 at the end)
YOU NEED	A screen for the episode · paper cups, potting soil and bean seeds · stickers · crayons · the coloring page
EPISODE	Ep 21, Patience, LJ! (3:46) · youtu.be/Lj7Ma8FkJVk
MEMORY VERSE	"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience." Galatians 5:22
BIBLE STORY	Noah waits for God's perfect time (Genesis 8:1–22)
THE ONE THING THEY TAKE HOME	Patience is waiting with a happy heart. God is always working, even when we can't see it.

The class plan

MIN		WHAT HAPPENS
0–2	**Welcome**	Ask: "What is the hardest thing you ever had to wait for?" Let a few children answer.
2–6	**Watch**	Show Ep 21, Patience, LJ! (3:46).
6–10	**Talk**	Three questions below. Let them answer before you do.
10–13	**Bible**	Tell how Noah waited for God's perfect time (Genesis 8:1–22).
13–18	**Activity**	Plant a seed and make a waiting chart (below).
18–20	**Pray**	Close with the episode prayer.

Talk about it (5 minutes)

1. Why did LJ dig his seed out of the dirt? Is waiting hard for you too?

LJ wanted his seed to grow right away, and he couldn't see anything happening. Help children see that everyone finds waiting hard, and that growing takes time.

2. Little Dad waited all summer for his grandpa's tomatoes. What helped LJ wait for his sprout?

Londyn's chart gave LJ something to do each day, and he sang a song instead of digging. Talk about good things we can do while we wait.

3. Noah waited for God's perfect time. What are you waiting for, and how can you wait with a happy heart?

Help children name real things: a birthday, a trip, a new baby, getting better. We can pray, help others and trust that God is working.

Open the Bible (4 minutes)

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, and self-control." Galatians 5:22–23 (WEB)

How to tell it

Set the scene: after the big rain stopped, Noah's ark came to rest on a mountain, but water was still everywhere (Genesis 8:4–5). Noah waited. Then he sent out a raven, and then a little dove, but the dove found no place to land and came back. Pause and ask: how do you think Noah felt, waiting so long? Seven days later he sent the dove again, and that evening it flew back with a fresh olive leaf in its beak (Genesis 8:11). The land was drying up! Noah still waited until God said, "Go out of the ship" (Genesis 8:16). Finish: God put a rainbow in the sky as His promise (Genesis 9:13).

Going deeper with older kids

With older kids, read Genesis 8:1–17 together. How many times did Noah send out a bird? Why do you think Noah waited for God to tell him to leave, even after the land was dry? Connect it to Galatians 5:22 and James 5:7: like a farmer waiting for his crops, we can be patient because God is always working.

Activity: Plant a seed and make a waiting chart (4 minutes)

- Give each child a paper cup with soil. Push a bean seed in with one finger and cover it up, just like LJ.
- Make a simple waiting chart: seven squares, a sun in the corner. Each day at home, water the seed and add a sticker.
- Practice "waiting with a happy heart": count slowly to ten together with big smiles, or sing a short song.
- Optional: act out Noah sending the dove and the dove flying back with an olive leaf.

A WORD OF CARE

Some children are waiting on hard things: a parent who is away, a sick family member, a move. Let them share if they want to, and remind them gently that God is with them while they wait. Never rush a child's answer.

Close in prayer (2 minutes)

Have the children fold their hands and repeat after you, one line at a time:

God, waiting is hard for me sometimes. Thank You that You are always working, even when I can't see it. Help me wait with a happy heart, like Noah waited for Your perfect time. Amen.

Adaptations

Ages 3–5

Plant the seed together, then say “Wait, wait, wait!” and count to five with big smiles.

Ages 10–12

Do the Going Deeper section. Talk about real things that are hard to wait for, and how to trust God’s timing.

Large group

Plant seeds at tables with a leader at each. Take three answers to each question.

Short on time (10 minutes)

Watch from the waiting chart (2), one question (2), tell Noah and the dove (3), say the verse (2), pray (1).

A note for teachers

The heart of this lesson is that patience is waiting with a happy heart, because God is always working, even when we can’t see it. Children should leave with one thing they can do while they wait, and a seed to watch grow.

Send the family guide home with every child so families can watch and talk about it together. It is free to print and share at ljandfamily.com.