

“EPIC FAIL” - LESSON 1

“I Can’t Wait!”

Main Focus:

We must be patient and trust God’s timing.



Power Verse:

“Be still in the presence of the Lord, and wait patiently for him to act...”
- Psalm 37:7



Whatchagaddaknow:

“I’ll Be Patient And Trust In God!”

LEADER’S INFO

People are not very patient, generally speaking. We are so used to not having to wait for anything - instant coffee, overnight delivery, on-demand video, etc. These things have really spoiled us. We have become very impatient people.

Sadly, we rarely have patience with others or, even worse, patience with God. Impatience with God shows a clear lack of trust in Him and His ability to provide for our every need.

Through the story of King Saul, the children will learn the price of impatience and how it impacts our lives and those around us. We must learn to trust God and be patient with His timing.



“The Spark” Intro Video

“Waiting Out The Storm”



“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Peggy Sue teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”



Character Skit

“Joe King”



Offering Time



Game Time!

“We Knee(d) To Win!”



Bible Story

“King Saul’s Impatience”



Power Verse Video

“Be still in the presence of the Lord, and wait patiently for him to act...” - Psalm 37:7



Call To Action

“I Can’t Wait!”



Rewind!

Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

We must be patient and trust
God’s timing.



Power Verse:

“Be still in the presence of the Lord,
and wait patiently for him to act...”
- Psalm 37:7



Whatchagaddaknow:

“I’ll Be Patient And Trust In God!”

Lesson 1 Materials Needed:

“The Spark” Intro Video

- “Lesson 1 - The Spark” Intro Video

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

- “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video
- “Whatchagaddaknow” Trigger Video

Character Skit

- “Joe King” Theme Graphic/Music

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game Time!

- “Game Time!” Bumper Video
- “We Knee(d) To Win!” Graphic

Bible Story

- “King Saul’s Impatience” Graphics

Power Verse Video

- “Lesson 1 Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “I Can’t Wait!” Graphics
- A Large Clock
- A Remote Controlled Car

Rewind!

- “REWIND!” Bumper Video
- “REWIND!” Lesson 1 Graphics

Small Group Experience

- Sunflower Seeds
- Cups
- Plastic Spoons
- A Way To Keep Time
- Psalm 37:7 Print Piece
- Pencils, Crayons, Or Markers
- Bible

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“We Knee(d) To Win!”

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Small Group Experience



Introduction to “The Spark” Intro Video

Leader: Hey, kids! Today, we are starting a new series! It’s called “EPIC FAIL.” Now, I realize that usually we don’t have a series title that is quite so negative sounding. But it’s because we are learning from some of the major mistakes of someone in the Bible named King Saul.

We are going to learn something very important from one of King Saul’s failures today. But first, I have a question for you. Have you ever had to wait on something? What are some things you just HATE to wait on? *(allow several children to share their answers, such as Christmas, birthdays, siblings to get out of the bathroom, etc.)*

Waiting is hard to do because so many of us are impatient. We just don’t like to wait - at all. Being patient is certainly not an easy thing. Impatience can lead to real trouble, though. I want you to watch this video to see what I mean.

(play “The Spark - Intro Video Lesson 1”)

Leader: Impatience can cause real problems in our lives. When we are impatient with people, they can get their feelings hurt. When we are impatient with God, however, it can really hurt us in a big way.

King Saul made a horrible mistake by being impatient. We are going to learn all about that today. We will learn about his impatience that led to an “EPIC FAIL!” Right now, it’s time to find out “Whatchagaddaknow.”

(play “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video)



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “Joe King” *(Motivational speaker with many issues of his own! He dresses professionally, appears to be very smart, is loud, and is very energetic. For inspiration, see “Matt Foley” played by Chris Farley on Saturday Night Live in the 1990s.)*

Joe: *(comes in strong)* Okay, people! Sit up straight! Let me see those eyeballs wide open and ready for some motivation! I am not here to waste any time! I am here to whip your attitudes like mashed potatoes!

Leader: What? Where? Why? Who are you?

Joe: My name is Joe King, and I am here to change your life!

Leader: You must be joking?

Joe: That’s what I said - I am Joe King! Professional motivator and life changer! To win in life, you must work hard, complain less, listen more, not let people tell you it can’t be done, and make no excuses!

Leader: This must be a mistake. Are you sure you are in the right place?

Joe: Mistake? Some of the most beautiful things in life come from our mistakes! Nope! I am exactly where I need to be.

Leader: Well, okay then. Welcome, Joe King. It’s good to meet you, I think.

Joe: Look, I got word that there is about to be an “epic fail” around here! I said to myself, “Joe, we cannot let that happen!” And then myself said to me, “Joe, you are right! Let’s do something about it.” Then I said to myself, “Joe, let’s go share our gift and passion with these people.” And then myself said to me, “Now, that’s a great idea!” So here we are!

Leader: You heard there was going to be an epic fail here? That makes no sense at all. I believe we have everything under control here. Ohhhhhhh! HAHA! I think I know what’s going on. You heard that we were starting a new series of teaching called “Epic Fail.” That’s it!

Joe: Hey, I know what I heard. I cannot just stand by and allow an epic fail to take place! Not anywhere, at anytime! So I took a bath, combed my hair, brushed my teeth, and even flossed! I cleaned my glasses and put on my tie! I am here to get the job done! Today is the only day in which we have the power!

Leader: Well, that’s good to know. If we walk with Jesus, every day is a day we have power!

Joe: Okay, yes! I’ll give you that one. May I use that in my speeches?

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CHARACTER SKIT

(continued)

Leader: Sure, if you want to. It is the truth!

Joe: And truth is why I am here! I want us all to be winners! You see, winners don’t do different things - they do things differently! Everyone, stand up and repeat after me. “I AM A WINNER!” (let kids repeat) Louder! “I AM A WINNER!” (kids repeat) Very good! Don’t you ever forget that.

Leader: Well, okay, Joe. But you have to be patient because these are just kids, you know.

Joe: Well, it’s time for change! It’s a tough world out there, and these kids must be prepared!

Leader: That’s what we do here every week, Joe King!

Joe: Joking? Please, no time for joking. We have a lot of work to do!

Leader: No, I was calling you by your name - JOE KING.

Joe: Look, I just want us all to be our very best without all the stress. Be the actor and director in your movie called “Your Life”! Be in charge! Take control! Time is short, you know. If not now, then when?

Leader: Yes, time is short, and that’s why we need to move on here! Mr. Joe, we are learning a great lesson today. No doubt God has a plan for our lives, but it does not happen overnight. We have to really trust God for the now and for our future, and we have to be very patient.

Joe: You know, some people are able to find beauty in anything. Those people are meant to change the world! That’s who I am! I just want to change the world! Okay, we will take it a little slow here - but not too slow! Before you know it, these kids will be all grown up and living in this crazy world!

Leader: I agree. We have to take advantage of the now so these children will be everything they need to be for God in their lives.

Joe: Well, okay then! It looks as if we have made some progress today! Not much, but I can work with it. Wonderful! You kids work hard on everything you have heard me say because next week there just might be a pop quiz! Hey, I am Joe King! Stay motivated! SEE YA! (exits while his theme music plays)



GAME TIME

“We Knee(d) To Win!”

Items Needed For Game:

None

.....

Preparation:

Choose an equal number of boys and girls to compete in this relay race.

.....

How To Play:

This is a relay race. The contestants will be on their knees the entire time. One at a time, the contestants will walk on their knees to a turnaround point of your choice. Once they have walked all the way to the turnaround point and back, they must tag the next person in line.

The first team to have all players complete the task is declared the winning team!



Bible Story

“King Saul’s Impatience”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 1; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story in 1 Samuel 10-13; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story.

The Story:

Today’s Bible Story begins with the nation of Israel, God’s chosen people. They looked around at the other nations and saw that they had kings to lead them. They begged Samuel, the prophet, to tell God to give them a king. Samuel knew that this would not turn out well, but he asked God to provide a king for Israel anyway. God allowed Samuel to choose a king.

Samuel found a man named Saul and anointed him as king. (*show pic*) Saul was someone who seemed like he would make a perfect king. He was tall, handsome, and strong. He seemed like an obvious choice to be king. What could possibly go wrong?



After anointing Saul as the new king of Israel, Samuel knew one of the first things that needed to be done was to worship God with a special sacrifice. Samuel told Saul to go to a place called Gilgal. (*show pic*) He said, “At Gilgal, wait for me. I will join you there to sacrifice offerings to the Lord. You must wait for seven days until I arrive and give you further instructions.”



Seems like a pretty easy task, right? All Saul had to do was wait for the prophet, Samuel, to arrive. Then, Samuel would give him special instructions about the proper way to perform the sacrifice to God.” Saul went on his way. He even led some of Israel’s troops into battle and won.



After a while, Saul ultimately arrived at Gilgal and waited for Samuel to arrive. Saul waited seven days, but Samuel did not arrive. Rather than wait any longer, Saul decided to perform the sacrifice to God himself. (*show pic*) He set the sacrifice on fire, and it burned bright and strong. The only problem was that Samuel had told Saul that God wanted him to wait until Samuel got there so he could give him very special instructions.



Samuel arrived right as the sacrifice finished burning. He couldn’t believe how impatient Saul had been. (*show pic*) Samuel walked up and saw the smoldering fire of the sacrifice and exclaimed to Saul, “What have you done?” Saul made up an excuse as to why he didn’t want to wait on God’s timing. Samuel told Saul, “You have failed. If you had waited and obeyed God’s instructions, your kingdom would have lasted forever. Since you did not wait, your kingdom will come to an end.” Oh my! What an EPIC FAIL!

In your lesson today, you are going to learn the importance of having patience. It’s super important!



Call To Action “I Can’t Wait!”

Materials Needed:

The “I Can’t Wait!” graphics; a large clock; a remote control car

Preparation:

Begin with the slide titled, “I Can’t Wait!”



The Message: *(title slide)*

Bring the large clock up to the stage with you. Hold it in your hands with the face towards the children. Don’t say a word, but alternate between looking at the clock and looking at the children. They will start to get uncomfortable and wonder what is going on. Continue to sit there silently as you look at the clock. Finally, after thirty seconds or so, bust out with...) WAITING! It’s such a hard thing to do. Not just waiting on Christmas, your birthday, or someone to come pick you up. Sometimes you have to wait on God. That can be very hard.

Have you ever prayed for something and had to WAIT for it to happen? *(share a personal story about how you had to wait a while on an answer to prayer)* Has God ever promised you something but then you had to WAIT a while for it to happen? Waiting on God is hard. It’s hard for us, and it was hard for Saul.

In our Bible Story, sadly we learned how Saul got tired of waiting on Samuel to arrive. God had given a plan to him through Samuel, but he felt like it was taking too long for Samuel to arrive. So his impatience led him to completely take things into his own hands and perform the sacrifice himself. Instead of waiting on God’s timing, he went ahead on his own.

Something we can learn from Saul’s EPIC FAIL is...



God’s Plan Requires Patience *(slide)*

God doesn’t always operate on our timetable. Sometimes He takes longer to answer our prayer than we want Him to. Sometimes He tells us to wait until He gives us the “go ahead” before we do something. It’s hard to wait on God’s timing. We want what we want, and we want it right NOW!

When we refuse to wait on God, that reveals something about us. It shows that we don’t really trust God. If we truly trusted Him, we would realize that He does all things well. His power is perfect, and His timing is perfect. But instead of having patience and trusting Him, too often we take things into our own hands and do things our own way. That is a result of impatience in our lives. Sadly...

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Call To Action (Continued)



Impatience Leads To Failure *(slide)*

Saul was impatient. That impatience led to an EPIC FAIL in his life. If he had been patient, God would have blessed him with a kingdom that never ended. That means that his son would have been king, then his grandson, then his great grandson, and so on. The crown would have stayed in his family forever. But because he was impatient, God said his kingdom had to end. What a failure!

It’s the same with you and me. When we decide our way is better instead of trusting God’s plan, we end up in an EPIC FAIL, too. We must learn to be patient. If we trust God’s timing, everything will work out fine. If we take things into our own hands, we fail.

So if we aren’t supposed to take things into our own hands like Saul did, what should we do?



I Must Trust God’s Timing *(slide)*

We can trust God. God is in control of everything in this world! He knows what is going to happen today, tomorrow, and even thousands of years into the future. He is in control, so you can trust Him. If He tells you to do something that may require you to wait...you can trust that there is a good reason.

(pull out the remote control car and begin driving it toward a wall) It’s kind of like this car. Even though it is driving straight for the wall, it doesn’t have to freak out and wonder, “Why is this happening to me? Why am I driving toward the wall? I am going to craaaaash!” No, it doesn’t have to worry about that because it’s not in control - I am. *(make the car narrowly avoid the wall)* It’s the same way with us and God.

God doesn’t ask us to figure out the WHY behind his instructions. He doesn’t ask us to try to “make sense” of it all. Instead, He simply asks us to trust Him and obey. It’s that simple! And why wouldn’t you trust and obey Someone who knows EVERYTHING, created EVERYTHING, and is more powerful than EVERYTHING?

Trust God’s timing. It requires patience, but it is totally worth it. If you trust Him and obey, He will bless you. But if you are impatient and refuse to trust Him, it could lead to an EPIC FAIL!

ALTAR RESPONSE *(play soft music)*

Pray for the children who are having difficulty trusting God’s timing. Pray that they will begin to trust God to come through in the toughest situations. Pray for those who are struggling to obey God’s commands. Remind them that blessing follows obedience. God is good. We can trust Him and be patient.



Materials Needed:

“REWIND!” Lesson 1 Graphics; “REWIND!” Bumper Video

Preparation:

Play the “REWIND!” Bumper Video; Begin with the slide titled “REWIND!”; there is a slide for each question

1. Whatchagaddaknow today?

Answer: “I’ll Be Patient And Trust In God!”

2. What is the name of the man who became king in our Bible Story?

Answer: Saul

3. Who anointed Saul as king?

Answer: Samuel the Prophet

4. What did Samuel tell Saul to do when he got to Gilgal?

Answer: Wait

5. What did Saul decide to go ahead and do without waiting on Samuel?

Answer: Sacrifice

6. Was Samuel happy with Saul’s impatience?

Answer: No

7. According to our lesson today, “God’s Plan Requires _____.”

Answer: Patience

8. According to our lesson today, “Impatience Leads To _____.”

Answer: Failure

9. According to our lesson today, “I Must _____ God’s Timing.”

Answer: Trust

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: Psalm 37:7