

LIVING WATER



WATERED

BIBLE PASSAGE

John 7

BIG IDEAS

We are saved for a purpose.

In times of waiting, we can trust that God's plan is best!

Jesus offers Living Water (the Holy Spirit).

Being in church regularly helps us grow in God.

MEMORY VERSE

PSALM 37:7 | Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him.

CHARACTER TRAIT

PATIENCE | Waiting without losing hope

LESSON OVERVIEW

Introduction

- **CHARACTER TRAIT** | Patience

Bible Lesson Review

- **PART #1** | Living Water
- **VERSE** | Psalm 37:7
- **PART #2** | Watered for a Purpose
- **REINFORCEMENT ACTIVITY** | Drip, Drop, Flip!

Application

Invitation

PREPARATION

- Gather necessary materials.
- Place pillow inside box or bag.
- Print on white cardstock and cut out Day #3 Pillow Cards.
- Print Bristlecone Pine Tree Picture.

MATERIALS

- Bible

INTRODUCTION

- Character Poster | Patience
- Bristlecone Pine Tree Picture (See Teacher Resources online or ask your VBS Director)

LIVING WATER

- Small bottles or cups of water, 1 per student

VERSE

- Verse Poster | Psalm 37:7
- Pillow
- Large box or bag (that the pillow can fit inside without being seen)
- Day #3 Pillow Cards
- White cardstock, 5 sheets

REINFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

- 1 or 2 plastic bottles $\frac{1}{3}$ full of water



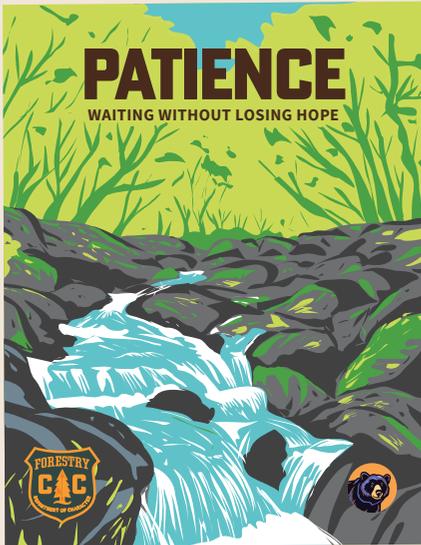
SWITCH IT UP!

CHANGE IS REFRESHING!

CHANGE THE ORIENTATION OF THE ROOM. MOVE OR REMOVE CHAIRS. TEACH IN A DIFFERENT LOCATION IN THE ROOM.

MAKE IT NEW AND EXCITING!





INTRODUCTION

CHARACTER TRAIT | PATIENCE

Open with prayer. Pick up the large box and put it on a table at the front of the class.

I brought something today I'd like to show you, but I need a volunteer. Ask a student to come to the front and shake the box, but not open it. Hmm. It doesn't make much noise, does it? Can you guess what's inside? Take answers. Those are great guesses! Would you like to see what's inside? Wait for them to answer. If they don't answer, say, "Well, would you?!" Ah, well, I'm sorry, but you'll have to wait to find out! Students will probably protest. I know. It's hard to be patient sometimes, isn't it?

Today's character trait is patience! It means "waiting without losing hope."

Give a personal illustration of a time you had to wait patiently. Allow 1-2 students to share experiences as well.

Trees are a great example of things that are patient. They take a *really* long time to grow! Show picture of the **bristlecone pine tree**. The oldest-known tree in the world is named "Methuselah" after the oldest man in the Bible. (Methuselah lived to be 969 years old!) Can you guess how old the Methuselah tree is? Take answers. Based on tree ring data that's been collected, the Methuselah tree is over 4,850 years old! Now, *that's* old!

Methuselah is a Great Basin bristlecone pine. It grows in eastern California in a very harsh environment. Methuselah endures harsh wind, freezing temperatures, and very dry soil. So how on earth has it survived this long?

The neat thing about this particular type of tree is its root system. The roots dig down deep into the soil to find moisture. Each root provides nourishment to a specific part of the tree. That way, if a root dies off, only a small portion of the tree is affected. Isn't God's creation amazing!?



BIBLE LESSON REVIEW

LIVING WATER

Just like a tree withers away from lack of water, our souls are dry without the Living Water. Our theme verse, Jeremiah 17:8, points out that when a tree is planted by the water, it doesn't worry about heat or not having rain. It has a constant source of fresh water flowing right by it.

Let's say you've been playing out in the hot sun. You're sweaty and tired. What's one of the first things on your mind when you come inside? Take answers. A nice cold glass of water is probably pretty high on the list. Hold up glass of water with ice in it and take a drink. Mm-mmm! That is so refreshing! Would you like some water? Have an Assistant pass out small cups or bottles of water. There's nothing like water to quench thirst! You may want to have kids throw away their trash, or put a lid on their water bottles and put them under their chairs before proceeding.

Jesus gave an example of this in John 7. But first, let me give you a little background. In Jesus's day, the Jews celebrated feasts in memory of special occasions. In our story today, they were celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles (sometimes called the Festival of Shelters or Feast of Booths). They held this feast every year for 7



days in order to celebrate the Israelites' escape from slavery in Egypt hundreds of years earlier. Everyone was required to go to the Temple in Jerusalem to worship the Lord and remember how He had provided for them.

Each day, as a special part of this feast, a priest would leave the temple and scoop water into a golden pitcher from a special pool called, Siloam. Then, the priest would return to the temple. At the sound of trumpets, the priest poured the water onto one of the corners of the altar. The Jews believed that this was a symbol of how God provided rain and blessings. They also believed that it represented the pouring out of "living waters" of salvation, or God's Holy Spirit. (The prophet Isaiah had written about this years earlier in Isaiah 44:3.) **Read verse if time permits.**

On the last day of the festival, Jesus stood up and made an amazing statement! **Read John 7:37-9.** Jesus was saying He was able to give the "Living Water" (or, Holy Spirit) everyone had been waiting for! All you had to do was believe in Him! This was incredible!

When the people heard Jesus offer "Living Water", some believed, saying that He was the Prophet or Messiah for whom they had been waiting. But others wanted to arrest Jesus. Eventually, that's exactly what happened.

One of Jesus' disciples betrayed Him. Jesus was captured, tried before the Roman leader, Pilate, and sentenced to death. Jesus had already predicted that he would die to pay for the sins of the world. **Read (or have students read) Philippians 2:6-8.** When the Bible says Jesus "humbled himself, becoming obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." (**Philippians 2:8**), do you understand what that means? Death by crucifixion (or hanging on a cross) is one of the cruelest and most humiliating forms of torture ever invented. Jesus could have said He didn't want to die that way. Instead, He chose to humble himself and pay the penalty for sin so you and I didn't have to.

Jesus knew God's plan was best and did not get upset or give up even though he faced great difficulty on the cross. He willingly went to the cross and had hope because He knew God would raise Him from the dead.

Jesus was patient in difficulty. He didn't try to defend Himself when he was being wrongfully accused. He waited patiently without losing His temper or getting angry with those who were being mean to him.

Being patient is hard. In times of waiting, we can trust that God's plan is best!

VERSE | PSALM 37:7

Speaking of waiting, you've been waiting to find out what's inside this box! Would you like to see what it is? **Ask for a volunteer to come to the front and open the box. Pull out the pillow and lay your head on it.** Ah, a nice, comfy pillow! How many of you like to sleep with a pillow? When I see a pillow, I think about sleeping or resting.



Psalm 37:7 says, "Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him." Stand and say that verse with me, beginning and ending with the reference. **Show Verse Poster.**

YOUNGER STUDENTS | Use a teaching method from page 15.

OLDER STUDENTS | Divide the class into 2 teams. Distribute one set of verse cards to each team. (If there are only a few students, have all the students work together to beat the clock.)

Repeat activity as time permits.



WATERED FOR A PURPOSE

Jesus was in the temple often. We can learn from His example. It's important to go to Sunday school and church often because that's one way we can learn more about God. Do you go to a church regularly that teaches from the Bible? We grow spiritually when we listen to what God has to say.

REINFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

DRIP, DROP, FLIP! | See box for details.

APPLICATION

TALKING POINT #1

THINK & DISCUSS | What are some things that you find hard to wait for? **Examples: meals, younger siblings, new toy/game, fun event, parents & shopping, trips, etc.**

ACTION STEP | Plan ahead. Take something with you to do. Instead of getting frustrated, view times of waiting as a chance to practice patience.

TALKING POINT #2

THINK & DISCUSS | What can we learn from Jesus about being patient?

ACTION STEP | Practice having a good attitude and trust that God's plan is best.

TALKING POINT #3

THINK & DISCUSS | Is there a time you have placed your faith in Jesus Christ to save you from your sin?

ACTION STEP | **Segue to invitation.**

INVITATION

Today, Jesus offers you Living Water. He wants you to grow in Him! When you ask Jesus to save you, He gives you the Holy Spirit to live inside you. The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin and helps us grow spiritually. Will you accept this free gift?

Close in prayer. Call to action ideas: salvation, spiritual growth, committing to be patient, committing to attend church regularly, etc.



DRIP, DROP, FLIP!

INSTRUCTIONS

When you answer a question correctly. Come to the front. If you flip this bottle of water in the air and it lands right-side up, you will receive an additional 1,000 points! **Demonstrate if desired.**

QUESTIONS

1. Who would scoop the water from the pool of Siloam?
Answer: The priest
2. Who said He would give Living Water?
Answer: Jesus
3. Living Water represents the _____.
Answer: Holy Spirit
4. Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our _____.
Answer: Sins
5. Had Jesus ever done anything wrong?
Answer: No
6. What is one way we can grow spiritually?
Answers: Prayer, Bible reading, church
7. Patience means waiting without losing _____.
Answers: Hope
8. According to Psalm 37:7, who should we wait patiently for?
Answer: The Lord
9. How old is the Methuselah Tree?
Answer: 4,850+ years
10. Trees grow best when they are planted by what?
Answer: Water

