



Overview: Patience (Sarah)



Story:

Sarah was the wife of Abraham and could not have children, but God promised Abraham they would have a son and Sarah would be "a mother of nations." Sarah did not believe God's promise and grew impatient waiting, so she gave her maidservant, Hagar, to Abraham, and they had a son named Ishmael. When Ismael was 13, God visited Abraham and said he and Sarah would have a child within one year, and Sarah laughed sarcastically. One year later, when Sarah was 90, she bore Isaac, and her bitterness turned into joyful laughter.

Key Bible Verses:

—God promised Abraham many children, but Sarah didn't believe God, so she gave her maidservant to Abraham to have a child, and Ismael was born. (Gen. 11:30; 15:5; 16:2, 15)

—God heard Sarah's laughter of unbelief and asked, "Is anything too hard for the LORD?" and by God's power, Sarah gave birth to a son, Isaac. (Gen. 18:14; 21:1).

Lessons from Sarah

Sarah was angry and grew impatient because she couldn't have children and didn't believe God's promise. She didn't trust God's wisdom or timing and tried to fulfill His promise with her plan. Sarah's disappointments turned to bitterness, and she lost her joy and laughter. If we complain and give up on people and life, we lose our ability to see God's goodness and lack patience and love. When people and situations frustrate us because our relationships and life aren't going the way we want, we should say, "God, even though this is not what I would have chosen, I trust You because You know what's best for me." ***Is anything too hard for the LORD? (Gen. 18:14)***



Lesson: Patience (Sarah)

Is anything too hard for the LORD? (Gen. 18:14)

What is patience?

- Patience means we live a life of gratitude, generosity, forgiveness, kindness, and gentleness as we trust and obey God's perfect timing.
- Patience is continuing to love others while not being selfish, jealous, harsh, and not complaining or giving up when we don't get our way.

Faith, Hope, and Patience

- Jesus was patient with people who frustrated Him and He trusted God even when things didn't go His way.
- If we believe God's promises and wait for His timing without complaining, we get something better than we can give ourselves.

How can I have patience?

- Replace your thoughts about yourself and what you're not getting with thoughts about Jesus and the cross and His patience with you.
- Confess your impatience to God and someone you trust, and pray for courage to handle disappointments with grace and gratitude.

Role-play

- Conversation Starter: Do you believe God is good?
Thought Challenge: Can you trust God knows what is best for you?
- Conversation Starter: Do you think it's important to be patient?
Thought Challenge: Is it easy or hard to be patient and why?

Lessons

- When people and life frustrate us, respond with humility and be patient and loving toward others, trusting God's plan and timing.
- Be patient with disappointments, be humble, and confess you don't always know what is best for you, and you will find joy and peace.



Take-away: Patience (Sarah)

Is anything too hard for the LORD? (Gen. 18:14)



Sarah learned patience through trust and faith in God giving birth to Isaac at 90 years old and became the mother of nations.



Scripture: Patience (Sarah)

By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. (Heb. 11:11)

I will bless her, and give you a son by her and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.” (Gen. 17:16)

Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.” (Gen. 18:14)

Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; (Ps. 37:7)

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. (Gal. 6:9)