

Issue 188

this magazine belongs to:

# Bible Explorers

Love the LORD and learn!



This issue we'll be looking at **patience**

Waiting for  
the kingdom

Seeds!

The patience of  
Job

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# Hi Bible Explorers!

Welcome back! This issue is the next in our 'fruit of the spirit' series. Probably by now you can guess which one is next: **patience**.

Patience is something that we all need to work hard to achieve – and sometimes can be **very difficult** if we've got people around us who we find annoying or difficult! Like all of the fruits of the spirit, it's something that doesn't come **naturally** to most of us, but that is a really important part of God's **character** so he asks us to try to copy it. We're going to look at **2 types of patience**, and some people from the Bible who showed them to us.

As always, have fun – and let us know what you think!

Lots of love,

**Joel, Claire, and Phoebe**

P.S: you may have found the crossword extra tricky last time. That's because we made a mistake! 3 down is 'tribulation' and 4 down has an extra space, because the word sometimes has a hyphen (-) in the middle.



# Dear Diary...

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This time I am going to tell you about East Anglia Family Camp. I

went there in the summer holidays and it was incredibly fun!

On **Saturday** my family and I arrived and were greeted by a horde of friends running towards our car! I was in the girls tent & it was so fun!

On **Sunday** there were exciting outdoor games and a late night walk.

On **Monday** the tuck shop was open and I helped to run it! There were also crazy water fights.

On **Tuesday** we had a beach day and did some crafts.

On **Wednesday** the tuck shop was open again and there was a fun game called 'Acts-olute Balderdash'.



On **Thursday** we did a work out quiz and went swimming.

On **Friday** there was a Grand Finale where lots of campers did acts in front of everyone. There was also a really fun camp fire and hymn singing.

On **Saturday** it was very sad because everyone had to go home. We packed up our tent and loaded the car before saying goodbye to everyone.

Throughout the whole week, Uncle Kitson Reid led amazing studies on the book of **Acts**. What I enjoyed most from the talks was the links he made to other books in the Bible, showing how it truly is **inspired** by God.

Camp showed to me how special and important it is to spend time with others who believe in God. I would really recommend camp to **everyone**!

**Time for a joke!**

What did one marshmallow say to the other marshmallow  
around the camp fire?

Time to get **toasty**!!



Bye for now. Anna x

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## What is patience?

Your Bible might say something like 'longsuffering' in Galatians 5 – this means the same thing as patience. It's the idea of **waiting** for something or someone without **complaining** about it – and, crucially, without **giving up** on what you're waiting for!

There are lots of things that might need patience in our lives now – can you list some?

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The MOST important thing that God has asked us to wait for is his Kingdom, like in 1 Thessalonians 1:10.

"wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come."

Can you unscramble these anagrams to find words that mean patience?

drceenanu

serpanvereec

reabcanrofe

# Waiting for the Kingdom <sup>4</sup>

It's important for us to be **patient** for the kingdom – we can't **give up** on waiting for it, because it is our hope – to be with God forever and help make the world a **perfect place** again!

Romans 8:23-25 says

We are... eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body... we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

This is a bit of a complicated verse, but it's saying that we should wait '**eagerly**' for the kingdom, with patience. So it's not about having the kingdom in the **background**, knowing it will come at some point – its about being **SO** excited for it because we're **desperate** for it to come – and also **not giving up hope** if it comes **later** than we would like it to!



The key to understanding patience is that it is an **ACTIVE** patience which the Bible describes. For example, the Good News Bible translates **Romans 5:1** as "**PASSIONATE PATIENCE**".

We can't grow fruit from sitting and waiting, it's about **waiting** for what we've been promised despite **difficulties** that may face us, while actively working on our faith.

## صبر چیست؟

کتاب مقدس شما ممکن است چیزی شبیه به «صبر» در غلاطیان ۵ بگوید - هر دو به یک معنی هستند. این ایده منتظر چیزی یا کسی ماندن بدون شکایت از آن است - و مهمتر از همه، بدون تسلیم شدن از آنچه! منتظرش هستید!

چیزهای زیادی در  
زندگی ما وجود دارد که  
ممکن است به صبر  
نیاز داشته باشند -  
می‌توانید چند مورد را  
فهرست کنید؟

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مهمترین چیزی که خدا  
از ما خواسته است  
منتظرش باشیم،  
پادشاهی اوست،  
همانطور که در اول  
تسالونیکیان ۱:۱۰ آمده  
است.

منتظر پسر او از آسمان»  
باشید که او را از مردگان  
برخیزانید، یعنی عیسی که ما  
را از غضب آینده رهایی  
می‌بخشد.»

## در انتظار پادشاهی

برای ما مهم است که برای پادشاهی خدا صبور باشیم - ما نمی‌توانیم از انتظار کشیدن برای آن دست بکشیم، زیرا این امید ماست - که برای همیشه با خدا باشیم و کمک کنیم تا جهان دوباره به مکانی بی‌نقص تبدیل شود!

رومیان ۸:۲۳-۲۵ می‌گویند

ما... مشتاقانه منتظر فرزندخواندگی، رهایی  
جسممان هستیم... ما با پشتکار و اشتیاق منتظر  
آن هستیم.

این آیه کمی پیچیده است، اما می‌گویند که ما باید «مشتاقانه» و با صبر منتظر پادشاهی باشیم. بنابراین، این به معنای داشتن پادشاهی در پس‌زمینه نیست، و اینکه بدانیم بالاخره در مقطعی از راه خواهد رسید - بلکه به معنای هیجان‌زده بودن برای آن است زیرا نمی‌توانیم منتظر آمدنش باشیم - و همچنین اگر دیرتر از آنچه دوست داریم فرا برسد، امیدمان را از دست ندهیم!

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# Patience Wordsearch

Be patient – you will find them in the end!

O Z R L C I P N U Q R W N O A L M B I S K I  
 R Q P C X Q W X T F A I O V W D T I U R F Q  
 L U L T M J G M H A I M A T G K H X B J Q O  
 U W M T F H N F A I T H H L W G G M K T T P  
 K H T J U E I X V U A B R A H A M Y J G N E  
 E D M O E C T O G N I R E F F U S G N O L R  
 C F O S T N I X V N P P R P Q X Y P M Y B S  
 N G A E O A A T S U R T T K A S D J J A O E  
 E L E P E R W M W V I V U W U D D L J X S V  
 I R F H F U V S G B Z B B B J M Y I O U J E  
 T B X Q X D G Q G C T M O Y S N U U B N X R  
 A B E Y Z N J B P G P E R S P E C T I V E A  
 P U A M H E H I Q S P I H E B R E W S O X N  
 F B T F X S P I R I T J P N U P P X O O B C  
 X K U C F Z A Y I L B G X S X B O I H U W E  
 I N A H N O P V I M G J L E S S H J B D D W

PATIENCE  
 ENDURANCE  
 PERSEVERANCE  
 FAITH  
 TRUST  
 LONGSUFFERING  
 PERSPECTIVE  
 WAITING



HOPE  
 NOAH  
 ABRAHAM  
 JOSEPH  
 JOB  
 HEBREWS  
 FRUIT  
 SPIRIT



# Waiting for God

The Bible is full of verses that talk about waiting for God – like this one:



Psalm 27:14

Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage. And He shall strengthen your heart: Wait, I say, on the Lord!

But what does **waiting for God** actually mean?

Like we said, its partly to do with waiting for the **Kingdom** to come. But we also wait for God in our lives **now** – God sometimes asks us to **wait** for things that we **pray** for, which can be really hard!

**PATIENCE** is about accepting **God's timing**, not our own timing. Like the Psalm says, this takes **COURAGE** – but we **know** that God will always look after us and provide what we **need**.



# Seeds

A good way to think about patience is to think about seeds! We we have to wait for God to make seeds grow: we can't MAKE them grow just because we really want it to! But we can do things to help with the growing... Ask your parents if you can have some bean or pumpkin seeds for this experiment:

Get an empty egg carton or 6 empty yoghurt pots and fill them with some soil.

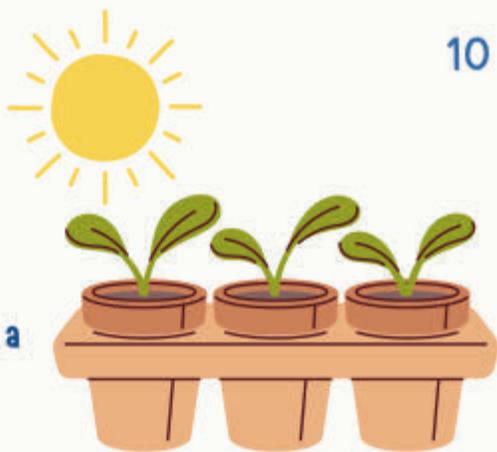


In half the pots, water the soil (without the seeds). For the other half, don't water them. Put a marker in the ones you did water.

Plant your seeds (check the packet for instructions on how deep to plant them). Cover the carton or pots with some plastic.



Your seeds should sprout within a few weeks – keep checking them! Once they have sprouted, put them in a warm sunny place.



Make sure you keep watering the marked ones – but leave the other ones... Once they're big enough, you could replant them outside (if its not too cold!)

All that **waiting** for the seeds to grow was to help you learn about patience. But why did we leave some of them **without** water?

**Ephesians 5:26** tells us that water is **symbolic** of God's word, the Bible. Without water, the plants **didn't** grow. In the same way, we need to be **patient** waiting for God's Kingdom, but it's not just **waiting around!** We need to get the Bible into our lives, so that we can **grow whilst we wait!**

# Patience with Each Other

So what about at the moment? We have to have patience to wait for the Kingdom, but we also need to be patient **with each other**.



In **Galatians 5** (the fruit of the spirit chapter), the Greek word '**makrothumia**' literally means 'slow to anger' – the opposite of 'short-tempered'! So this is all about how we act to the people around us. Do we have a '**short temper**', quick to be **angry** with our family, our friends, and everyone we meet... Or are we **patient**?

It's important to remember that God is **always** patient with us, no matter **how much** we mess up! So we should be patient with each other.

**Ephesians 4:2** tells us how to do this:

"with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering [patience], bearing with one another in love"

**FUN FACT:** The New Testament was originally written in **Greek**, and there are actually **two** Greek words for patience. The other Greek word is '**hupomone**'.

They're very **similar**. However, while '**makrothumia**' was more about being patient towards people, this word seems to be more about enduring **difficult CIRCUMSTANCES**.



And **how** do we do that? By waiting for God, holding on to our **hope** for the **Kingdom**. You can flip back to page 8 to read about '**waiting for God**' and page 4 to read about '**waiting for the Kingdom**'.

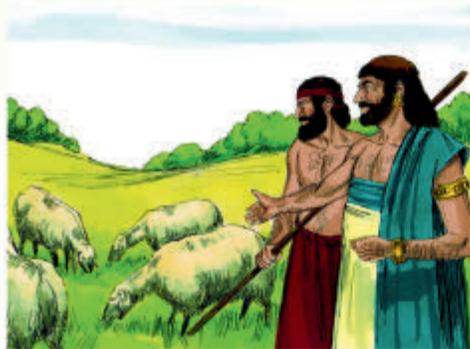
**EXPLORE MORE!**  
Use a concordance to look at these two Greek words for patience. How are they used? You might find something new and exciting to share with us!

In **James 5:10-11**. James uses this word to talk about the patience of **Job**. He says that Job is an **example** for us:

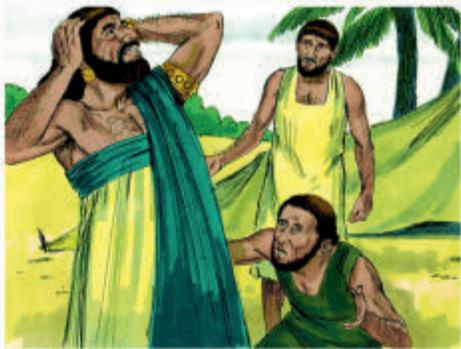
'You have heard of the **perseverance** [or **patience**] of Job and seen the end intended by the **Lord**, that he is compassionate and **merciful**.'

How did Job show patience? Flick over for the story of a man who was very patient even though he had a difficult life...

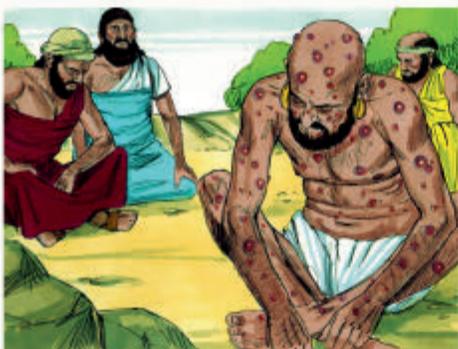
# Job



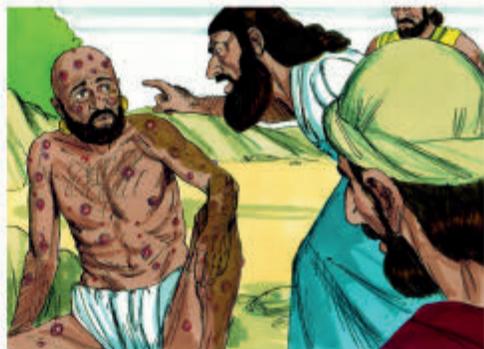
Job was a very wealthy man, with thousands of sheep, camels, oxen and donkeys. He was an upright man who feared God.



One day, messengers came to Job with awful news. His riches were stolen and his children had died.

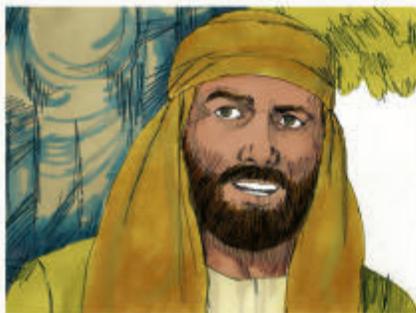


To make things even worse, Job was afflicted with painful sores. His friends came and sat with him in silence. Job wanted God to tell him why this was happening to him – but there was no answer.

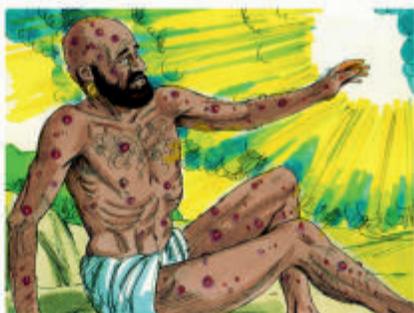


Job and his friends argued about why he was suffering. Did Job deserve this because he had done something really bad? Job explained he had done nothing wrong!

They argued and argued and argued, all the way from Job chapter 3 to Job 31!



Elihu, who was listening in, said that no one is without sin and we can sometimes appreciate God's love through our suffering. (Job 33-37)



Finally, God spoke: he asked Job lots of questions about creation to show Job how little he knew about the power of God. (Job 38-41)



In the end, although the experience was awful, it made Job understand God's perspective better. He prayed to God for his friends, who were on the same journey to know God.



God turned around his circumstances, blessing Job more than before with belongings and a family again.

For a long time Job didn't know why God was doing this to him. He was even encouraged to curse God – but he never did. Even though Job was suffering so much, he had to be very patient to learn from what he went through. One thing that helped was Job's hope that his Redeemer would save him (Job 19:25).

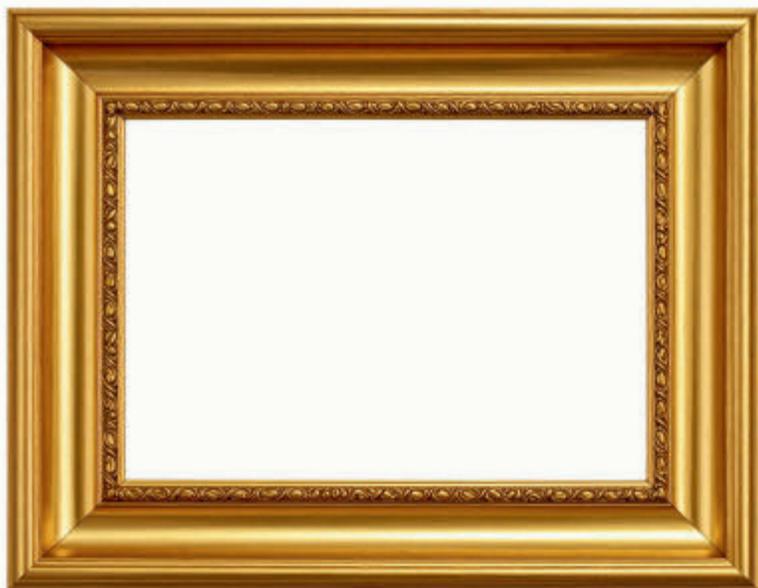
**What about patience towards each other? Turn to read about another Bible example...**

# Joseph

Joseph had to practice LOTS of patience toward his brothers! Remember how they treated him and sold him into slavery in Egypt? He was a slave and then in prison in Egypt for years and years, and all that time he was waiting for an opportunity to be reconciled with his family.

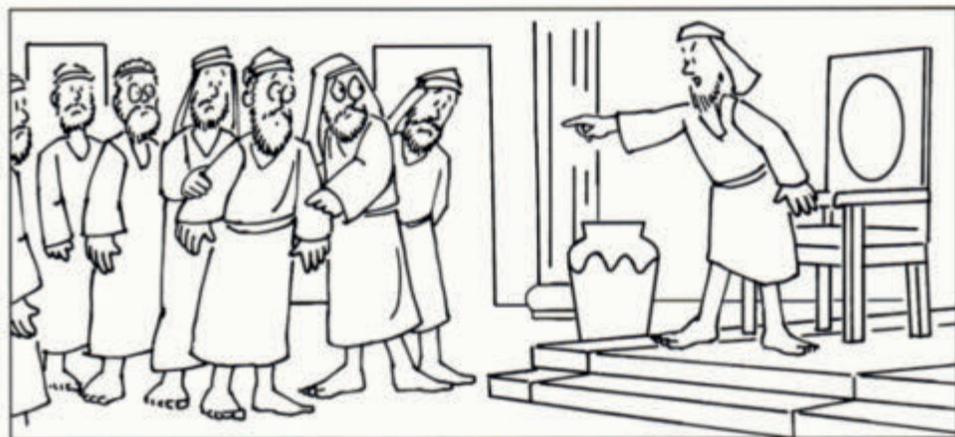
When his brothers finally showed him that they had changed, he immediately forgave them all the terrible things they had done, and was so joyful that they had turned back to God!

Do we have patience like this? Sometimes it's difficult to wait a week for someone to change if we think they are wrong – let alone years! But if Joseph could do it, we should too!



Draw your family in the frame. How can I be more patient to my family?

Spot the differences between these pictures of Joseph when he forgave his brothers after all those years of patiently waiting for them to turn back to God.



Which picture do you think is showing Joseph's forgiveness?

Once you've found the differences, you could colour in the pictures!

## Book Nook

Like we said on page 8, we often need to wait for God.

Sometimes, he asks us to **wait** for an answer to our prayers. That can be difficult for us, because most of us are naturally **impatient!**

Using a **prayer journal** can be a really good way of helping with that – you can look back at prayers from ages ago and realise how many of them were answered, often in ways you didn't expect. There's a few at the **Christadelphian Office** you could ask for, or lots of others online.



(Phoebe uses this one and loves it!

Its got a verse about prayer on every page, and ideas on what to pray for for each day)

# COMPETITION TIME!

This time, we would really like to see your Bible Explorer skills. Can you solve the Bible number puzzle?

Age of Moses when he fled to Midian (Acts 7:23-29)

+

How many degrees the shadow moved back on the sundial

(2 Kings 20:11)

×

How many days it took for God to create the world

(Exodus 20:11)

-

Number of provinces ruled by King Ahasuerus (Esther 1:1)

+

Minimum age for the census (1 Chronicles 23:27)

=

ANSWER:

BONUS - where in the Bible does this number appear?

Send your us your entries for an exciting Bible-themed prize! Details on the back cover for where to send them.

## Key verse:

'Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him'

Psalm 37:7

Send your competition  
answers (including the bonus  
verse if you found it!) by  
email to  
[phoebe.jefferies@icloud.com](mailto:phoebe.jefferies@icloud.com)

Or post to  
65 School Street  
Wolston  
Coventry  
CV8 3HG

Well done to Bohdan from Kettering, who sent in his  
completed puzzles from the last issue. Thank you  
Bohdan!

Next time we will take a look  
at the next two fruits of the  
Spirit, kindness and  
goodness.

