



DAY 4

Do you know anyone who **LIKES** to wait? Probably not. Most of us want what we want, and we want it now! Sometimes we're waiting for someone else, like our mom to finish work so we can go do something fun. Sometimes we're waiting for something fun, like a vacation. Sometimes we're waiting for something not-so-fun, like the nurse to come back in the room and give us a shot. Whether it's something we want to just get past, or something we can't wait to experience, waiting is the worst.

But what if there was something we could do to make the waiting not so bad? Draw a line from the ideas below to the situation above where the idea might be helpful.

- Play "I spy."
- Make a countdown.
- Do something helpful.

And there's one idea that you can use in any situation you have to wait. You can ask God for patience. It seems so simple, but it works. In fact, if you have put your trust in Jesus and have the Holy Spirit helping you, powering up with patience is just an ask away. Just ask God for patience, and then use the time you have to create, have fun, or be helpful, and before you know it, the waiting will be over!



DAY 1

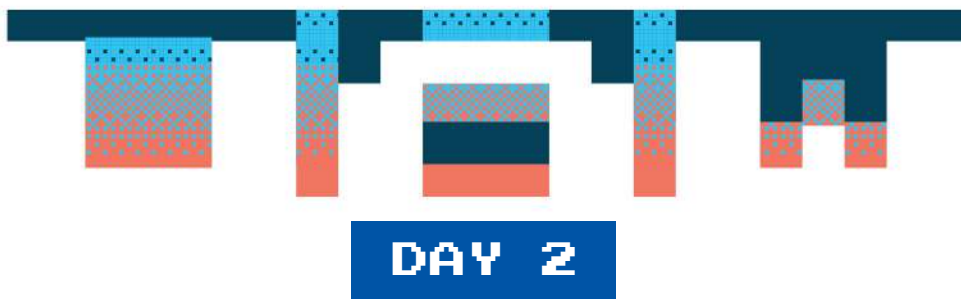
READ LUKE 2:25-35. After you read Luke 2:25-35, underline all the places where Simeon complained about waiting. Hmm, couldn't find any, could you?

Instead, underline the words that describe Simeon's response: praised God; blessed them. We don't know how old Simeon actually was when he finally got to meet Jesus, but the Bible implies that Simeon had been waiting a long time. In fact, the Holy Spirit had told him that he wouldn't die until he had met the Savior!

It's easy to imagine the day when Simeon's patience was rewarded and he stood in the temple courtyard, greeted by Mary and Joseph, carrying the Savior of the world in their arms. But what Scripture doesn't describe for us is what those days leading up to this "one day" looked like. How many days did Simeon go to the temple courtyard and stand there, waiting? How many days did he stand there for hours, hoping today would be "the day?" And then how many days did he return home, disappointed, but hopeful for the next day to be "the day?"

Waiting isn't glamorous, and you won't often find writers focusing on it. Who would want to read a book that is a description of someone waiting, day after day? No, we want the book that talks about "the day." Waiting is a part of life, and when we can learn to wait well, we will make ourselves and everyone around us a lot happier. And then when "the day" comes, as it did for Simeon, it will be a glorious day that has us praising God and blessing others, just as Simeon did.





SCENARIO 1: Your dad has promised to take you to get ice cream after he finishes up a phone call, and it's taking longer than you expected. While you're waiting, you start to feel a little angry that it's taking so long. You look down and notice your fists are clenched. By the time your dad gets off the phone, you're pacing the room.

SCENARIO 2: Your dad has promised to take you to get ice cream after he finishes up a phone call, and it's taking longer than you expected. While you're waiting, you start to feel a little angry that it's taking so long. You count to ten inside your head, take a deep breath, and say a quick prayer to ask God for patience. Then you realize you can play a video game while you wait on him.

Which of those scenarios is an example of patience? If you said scenario two, you're right! The best way to get better at being patient is to ask God for help! He wants to help you power up with patience!

What's something you often have to wait for? Is there something coming up that you have to be patient for? Talk to God about it right now and ask Him to help you wait well and practice true patience.

**WHEN YOU NEED TO WAIT,
ASK GOD FOR PATIENCE.**



Grab a friend or sibling to go on a scavenger hunt around your house. Find as many of these items as you can.

YOUR LIST:

- PIECE OF FRUIT**
- UNCOOKED NOODLES/PASTA**
- HOT GLUE GUN**
- BOOK**

YOUR FRIEND/ SIBLING'S LIST:

- PLANT**
- BOARD GAME**
- CURLING IRON OR FLAT IRON**
- POPCORN**

Once you've each gathered all your items, sit down and chat.

What do all these things have in common? You need patience to enjoy them or use them, don't you? Go through each object together and talk about why you need patience (e.g., for the fruit to ripen, or for your turn to play). Share with each other which one you think you have the hardest time waiting on, and how you might be able to wait patiently in the future.

