



Day 4: Patience and Kindness

Daily Quick Reference Guide

Scripture Passage: 1 Kings 17:8–16 Elijah and the Widow

Scripture Focus: 1 Kings 17:13

Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid! Go and do what you said. Only make a little loaf of bread for me first. Then bring it to me. You can make something for yourself and your son after that.”

Theological Summary: Patience and kindness are something we practice, yet the impact ripples across communities. Elijah is a good example for some things and a bad example of others. We can all keep growing, trusting the kindness and patience of God.

Today, campers will...

- Examine the patience and impatience in the story of Elijah and the widow.
- Learn that patience can produce kindness.
- Explore ways patience and kindness strengthen relationships with others.
- Observe the clarity and resolve that result from a patient spirit in times of action.

DAILY ACTIVITIES		
TITLE	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
Primary learning activity that explores the daily scripture is highlighted.		
___ Cup of Kindness	PLAY SERVE	Guessing game using cups
___ Take a Hike	PLAY LEARN	Give clues to find the story
___ Stick to It	PRAY CREATE	Make a “God’s Eye” craft
___ Last Comes First	PLAY	Slow motion relay race
___ Origami Prayer	PRAY LEARN	Make cups that double as gifts
___ NIM-ble Giver	PLAY	Strategic generosity game
___ Serve Here!	PLAY PRAY	Frisbee golf with prayer requests
___ Kneading Patience	CREATE LEARN	Make bread or playdough

Leader Notes: Campers might not be fans of a religious leader setting a bad example. Remind them that we are all human and that stories like this give us all permission to grow and do better.

Prayer: Lord, we praise you for your kindness and patience. Let us serve others wherever we go and be humble enough to accept help from others. Amen.

Daily Activities

Cup of Kindness

PLAY **SERVE**

Supplies: cups, pitchers of ice water

How: For this version of “Seven-Up,” you create two teams, those with cups and those who are seated with their eyes closed and backs to the first team. Campers with cups sneak up to place a cup behind someone before rejoining their group. If there’s an odd number on one side, a leader also participates. The campers now with the cups turn around to guess who gave them theirs. If they’re right, that person serves them water and they trade sides. If not, others guess until the end when the cupbearers retrieve the empty cups to reveal who delivered which cup. Play for a few rounds before trading roles.

Try This: Have the guessing team take turns deciding the cupbearer identities for other team members instead of themselves. You can also turn out the lights indoors or have cupbearers deliver already partially filled cups of water.

Take a Hike

PLAY **LEARN**

Supplies: slips of paper, pens

How: In advance, write each verse of 1 Kings 17:8–16 on its own slip of paper. Give each camper their own verse and ask them to hide it and make up a clue to help others find it. After all campers come back together, let campers take turns giving someone their clue. Let campers go hunt for a verse based on the clue they received. This may take a while. If needed, let groups of campers go back to search for any still missing. Once all are retrieved, ask campers to put them in order and read the scripture out loud together. Afterward, spend some time talking about where patience was required in the activity and where the campers saw kindness. If there were any bad examples of patience or kindness you can debrief those, but be sure to affirm everyone and remind them that God has enough patience and kindness for us all, even when we are lacking these gifts.

Try This: Groups could create scavenger hunts for the scriptures for other groups to follow, writing down the clues and swapping with other groups.

Stick to It

PRAY CREATE

Supplies: popsicle sticks, yarn, colorful paper, scissors, pens

How: This is a version of a “God’s Eye” craft. Campers will start by holding two sticks in a cross shape and using yarn to weave an “x” shape around the sticks, holding them together. After this, they can weave the yarn over and under the sticks. After they have finished weaving, invite them to write prayers for other people on small slips of paper and weave those in and out of the yarn. Here’s a quick reminder of how to do this craft: “How to Make a God’s Eye Craft”, https://youtu.be/X53ZXcHoR_c?t=88. As they are working, invite some conversation on things that require patience and what campers like or do not like about those activities.

Try This: These could be used to decorate your worship space or hung in your group space for the rest of the week, before campers take them home.

Last Comes First

PLAY

Supplies: cups, water, bats, spoons

How: In this reverse relay, the goal is to finish last. The two teams must do the following: pass water from cup to cup by pouring without looking over their head to the next person behind them in line, slow motion walk backwards, hold a bat in the ground to spin around it backwards ten times, and then go back to the cups area so the next person can go. You can adapt the complexity and distances to fit your group. Afterward, talk about the pressure of winning and why people always seem to be in a hurry. Ask campers how we can slow things down in the world and who might experience that as an act of kindness.

Try This: Add other slow-motion activities such as crab walking backwards and share situations when winning in life comes from being patient and kind or last.

Origami Prayer

PRAY LEARN

Supplies: Origami Prayer Handout, paper, scissors, pens (optional)

How: Use the directions on the Origami Prayer Handout to make a one-time-use paper cup. Have campers follow your actions and say aloud the prayer phrases as they do the folds. Hold up the paper and say, “Lord, let me be willing to bend my heart to serve others.” Holding your paper lengthwise, fold a top

corner down to the bottom so that the side and the bottom line up, then wait for the campers to do the same. Hold up the scissors and say, “Lord, take away my impatience.” Cut away the paper sticking out from the folded triangle, so that if you unfolded the page, it would be a square. Keeping the paper folded, turn the triangle so that the fold is at the bottom, and say, “Let my actions be uplifting, pointing up toward you.” Take one of the bottom points and fold it up diagonally to touch the opposite side of the triangle in the middle. Now say, “Teach me kindness.” Now do the same action with the other bottom point. Next say, “Teach me patience as a sign of your love.” The folds should now resemble the sign language symbol for love. Slip your finger between the two edges at the top point and fold the top layer down to cover the “x”. Pray, “Keep me from being cross,” and then flip the triangle over to fold down the last point into a downward triangle like the first, “and turn me around when I feel down about my situation.” Slide your finger into the top slot and open the pocket up to complete the cup, “Let me remember that even when my cup seems empty, you will fill it with good things so I can share with others. Amen.”

Try This: Campers can make homemade coupons from the extra strips of paper to fill the cups on ways they’ll serve others such as doing camp chores. These can also be decorated as gifts made to take home.

NIM-ble Giver

PLAY

Supplies: rocks, beads, or wrapped candy

How: Campers will play in pairs, with each pair getting a pile of playing pieces (ten to twenty each), which can be rocks, candy, beads, or something similar. Direct them to take one or two pieces each turn to give to their partner in a separate pile. Tell them that the goal of the game is to be the person who gives the last one or two pieces to the other camper. Here is a link to help you envision the original NIM game: <https://mathforlove.com/lesson/1-2-nim/>

Try This: Provide each pair a third pile that either can take pieces from but add the rule that they can only take one or two pieces per turn from one pile. Campers play until someone wins by giving the last piece away.

Serve Here!

PLAY PRAY

Supplies: sturdy white paper plates, sticky notes, markers, Bible

How: Have campers decorate white paper plates to use as frisbees, then play a version of human disk-golf. Ask them to write a prayer request for someone on a sticky note and attach it to the bottom of their frisbee. Campers take turns holding their arms to form a circle. The group gets a point if a frisbee passes through the target’s arms. Campers can move to help get it through their arms. Make sure everyone gets a turn to throw and receive. Remind them to collect the prayers they receive. After playing, spend some time talking about what the game would have been like if everyone aimed at the same target all at once. Read 1 Kings 17:8–16 together and invite the campers to think about how Elijah, the widow, and her son all had needs they were wanting to have addressed, all at the same time. Ask campers how they think God handles all the prayers people are sharing, many at the same time, all over the world. At the end, invite campers to each take a sticky note and take a moment of silent prayer, lifting that concern to God.

Try This: You can make it more like Skee-Ball by having three to four campers stand together in groups with arms out in circles for the frisbee server. Give more points for those further away or with smaller arms.

Kneading Patience

CREATE LEARN

Supplies: one cup of whole fat Greek yogurt and one cup of self-rise flour per four campers, bowls, skillets, oil, stove or campfire coals, large paper plates, plastic utensils, plastic baggies

How: Have campers wash their hands thoroughly and then form groups of four. Give campers bowls and let them take turns mixing their batch of yogurt and flour until it forms a ball of smooth dough. Preheat the stove while they are mixing. Cut each of the balls into four pieces and dust flour onto individual paper plates for each camper to press their piece into a flat circle. Help them take turns frying their flatbread two to four minutes per side before flipping. Use the time waiting to discuss why providing hospitality is messy and hard work. Eat the bread and talk about how making and sharing meals builds relationships. You can also share bread with camp counselors, staff, or other campers.

Try This: If campers have food allergies, give two cups of cornstarch and one cup of fruit scented hair conditioner per pair of campers to mix in bowls with their hands until smooth for homemade playdough. Give them baggies to keep their dough balls as tactile stress relievers, allowing them to freshen the dough with extra amounts of conditioner as needed.



Story Resources

Wonder, directed by Stephen Chbosky

(Lionsgate, 2017). Ten-year-old Auggie is willing to share about who he is in class when he is shown kindness by his teacher and another student, Julian, in this clip: <https://youtu.be/zJMCctR8ivc>. Campers who have seen the movie or read the book will note that Julian became Auggie's bully, allowing you to talk about how real kindness takes constant resolve and patience.