

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

2nd Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 15

Patience, Kindness, and Goodness

Patience, Kindness, and Goodness

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The “Main passage” is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

These are the books of the Bible we will be memorizing. New books for this month are in bold. If a student can memorize all the books up to this month’s books, you may give them a prize from the “reward box” found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God’s Word.

Objective This lesson will teach the students about **patience, kindness, and goodness using the example of the life of Joseph.**

Key Verses

Galatians 5:22-23; Genesis 45:1-24—Main Teaching Passages
See Genesis 37, 39-44 for other key parts of Joseph’s story

Books to Memorize

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings, 1&2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, **Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Isaiah**

Hook

Have a volunteer come to the front and give them an object that is about 5 pounds. Ask them to hold the object over their heads for as long as they can. Ask them if it got harder the longer they held the object.

Today we will be learning about patience, kindness, and goodness. These things might seem easy at first, but the longer we have to put up with unkind or difficult people, the harder it is to show kindness and goodness.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

The next three Fruits of the Spirit we are going to look at are patience, kindness, and goodness. Kindness and goodness both have to do with how we treat others. If the way we act towards other blesses them and honors the Lord, we are showing kindness and goodness. Patience, which is also called longsuffering, means that we continue to do what is right and show kindness and goodness even when people or events make it difficult to do so.

In the book of Genesis, Joseph shows us a great example of these three traits. Joseph's ten older brothers were jealous of him because their father treated him better than the rest of them, so in Genesis we read that they formed a plot to throw him into a pit and kill him. However, after they had trapped him in the pit, they decided to sell him to some traders instead, and these traders sold Joseph into slavery in Egypt. Joseph suffered many things in Egypt and was even thrown in jail, but he stayed faithful to God, and God was faithful to him. Eventually, he was set free from jail and became second in command of all Egypt. At that time, there was a famine in the land and Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to ask for food. Though they did not recognize him at first, in Genesis 45:1-24 he revealed himself to them and provided all their needs and gave abundant gifts. Though he had suffered much because of them, he still showed them the kindness and goodness that can only come from the Holy Spirit.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK

When we think of patience, we usually think of someone who waits a really long time for something, but patience is more than that. After all, you can wait a really long time for something, but if you are complaining or having a bad attitude, you aren't really being patient. The Bible uses another word for patience: longsuffering. It's the idea of enduring hard things (suffering) for a long time. Our natural desire is to avoid suffering, and so longsuffering has to come from the Holy Spirit.

The words "long" and "suffering" certainly come to mind when we read about the life of Joseph. He was betrayed by his brothers, trapped in a pit, sold into slavery, falsely accused of a crime, and thrown into jail. Joseph had suffered a lot for a long time. When his brothers came to him asking for food, he could have had them thrown into jail or killed. He was second in command in Egypt and could have reasoned that such a punishment was the least they deserved for all the suffering they put him through. Yet in Genesis 45:1-24, we see a response filled with kindness, goodness, and longsuffering.

LOOK (Continued)

It was patience and longsuffering that kept Joseph from repaying his brothers for the wrongs done to him, and in kindness and goodness he gave them abundant blessings. Not only did he provide food and place to live for them as they sought to endure the famine, but we read of lavish gifts that he and Pharaoh gave to his brothers. He showed them kindness by doing something nice to bless his brothers without any expectation or requirement to do so. He didn't do it because he had to, but because he loved his brothers and wanted to bless them.

It's easy to show kindness and goodness to those who are nice to us, but as we have seen, patience, kindness, and goodness as Fruits of the Spirit are about more than that. When other people annoy us or are unkind or inconsiderate to us, how do we respond back? Do we suffer long and continue to show them kindness or goodness? We also saw how kindness and goodness means doing things to bless others even though we are not expected or required to do so. When is the last time you helped around the house, bought someone a gift, or did something nice for someone not because you had to, but because you wanted to show them kindness? That is real longsuffering, kindness, and goodness.

TOOK

As a class, review the books of the Bible Genesis-Isaiah.

Review the lesson by asking the students what patience, kindness, and goodness are. How do we see these traits in the life of Joseph?

Pray: Thank the Lord for giving us His Spirit so that we can have patience, kindness, and goodness. Ask Him to help us show these traits to others.

Parent Question: Why do we call patience "longsuffering"?

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Galatians 5:22 and Genesis 45:1-24 by David Guzik

5. ([Gal 5:22-23](#)) Examples of the fruit of the Spirit that walking in the Spirit produces in our lives.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

f. **The fruit of the Spirit is... longsuffering:** Longsuffering means that one can have **love, joy, and peace** even over a period of time when people and events annoy them. God is not quickly irritated with us ([Romans 2:4, 9:22](#)), so we should not be quickly irritated with others.

i. **Longsuffering** in itself is a work of the Spirit. "Longsuffering is that quality which enables a person to bear adversity, injury, reproach, and makes them patient to wait for the improvement of those who have done him wrong. When the devil finds that he cannot overcome certain persons by force he tries to overcome them in the long run... To withstand his continued assaults we must be longsuffering and patiently wait for the devil to get tired of his game." (Luther)

g. **The fruit of the Spirit is... kindness, goodness:** These two words are closely connected. About the only difference is that **goodness** also has with it the idea of *generosity*.

A. JOSEPH REVEALS HIMSELF TO HIS BROTHERS.

1. ([Gen 45:1-3](#)) The emotional revelation.

Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Make everyone go out from me!" So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; does my father still live?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence.

a. **Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him:** Joseph ordered all the Egyptians out of the room and was then alone with his brothers. His great emotion showed that Joseph did not cruelly manipulate his brothers. He was directed by God to make these arrangements and it hurt him to do it.

b. **Joseph made himself known to his brothers:** This perhaps means that Joseph *told them* he was Joseph and *showed* his brothers that he was circumcised. Jewish legend says the brothers could never believe this high Egyptian official was Joseph unless he showed he was circumcised.

c. **But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence:** Because of the punishment they anticipated, the great emotion of Joseph, his manner of revelation, and the total shock of learning Joseph was not only alive but right in front of them, the brothers were **dismayed**. The ancient Hebrew word for **dismayed** (*bahal*) actually means, *amazed* or frightened or even *terrified*.

i. *Come near to me* in [Genesis 45:4](#) implies the brothers cringed back in terror. Jewish legends (which are *only* legends) say the brothers were so shocked that their souls left their bodies and it was only by a mir-

acle of God their souls came back.

ii. Their dismay was a shadow of what will happen when the Jewish people see Jesus for who He is again: *And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.* ([Zechariah 12:10](#))

2. ([Gen 45:4-8](#)) Joseph's testimony.

And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

a. **God sent me before you to preserve life:** Joseph did not diminish what the brothers did (**whom you sold into Egypt**). Yet he saw that God's purpose in it all was greater than the evil of the brothers.

i. When we are sinned against, we are tempted to fail in one or both of these areas. We are tempted to pretend that the offending party never did it, or we are tempted to fail to see the over-arching hand of God in every circumstance.

ii. It is fair to ask, "Why was Joseph in Egypt? Was it because of the sin of his brothers or because of the good plan of God?" The answer is that both aspects are true.

b. **God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance:** All Joseph's sorrows were for a purpose. God used them to preserve his family and provide the conditions for it to become a nation. Joseph was a victim of men, but God turned it around for His glory. None of it was for a loss.

i. If this family did not go into Egypt, then they would assimilate among the pagan tribes of Canaan and cease to become a distinctive people. God had to put them in a place where they could grow, yet remain a distinctive nation.

ii. Years ago, Rabbi Harold Kushner wrote a remarkably wide-selling book titled *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*. It sold more than a half a million copies before going to paperback and was on the *New York Times* best-seller list for a whole year. The whole point of his book was to say God is all loving but not all powerful; that God is good, but not sovereign. So, when bad things happen to good people, it is because events are out of God's control. Kushner advised his readers to "learn to love [God] and forgive him despite his limitations." What ever Kushner described, it was not the God of the Bible, the God displayed in Joseph's life.

c. **So now it was not you who sent me here, but God:** Joseph realized *God* ruled his life, not good men, not evil men, not circumstances, or fate. God was in control, and because God was in control all things worked together for good.

B. JOSEPH SENDS HIS BROTHERS HOME.

1. ([Gen 45:9-15](#)) Joseph tells his brothers to go home and to bring their father and find protection from the famine.

"Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph: "God has made me lord of

all Egypt; come down to me, do not tarry. You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near to me, you and your children, your children's children, your flocks and your herds, and all that you have. There I will provide for you, lest you and your household, and all that you have, come to poverty; for there are still five years of famine." And behold, your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my mouth that speaks to you. So you shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that you have seen; and you shall hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. Moreover he kissed all his brothers and wept over them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

a. **Thus says your son Joseph:** When Jacob eventually heard this it was one of the greatest days of his life. He had the joy of learning that the favored son, who would save his brethren, who was given up for dead, is now alive.

b. **He kissed all his brothers and wept over them:** Joseph did not exclude those who had been especially cruel to him. His heart was open to his brothers both as a group and as individuals.

c. **After that his brothers talked with him:** This was a wonderful conversation. There was a lot to catch up on.

2. ([Gen 45:16-24](#)) Pharaoh and Joseph send the brothers home with many gifts.

Now the report of it was heard in Pharaoh's house, saying, "Joseph's brothers have come." So it pleased Pharaoh and his servants well. And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Say to your brothers, 'Do this: Load your animals and depart; go to the land of Canaan. Bring your father and your households and come to me; I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you will eat the fat of the land. Now you are commanded; do this: Take carts out of the land of Egypt for your little ones and your wives; bring your father and come. Also do not be concerned about your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.'" Then the sons of Israel did so; and Joseph gave them carts, according to the command of Pharaoh, and he gave them provisions for the journey. He gave to all of them, to each man, changes of garments; but to Benjamin he gave three hundred pieces of silver and five changes of garments. And he sent to his father these things: ten donkeys loaded with the good things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain, bread, and food for his father for the journey. So he sent his brothers away, and they departed; and he said to them, "See that you do not become troubled along the way."

a. **Joseph gave them carts, according to the command of Pharaoh, and he gave them provisions for the journey:** The sons of Israel received transportation, provision, garments, and riches because of who their favored brother was. Pharaoh blessed the sons of Jacob for Joseph's sake.

i. "To return to Canaan with 'carts from Egypt' was the cultural equivalent of landing a jumbo jet among a tribe of isolated savages. It would be the stuff legends are made of." (Boice)

b. **See that you do not become troubled along the way:** The idea behind the words "**become troubled**" is literally *become angry* or *quarrel*. Joseph knew as soon as these men left his presence they would be tempted to act in selfish, unspiritual ways. They had to anticipate and guard against this.