

PATIENCE

Help Week Leader Guide

Help Week: A time for student leaders to equip their peers to become missionaries to their school, as they plan and pray for the month of campus ministry ahead.

PRE MEETING INSTRUCTIONS:

- Select one student to host this month's Help Week
- Remind students to post on social media and text friends reminding them about First Priority club

INTRODUCTION: 2 minutes

Welcome Students, Prayer and Introduction

- **Help Week Host:** "Welcome to First Priority! This week is Help Week, which is where we help each other become missionaries to our school. This month we're going to talk about the fruit of the Spirit, **PATIENCE.**"
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Introduce Student Leading Discussion:** "Today, my friend, _____, is going to share with us about why patience and perseverance are important to a missionary mindset."



GROUP TIME: What to do When Nothing Happens (20 Minutes)

Student Speaker: This month we are going to talk about patience. This is a great thing to talk about because so few of us are! We live in a very fast-paced world where the latest news, entertainment, and updates can be had in an instant on our phones. Items that take longer than 2 days to ship to our house seems like an eternity. Even though patience seems kind of foreign to us, the Bible has something to say to us about it. Patience is listed as a fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5. The book of Proverbs lists it many times as a desirable quality. But how does it relate to being a missionary to our school?



In the late 1700s, there was a missionary named William Carey. He was raised in the middle of England and became a shoemaker. He later would leave the shoe business and become a pastor. He eventually founded a missionary society and moved to India with his family around 1793 to be a missionary. Life as a missionary was very hard for the Carey's. William came down with malaria and his 5-year-old son died of dysentery. His wife struggled with mental health to the point where she had to be confined to a room and physically restrained from hurting herself and others. William spent seven years in India before a single person got saved. Even in all of these hardships,

Carey would write, "Well, I have God, and His word is sure." Williams Carey showed both patience and perseverance in his work for the Lord! **Romans 12:12** says,

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."

William Carey's life is an example of that verse. He was patient through struggles and patient as ministry seemed slow to advance. The Bible makes it clear that salvation is through Christ alone and there is nothing that we can do to earn it. Therefore we are not responsible for people accepting or rejecting it. As Christians, we are simply commanded to go and share the good news with everyone! Some will want to hear the message that we bring and others will not, but we must still go and share!

Maybe you are feeling discouraged right now because living for Christ is hard. Maybe you struggle to keep God first in your life. Maybe you are very passionate about following Christ - and despite your praying and your effort to make a difference, nothing seems to be happening. When all of your work feels worthless, remember this:

Some of the costliest things take time to make. In fact, usually, the longer it takes to create something, the more expensive it is. Diamonds are some of the most expensive gems in the world because of their rarity due to taking so many years to form under pressure in the earth.



SO KEEP GOING! Keep praying and believing that your friend or family member can be saved. In the end, it will all be worth it if you simply continue following Jesus and persevere through the hard times. Even if only one comes to Christ before you graduate, wouldn't that be worth it? Think of all the lives God may reach through them!



APPLY IT:

Discussion Option 1: What is something in your life that you had to wait for a very long time to come to fruition? Was it worth it? What made it worth persevering?

Discussion Option 2: Do you struggle to be consistent in praying for your school and for you lost friends? What can you do to remind yourself to do that each day?

ACTION CHALLENGE:

- **Group Challenge:** Make a post or meme about how waiting is worth it and post to social media using the words “WORTH IT” or the hastags #firstpriority #worthit
- **Share Challenge:** Encourage a friend or acquaintance who may be going through a difficult time in life. Do something thoughtful! Then invite them to First Priority!
- **Prayer Challenge:** Go around the table and share about someone or something that you are praying for/about that God has not answered yet. Pray for that specific thing/person in the group.

WRAP UP: 2 minutes

- Share any FP Club announcements including that next week’s meeting is Overcome Week.

