

PATIENCE

PATIENCE ROLE PLAY

This program would work well for the topic of either patience or self-control. Prepare several scenarios from daily family life that would test any kid's (or parent's) patience. Here are suggestions for some scenarios:

- Your grandmother asks you to come over to help her set up the Christmas decorations. She ends up telling you exactly where to put every single light and strand of tinsel.

- (PARENT) You have just come home from a long day at the office and your son is glued to the television. You see that the dishwasher is not unloaded, which was something you asked him to do this morning. (CHILD) You have made your bed for the first time this summer, but you forgot to unload the dishwasher, which your mother asked you to do this morning.

- Your aunt comes to visit for three weeks and stays in your room. One day you find her going through your drawers because she says she's interested in "finding out more about young people today."

- You are the coach of an all-state team. The captain approaches you and says she can't come to pre-season practice because she's going to church camp.

- Your son has gone to the prom and has promised to be home by 2:00 a.m. Suddenly you wake up at 3:30 and he isn't home yet. He finally comes in at 4:00.

- You're nice to the class geek for a day, and he thinks you're in love with him.

- You've got a great idea about the theme of the novel you're reading in English class, but the teacher says you're wrong.

After all the situations have been acted out and reacted to by the rest of the group, divide into small groups for a discussion of patience, and how God works in us to bring about this specific fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Suggested questions for discussion:

- What makes us feel frustrated? (feelings of helplessness, vulnerability, whatever)
- How should Christians handle impatience?
- Do you think God tests us? Why or why not?
- When and why do you get impatient with God?
- How can we become more patient?
- How does the Holy Spirit change us in this and other areas?

Seeing family life scenes from the parents' as well as the kids' perspective helps make this exercise an effective reminder of the need to cultivate patience in daily life.