



Love is Patient

GOD'S WORD: 1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8A

When was the last time you had to wait patiently? Maybe it was yesterday when you were waiting in line, or maybe you had to wait for your turn to talk on the telephone. There are lots of times each day when we all need to wait patiently, but sometimes being patient is hard!

The Bible tells us that 'love is patient'? What do you think that means?

Let's think about it. Read this next sentence out loud. Ice is cold. What is the sentence about? Well it's describing ice. But is that all that we say to describe ice? No. What are some other words we use to describe ice?

How about: slippery, wet, frozen water, transparent, dangerous, useful. All of these words and probably lots more that you can think of give us a bigger picture of what ice is like. It's the same with love. Love is not just a nice feeling that we

have for our family and friends. There are lots of words which we can use to describe what love is. One of these words is 'patient'. That means if we love someone, we will be patient with them.

As we have already said, sometimes it's not easy to be patient, but we have a wonderful example of someone we can follow who is the most patient person ever! Who? Jesus!

Let's Read

Turn in your Bible to Luke 9:46-48

An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest. Jesus, knowing their thoughts, took a little child and had him stand beside Him. Then He said to them, 'Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For he who is least among you all – he is the greatest.'

The disciples were arguing over who of them was the greatest or the best. They should have known that Jesus wasn't looking for someone to be the greatest or the best – He just wanted them to love Him and obey Him by loving others. Even so, instead of being cross over

their silly argument He was patient with them and explained to them what being the greatest really meant.

Digging Deeper

- When the disciples were arguing about being the greatest, was that showing love to one another? How could they have shown love to one another instead of arguing?
- Why is it so hard sometimes to be patient with someone? When do you find it especially hard to be patient with someone? What can you do or what attitude can you have to overcome this?
- What did Jesus mean when He said, 'For he who is least among you all – he is the greatest'?
- What is the opposite of 'patience'? What other attitudes do you think we might show when we are impatient? What do we need to do about these attitudes?
- What three things would you like the Lord to help you be more patient with? It might be waiting in line for your turn, or patience when a younger brother or sister is learning to play a game with you. Or maybe it's patience when your mum or

dad isn't able to help straight away. The Lord wants us to show love to those around us by being patient. He would love to help you.

- Once you have thought about these three things, add them to the prayer written below.

Let's Pray

Dear Lord, thank you for the example that you are to us of being patient. Please forgive me for the times when I am impatient. Please help me to be patient – especially in these three areas:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Please help people to see my love for them in the way that I am patient with them. And please help me to remember just how patient you are with me.

In your name, **Jesus**,

Amen