

God's Best—Worth the Wait

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1 

Lesson 11**Focus:**

Impatience brings problems.

Lesson 11**Bible Basis:**

Genesis 15:2-5; 16:1-16

Lesson 11**Memory Verse:**

Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD. —Psalm 27:14

Students will reflect on when slow might be better than fast as they consider how impatience brings problems.

Materials:

Internet access

Have you ever considered where your clothes come from? Or what it costs to make them? Have you noticed how often new clothes are on display at the stores you frequent or walk past? Clothing today is now cheaper than ever—in terms of cost and quality—and stores are pushing more and more of it on us. This trend is called “fast fashion” and more and more people are picking up on the negative side effects of keeping up with this fast pace.

Play the following video [1:02]:

The environmental cost of fast fashion

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H2bxO-PgcT0>

Keeping up with fast fashion is not only bad for the environment, but it can cost a lot of money to constantly be purchasing new items. Due to the problems highlighted in the video, some are deciding to buy less overall and choose items that are made responsibly and made to last. Rather than buying lots of cheaper items that won't last very long, more people are choosing to invest in a smaller number of high-quality clothing pieces that will last longer. This response to fast fashion is sometimes called “slow fashion.”

➤ **Why do you think fast fashion options are more popular than slow fashion options?** (Accept all reasonable answers. Fast fashion is more affordable, more readily available, the brands are better known, and there's always something new and different to get.)

➤ **In what other circumstances might it be more responsible to opt for slow rather than fast?** (Accept all reasonable answers. Some might point to the food industry, as it was mentioned in the video. Others might think of paying attention and studying regularly all year instead of cramming last minute for a test. Others may point to changes, pressures, and new responsibilities teenagers deal with and indicate that not rushing into these may be wise.)

➤ **Maybe clothes aren't your thing; what do you want quickly and struggle to wait for?**
(Accept all reasonable answers. It could be any material item wished for, or something like having your driver's license, being able to vote, moving out for college, or any life circumstance.)

The mindset of wanting more, wanting new, and wanting now is not limited to our clothing purchases. Whether it's a material item, a life circumstance, or anything else, sometimes we just want what we want quickly. We may even choose a rash or harmful way to get what we want when we want it. Often, we need to learn patience. God's timing is frequently different than ours, and we may need to wait for God's voice, or God's plans, or God's answers. But God's ways are best, and they are worth the wait.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

high school



Lesson 11 / November 10, 2024

God's Best—Worth the Wait

for use as
STEP 4 

Lesson 11

Focus:

Impatience brings problems.

Lesson 11

Bible Basis:

Genesis 15:2-5; 16:1-16

Lesson 11

Memory Verse:

Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD. —Psalm 27:14

Materials:

None

➤ **What is something in your life that you are currently waiting on?** (Answers will vary. Perhaps it is something discussed in an example in Step 1, or an upcoming right of passage, or to hear back on acceptance to college, or anything else hoped for.)

➤ **Has it been easy or hard to wait? What makes waiting hard?** (Accept all reasonable answers. Waiting is often hard because we become focused on the thing that hasn't happened yet instead of remembering what is happening all around us. Also, the things we wait for might be something that change our lives for the better in a tiny or tremendous way and we want that change now. Other times, we want the certainty instead of the mystery.)

We often think waiting is something done quietly and passively, but that is not necessarily what God means by waiting. Just as we wait for Christmas by counting down the days on an advent calendar, so too can we wait for God with anticipation, with activity, with alertness, and with prayer.

➤ **What are specific ways you might actively wait on God in one of the situations you have named?** (Accept all reasonable answers. Keeping a prayer journal is one way to track and remember how God was working during the waiting. Maybe there are ways to prepare for the change, or people to speak to for wisdom during the wait. Perhaps waiting for change looks like taking action and organizing for change. Abraham's actions were wrong because they went against God's plan, but we *can* act *in accordance* with God's plan.)

Have your students find a quiet place in the room where they can spend time in reflection. **During this time, pray over the waiting time and commit to actively and expectantly wait for God in your situation.** Challenge your students to find time during the coming week to repeat this process.

Play the following song for a time of prayerful reflection [4:25]:

Worship song Waiting Here for You

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tqZ3_xwJxTY

Close in prayer.

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