

Bible Discovery

God is patient. (*Thanks, God!*) Hold up a Bible. **Today our Bible story tells how God's people, the Israelites, really needed a leader. They kept getting into trouble, and they needed someone to remind them to love and obey God.**

- Get comfy and sit in knee-to-knee circles with Connect Crews.
- **Who is a leader that helps you love and obey God?** Invite Crew Guides to share first.
- Crew Guides give thumbs-up when everyone has shared.

Leaders show us what to do. I'll be your Leader. Watch and listen to what I do, then you'll join me and do it, too.

Sing to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

God is patient; God is kind. (*point up with both hands*)

God will help us every time. (*hold hands over heart*)

God will give us leaders who (*hands on hips*)

Help us love God and be true. (*thumbs-up*)

God is patient; God is kind. (*point up with both hands*)

God will help us every time. (*hold hands over heart*)

Now follow me and sing along. Sing again line by line, inviting everyone to repeat after you.

Thank you for following me, your Leader. I helped you know what to do, and I told you about our wonderful God!

In the Bible, God's people, the Israelites, had a leader named Joshua. Joshua was a good leader, and he helped the people move into a new land that God had promised to give them. Let's move to a new place in our room.

- Have everyone stand up and relocate to a different place in your room.
- Make your new area cozy with blankets to sit on and a few pillows.
- **Hooray! We're here in our new home! It's pretty cozy!**
- Have everyone cheer and shout, "Thanks, God!"

Ahh! We're all settled. God's people were settled into their new land, too. Let's read what life was like for them.



Read aloud Judges 2:7.

Supplies

- Bible
- "Israel Needs a Leader" Bible Story poster
- blankets and pillows

We call helpers Crew Guides. If you lead a small class, you can be the Crew Guide. Simply gather kids in a cozy circle around you. If you have helpers, form smaller groups so each child can be known—and so kids can befriend your helpers, too!

Not much of a singer? That's okay! Simply say—or rap—the rhyme instead!



Read the verses from the Bible. You're showing kids that God's Word is special. And don't worry; we've kept the verses short for young attention spans.

The Lord is another name for God. The Israelites served the Lord while Joshua was their leader. Years passed, though, and Joshua wasn't there to lead them anymore. Have everyone wave and say, "Bye, Joshua."

After Joshua was gone, God's people didn't have a leader anymore. As children grew up, no one told them about God. No one helped them love and obey God. In fact, when they got to be grown-ups, they didn't remember God at all. They disobeyed God's rules.

- **God had told them to worship only God, but they didn't. They worshipped fake gods.** Have everyone place their hands on their cheeks and say "Uh-oh!"
- **God had told them to put God first, but they didn't. They did whatever they wanted to do. They put themselves first.** Once again, have everyone place their hands on their cheeks and say "Uh-oh!"

Bad things happened because of their wrong choices. Mean people came to the new land and hurt God's people. The land wasn't so cozy anymore.

- Work together to make your cozy spot messy.
- Then take away the blankets and pillows.

God was frustrated and upset with his people. They didn't remember to love and obey their one, true God. Let's talk in our Crews.

- Circle up in knee-to-knee circles.
- ❓ **When has a parent or leader you know been frustrated?**
- Crew Guides give thumbs-up when everyone has shared.

Mom, dads, and teachers get frustrated sometimes. Sometimes they're frustrated with us! But they still love us and patiently help us make better choices. God is patient, too. (Thanks, God) Like a loving parent, his love doesn't go away, even when we disobey. Let's sing our "God Is Patient" song again. You go ahead and sing it without me this time. Sit down away from the kids. Wait for a bit as they struggle to remember the words and sing together.

Chuckle. **Sounds like you need a leader. I'm here! Let's try this. I'll sing one line, and you sing it back to me. We'll go through the song together line by line.**

Sing to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

God is patient; God is kind. (point up with both hands)

God will help us every time. (hold hands over heart)

God will give us leaders who (hands on hips)

Help us love God and be true. (thumbs-up)

God is patient; God is kind. (point up with both hands)

God will help us every time. (hold hands over heart)

- ❓ **Was it easier to sing with me or without me? Why?** Invite several responses from the whole group.

Like it was easier to sing *with* me, it was easier for God's people to love and obey God when they had a leader.

God is patient. (Thanks, God!) God raised up leaders to help his people love and obey him. Those leaders were called judges.

- Show the Bible Story poster.
- Point out the man holding up his hands to tell the people to stop worshipping fake gods.
- Have kids hold up their hands and say "Stop!"



Judges helped people stop making wrong choices and start making right choices. Let's be judges and decide what's right and wrong. Do what I do!

- **Worshipping fake gods was wrong.** Give thumbs-down.
- **Worshipping the one, true God was right!** Jump up and give thumbs-up.
- **Following all the naughty people around them was bad.** Sit down with thumbs-down.
- **But following God and the judges he sent was good!** Jump up and give thumbs-up.

Let's read about the judges God sent to lead his people.



Read aloud Judges 2:18-19.

Place hands on cheeks. **Uh-oh. It's like God's people loved and obeyed him when a judge was watching, but when the judge went away, they made wrong choices and disobeyed.**

Sometimes we do that, too. When Mom or Dad or our teachers are near, we obey! But when they aren't watching, we might hit or eat extra candy or say mean things. Our grown-ups aren't happy when they find out. But they still love us.

Invite responses.
Repeat what is said
so you're sure to
understand and so
everyone can hear
what's said.

? Why do grown-ups still love us, no matter what we do? Invite responses from the whole group.

They still love us because we're their kids! And God still loved his kids, too.

God is patient. *(Thanks, God!)*

God knew it was hard for the Israelites to obey, and he didn't give up on them. So he sent judges to lead God's people for a long time. Things were sometimes good, and a lot of times things were bad. But God never went away. God never leaves us, either! **God is patient.** *(Thanks, God!)* Follow me, and let's sing our song one more time! I'll sing first, then you join me!

God is patient; God is kind. *(point up with both hands)*

God will help us every time. *(hold hands over heart)*

God will give us leaders who *(hands on hips)*

Help us love God and be true. *(thumbs-up)*

God is patient; God is kind. *(point up with both hands)*

God will help us every time. *(hold hands over heart)*

God is patient. *(Thanks, God!)*



Now's a great time for Apply-It Options.
Choose one or more that fit your time frame
to support today's Bible discoveries before
the closing Goodbye Circle.