

YEAR OF GROWTH

PATIENCE WEEK 2

EXAMPLES

Old Testament:

There are many examples of men and women of patience in the Old Testament. We will focus on several who help us to understand the nature and action of joyful endurance.

Day One – Sunday

Reflect on the definitions of the words that God used to describe patience. Think back over the previous lessons. Read again the passages that you have written. Recall the verses you have memorized. Focus on the meaning of patience and prepare to explore important Bible examples.

Day Two – Monday

Job 1:12-22

Likely, the person who most readily comes to mind when thinking about Old Testament characters who demonstrated patience is Job. In fact, James wrote: “Ye have heard of the patience of Job” (James 5:11). The life of Job teaches that patience involves tremendous endurance. No matter what difficult circumstance he had to face, Job “sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.” Even though he did not understand why he was suffering such hardships, and though he thought God was the cause of them, Job did not accuse God of acting immorally or foolishly. He endured with longsuffering as he sought better understanding from God.

Day Three – Tuesday

Genesis 6:1-8

However, there is an even greater example of patience in the Old Testament – God! Peter wrote that “the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was” being prepared. It seems that God waited 120 years from the time He announced His judgment to Noah until He finally sent the Flood to destroy the world. Despite man’s overwhelming wickedness, God endured it to give all an opportunity to repent and to be saved.

Day Four – Wednesday**Lamentations 3:21-26**

Another example of God's patience is seen in His dealing with the rebellious nation of Israel. Though He sent them into captivity, God did not utterly destroy them. In fact, He would bring them back to the Promised Land! Jeremiah recognized this and found hope. He also learned that man should exercise patience just as the Lord does.

Day Five – Thursday**Genesis 29:16-20**

Jacob demonstrated great patience in his seven years of labor for the privilege of marrying Rachel. He showed that patience motivated by love can joyfully endure any challenge. After he was deceived by Laban, Jacob again showed patience by working for him another seven years (Gen. 29:27-30).

Day Six – Friday**Hosea 3:1-5**

Hosea is another great, but often overlooked, example of patience. His wife was unfaithful to him not once, but many times. It seems likely that she bore children from these adulterous relationships (2:4-5). She lived as a prostitute and found herself being sold on the auction block as a common slave or servant. Yet, Hosea showed love to her, bought her from her bondage, and brought her back to his home. His patience toward Gomer served as an example of God's love for His wayward people.

Day Seven – Saturday**Psalm 30**

It is good to be reminded of the rewards of patience. David endured many hardships during his life. Yet he learned that "weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." The reward of steadfast, faithful endurance is joyful victory and glad gratitude.