**The Christian Value of Patience**

## **Galatians 5:22-23**

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control”

## **1 Corinthians 13:4**

“Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; it is not arrogant.”

## **Colossians 3:12**

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”

This set of reflection resources is to consider the value of patience as a fruit of the Spirit. Patience is also considered an integral part of Christian love and something we should look to ‘clothe’ ourselves with, in other words, to be seen as part of our identity.

**Whole School Worship**

*You will need the associated PowerPoint presentation.*

**Slide 1:** Introduction slide for display as children enter the hall. This includes a verse from the New Testament book of Paul’s letter to the Corinthians 13:4 that reminds us that being patient is part of showing love to one another.

**Slide 2:** The image that first appears reminds us of that very familiar phrase, ‘Are we nearly there yet?’ Some of us want to ask this question within a few moments of starting a journey whilst others are content for much longer. This very much depends on our understanding of the length of the journey but also our concept of time. However, it is a good way to start thinking about being patient and having to wait for something.

* Ask whether anyone has been on a long journey recently
* Ask the children how they feel when a journey starts to take a long time or is delayed for some reason. How do we all start to behave? Click to reveal some words that they may well have shared or that can be discussed if not.
* Can anyone recognise these feelings or behaviours as typical of their experience during long journeys?

**Slide 3:** This slide shows an image depictinga man and a woman, Simeon and Anna, who are mentioned in Luke’s Gospel in the New Testament. They had both been on a different type of journey, a journey of faith and of waiting:

*The story of Mary and Joseph presenting Jesus tells us that Mary and Joseph were faithful Jews. Usually when Jewish parents presented a firstborn son in the Temple, they would offer a new lamb. However, Jewish law allowed those who were poor to offer two turtledoves. Simeon and Anna were faithful Jews who had waited all their lives for the Messiah. At the Temple, they recognized Jesus as the Promised One.*

**Simeon and Anna - Luke 2:22-38**  
  
*When Jesus was about a month old, Mary and Joseph brought him to the Temple in Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. For it was written in the law of the Lord, “Every first-born male born shall be consecrated to the Lord. And a sacrifice of two turtle doves shall be offered.”  
  
There was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout. The Holy Spirit had revealed to him that he would see the Messiah before he died. He was in the Temple when Mary and Joseph brought Jesus. Simeon took Jesus into his arms and blessed God, saying:*

*“Now, God, you may let your servant die in peace.  
My eyes have seen your saviour,  
a light for the Gentiles,  
and glory for your people Israel.”*

*Mary and Joseph were amazed at what Simeon said about Jesus. Then Simeon blessed Jesus’ parents, and said to Mary, “This child is God’s Promised One. He will save God’s people. Many will accept him and others will not.”*

*There was also a prophetess, Anna. She was an eighty-four year old widow. She never left the Temple. She prayed and fasted day and night. When she saw Jesus, she gave thanks to God. Then she told everyone that the Messiah had come.*

Both Simeon and Anna had waited many years, demonstrating great patience and faithfulness, before Jesus was presented at the temple. They believed and trusted in God.

**Slide 4:** This slide shows the traditional wording of what Simeon said at the temple – this is known as the ‘Nunc Dimitis’ or ‘Song of Simeon’ and is used in evensong church services. It literally means, ‘now let us depart’ and is used as a night time prayer.

Simeon is saying that he can now rest in peace knowing that God’s saviour has come. His life can end with peace in his heart.

This prayer can remind us how we can feel at peace once we have encountered Jesus.

**Slide 5:** Reflection

Simeon and Anna demonstrated great patience waiting for God’s promise to them to be fulfilled, to see the Messiah, to see Jesus.

Use the questions from this slide for quiet reflection but also for sharing thoughts if children are happy to do so.

**Slide 6:** This slide reminds us of two key messages in the Bible about patience:

## **Galatians 5:22-23:** “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control”

Here we can reflect on how we can grow and develop in patience by inviting the Holy Spirit to help us. The Spirit’s presence in our lives can produce this fruit!

## **1 Corinthians 13:4:** “Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; it is not arrogant.”

Here we can reflect on loving one another includes being patient – this can be hard work sometimes but we must try our best in order for our relationships to flourish. Jesus said we must love our neighbour as ourselves. This includes being patient!

**Slide 7: Prayer (invite those who would like to make this their prayer to join in with the amen at the end):**

Dear Lord, teach us to be patient – with life, with people, and with ourselves. We sometimes try to hurry things along too much, and we push for answers before the time is right.​

​Teach us to trust Your sense of timing rather than our own. Help us let life unfold slowly and teach us to value what we see and hear, and who we meet so we learn lessons from our experiences.​

​Help us to show patience and trust in You, like Simeon and Anna​

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**AMEN**