

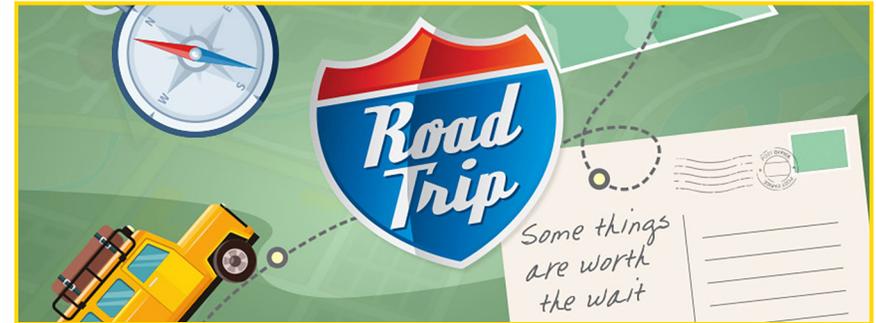
WEEK TWO

1 SAMUEL 1:6-2:1

Hannah Prays for a Baby

SAY
THIS

When you think you can't wait,
talk to God about it.



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DO
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MEAL TIME

Q & A for kids: What part of your Easter celebration do you find hardest to wait for?
Q & A for parents: What Easter traditions did your family have when you were a child?

REMEMBER THIS

"Wait for the Lord. Be strong and don't lose hope. Wait for the Lord!"
Psalm 27:14, NIV

LIFE
APP

PATIENCE – Waiting until later for what you want now

DO
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PATIENCE – Waiting until later for what you want now

YOU ARE NOT DISQUALIFIED

by Carey Nieuwhof

No new parent begins by saying, "I hope I mess up my child's life." Who sets out to be the villain in the story? But at one point or another, we end up there, don't we?

You leave for vacation, but are yelling at the kids before you're even out of town.

You're home most nights, but you're far too tired to engage.

Your date night ends in an argument.

You make empty threats to your kids that would make you wince if you heard other parents make them. But you are all out of tricks, so you threaten anyway.

Sometimes the temptation is to think that our failures should disqualify us as a parent. At least as a good parent. But when you think like that, you are wrong.

What if your failure actually puts you in line with a great list of characters God used in significant ways? What if that actually qualifies you?

Peter was Jesus' best friend, but Peter betrayed Jesus badly. You would think that would put you out of the running to be a New Testament hero. But Jesus built the church with Peter anyway.

Moses seemed like a fine fellow until he murdered someone. Shouldn't that push him off God's short list?

Apparently not. God made him into one of the greatest leaders in the Old Testament.

Why does God use people as flawed as that? I think weakness puts us in touch with our need for God. It reminds us that God is God and we are not. That we need help. That there is a power greater than our natural brilliance (or lack of it) at work in the world. And that grace flows between the cracks in our lives.

God's strength is most evident when the people He's working with are weak.

What if the very thing you think is disqualifying you right now is actually qualifying you for a new chapter in your life in Christ? What if your weakness was a portal to new strength?

What if you are a parent turning in a brand new way to Christ's love and you were able to give your son and daughter a front row seat to the grace of God?

I bet your kids would never forget the change they see in you. And you could one day tell them how it happened.

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