

Put A Muzzle On!



Bible Point

When friends are hard to take, give them a break!

Bible Verse

Love is patient.
I Cor. 13:1

Bible Story

The Unforgiving Servant
Matthew 18:26-34

Dog Breed

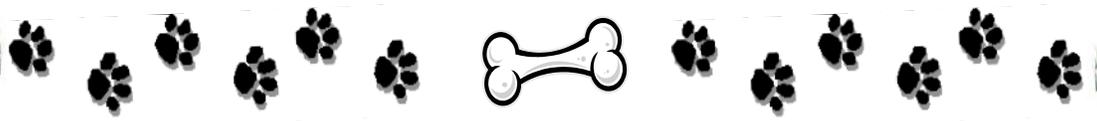
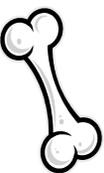
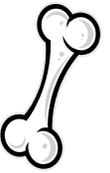
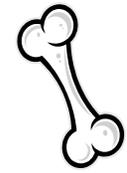
Great Dane

Great Danes were once bred to fight. However, over the years they have changed to become a patient dog. It took time to change the breed from aggressive to docile. Today, the Great Dane makes a wonderful pet for a family due to its docile nature.

We are called to show patience to one another. Our nature is to want to fight back when someone does something mean to us. However, when we choose to react in a kind way, we are showing patience. It may take time to develop this kind of patience, but with God's help we can show the kind of love I Corinthians 13 teaches.

Supplies

- ◆ Throne
- ◆ Robe
- ◆ Copies of scrolls (page 10-11)
- ◆ Materials for obstacle course
- ◆ Muzzle
- ◆ Crown (Kit)
- ◆ Copies of role playing cards (page 12)



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Deputy Catch U. Dog

Supplies: None

Good morning! I am Deputy Catch U Dawg, the local dog catcher. My job is to track down and catch stray dogs. And trust me, there are lots of strays out there. Some strays don't have a home. We pick them up and try to find a home for them. Others, well, they've strayed from their homes. Somehow they got lost. If they have a dog tag on, it's easy to find their home. If not, it can try my patience.

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This is the dog I'm looking for today. (Point to picture of the dog on PowerPoint). The Great Dane is known for being gentle and patient. I've seen children pull his tail and he will patiently stand there. He doesn't nip at them or growl. He is forgiving.

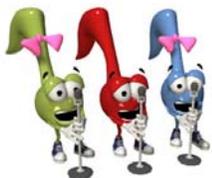
I often get impatient when dogs won't do what I want them to do. Like when they won't go in the truck. Or if they run from me and I have to chase them down. They sometimes snarl or growl at me. I try to treat them lovingly, patiently dealing with the bad things they do to me.

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(Sound of dog barking)

Oh, maybe that's the Great Dane. I'm off on a dog hunt! Just hope he isn't in a bad mood today.

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Puppet Song

"God is Love" from
Scripture Rock by Brentwood Kids, 1997.

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Dog Trainer

Supplies: None

Hello, glad to make your acquaintance. I hear that you are talking about Great Danes today. I've trained a few of those in my day. In fact, many of the dogs I have trained have been in dog shows. It is fun to watch them work hard to win the blue ribbons and trophies.

It was a long time before Great Danes were welcome at dog shows. For hundreds of years, Great Danes were not nice dogs. They were often used for fighting. The Romans would throw the Great Dane into a stadium to fight with lions. For a long time, Great Danes were banned from dog shows because they would stir up fights with other dogs. However, breeders had faith in these dogs and patiently improved their temper. Today, the Great Dane is quite gentle. He especially likes playing with puppies and kittens. But it took a lot of patience to change the dog from a fighter to a gentle dog.

Training a dog can really try your patience. Sometimes the dog just doesn't want to do what you want him to do. I wonder if you are trainable? Everyone stand up. Now, I am going to give you a command and you do the command as fast as you can. Ready? Sit. Stand. Play dead. Sit. Beg. Stand. Roll over. (Continue with these commands getting faster and faster until they are impossible to follow.) I think I had better stick with dogs. You just can't keep up! But at least you followed my commands. It takes real patience to stick with a dog that is slow to follow commands.

People are sometimes like that. They just don't do the things you want them to do. They make unkind remarks or they yell at

you. Maybe they call you names or cheat in a game you are playing. The Bible says that "Love is patient." When our friends don't treat us right, we need to be patient instead of lashing out at them.

I'll leave you with that thought. Think about how you treat others. Are you patient with them? Or do you lose your patience when they don't do the things you want them to do?

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Bible Story

The Unforgiving Servant
Matthew 18:26-34

Supplies: Throne, crown, robe for the king, copies of scrolls (page 10-11)

Preparation: Roll up the scrolls. To make a throne, drape fabric or a blanket over a chair or cover a chair with aluminum foil.

Matthew 18:26-34 contains a story that Jesus told. I want to tell you the same story but I am going to need some help. Who would like to volunteer to help me with this?

Choose the following actors: King, Servant One, Servant Two, Jailer, Court Recorder.

Place the crown and robe on the king and have him sit on the throne. The court recorder should stand beside him. Servant One, Servant Two and the Jailer should enter the scene when appropriate.

Once there was a king who decided that he wanted all his debts paid. A debt is when someone owes you money. One particular man owed the king a lot of money. More than you can imagine.

Mr. Court Recorder, please unroll your scroll and tell us, how much did the man owe the king? (The court recorder should unroll scroll one and loudly read it. "Servant One owes his majesty one million dollars.")

This man, Servant One, was brought before the king. (The jailer should escort Servant One to the throne.) **The king demanded payment of the one million dollars. Servant One was horrified. He had no way to pay such an enormous amount of money. It seemed hopeless.** (Servant One should shake his head, hang his shoulders and look despondent.)

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The king then announced that if Servant One could not pay the amount he owed, he would be sold along with his family for payment. The man fell down and begged the king, "Please have patience with me. I will pay you all." The man wanted the king to give him some grace, some time. So, what do you think the king did? (The king should wrinkle his brow and look as if he is in deep thought.)

The king had compassion on the man. He released him and even forgave him the debt. In other words, he told the man that he did not have to pay him any money at all! (The court recorder should rip up scroll one and throw it away.)

The man was ecstatic! (Servant One should start jumping up and down excitedly.) **It looked like he was going to be sold. It looked like his family was going to be sold. And now, not only was he free, but his debt was forgiven!**

Servant One left the king. And you will never believe what he did! Do you think he went home and celebrated with his family? (Give time after each question for

the children to respond.) **Do you think he went to church and thanked God? Do you think he went and bought his wife flowers? No, he went and found another man who owed him a small amount of money compared to his debt.**

Mr. Court Reporter, how much did this man owe Servant One? (The court reporter should unroll the second scroll and say in a loud voice, "Servant Two owes Servant One two dollars.")

You are probably picturing the scene. Servant One finds this guy who owes him a few bucks and tells him that he is forgiven the debt. Right? Wrong! He actually laid hands on him and took him by the throat, yelling, "Pay me what you owe me!" (Have Servants act this out very carefully!)

Interesting. Servant One had just been shown great patience by the king. And yet, he was not willing to show this man patience.

Servant Two begged him, "Have patience with me and I will pay you." (Servant Two should be on his knees, pleading with Servant One.)

But Servant One refused. (Servant One violently shakes his head no and points toward the door.)

He had Servant Two thrown into prison. (Jailer takes Servant Two away.)

When the king heard this, he was furious. He called for Servant One. "I forgave you all that debt. But you couldn't forgive someone else such a small amount."

The king had Servant One taken away.

(Jailer takes Servant One away.)

If you have accepted Christ as your Savior, you have had a huge debt paid for you. Jesus paid that debt when He died on the cross for you. He forgave all your sin. We need to be willing to forgive others just as Jesus forgave us.

Jesus is patient with us. He does not stomp on us every time we mess up. He does not zap us when we do something wrong. Do we treat others the way Jesus treats us? Or do we lash out at someone who has done something wrong? Maybe someone messes up in a game we are playing. Maybe someone misses a game winning basket in a basketball game. Perhaps, someone is having a bad day and has been unkind to you. Do you yell at the person? Or are you patient with them?

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Prayer

Ask the Lord to help the children be patient. Help them to remember how much they have been forgiven and be willing to forgive others.

This is also a good time to present the plan of salvation for those children who might not yet know Jesus as their Savior.

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**Dog House****Supplies:** Muzzle

Preparation: Each week hide the object inside the dog house before the children arrive.

Choose a child to pull the muzzle out of the dog house.

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Does anyone know what this is for? It can actually be used for different things. One use is to put it on a dog so the dog cannot bite. For instance, if you are taking a dog to a vet you might put the muzzle on so the dog will not bite the vet. Another use for the muzzle is when training a dog. A muzzle will calm a dog down when he/she gets overly excited.

Have you ever heard someone say, “Put a muzzle on”? That means to keep quiet and calm down. I Corinthians 13:1 tells us “Love is patient.” To show Jesus’ love to people, we need to be patient with them. That means we might need to muzzle ourselves. Instead of yelling at people or saying mean things, we need to keep quiet. That is hard to do when we are being mistreated. However, we can always rely on Jesus to help us. When we are tempted to lash out at someone, we can quickly ask Jesus to help us stay calm.

Next time you are about to lose patience with someone, think about a muzzle. Then, put an imaginary one on your mouth until you have calmed down.

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Remember, when friends are hard to take, give them a break!

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**Dog Training****Supplies:** Materials to make an obstacle course. Suggestions:

play tube to crawl through, chairs to run around, dowel rod between chairs to jump over, table to climb under, hula hoops to hop through.

Preparation: Create an obstacle course. If possible, make it similar to a dog show course. If you have enough materials, you can make two identical obstacle courses and run a relay race with them.

Begin by letting the children run through the obstacle course.

Do you think it would be hard to get a dog to go through the obstacle course? You would have to train the dog for a long time. Showing patience is often like training a dog for an obstacle course. It takes lots of training to have patience. It does not come easy. Sometimes we mess up and lose our patience. But if we keep trying, when we get to obstacles in our lives, we will show patience while dealing with the obstacle.

Alternate option: If your area does not work for an obstacle course, teach the children a succession of motions that they must remember. Example: clap hands five times, stand up and turn around three times, hop on one foot two times, sit down, tap nose.

Extension Idea: Show a short clip of a dog running through an obstacle course during a dog show.

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Obedience School

Supplies: Role playing cards (page 12) for each small group

Divide the children into groups and let them role play the following situations:

1. You walk up to your best friend and ask her if she wants to come home with you after church. She answers “no” unkindly and walks off.
2. You are playing a board game with your brother. He gets mad because you are winning. He hits the board, causing all the pieces to move. You can not tell where each piece was located.
3. You are at a friend’s party. One of his other friends says, about you, “Does that kid always have such a big mouth?” Your friend says yes.



Time Stretchers



Doggie Bag

Dog face cookies

Supplies: Round sugar cookies, icing tubes, paper plates

For each child place a cookie on a paper plate. Have the children use the icing tubes to create a dog face on their cookie.

Was it hard to make your face look right? Sometimes it is hard to get the icing out of the tube. Once you get it out of the tube, it is often hard to make your face. Did you have to have patience while making your dog face?



Memory verse

Love is patient.
I Corinthians 13:1

Supplies: Alphabets cereal, construction paper, glue

Have the children spell out the memory verse using letters from the cereal. After spelling it out, they can glue the letters on the construction paper.



Craft

Poster

Supplies: Poster board or construction paper for each child, markers

Have the children make a poster to remind them to "Put A Muzzle On." Have them draw a situation where the people involved need to be patient with one another.



Game

Sit or Heel

Play Red light, Green light except when the player turns around he says "Sit" or "Heel". All player must either sit or stand still (heel).

After playing the game, discuss the importance of listening closely. Many times we lose patience with people because we do not want to listen to their instructions or what they have to say. Ask the kids how this could get them in trouble.



Movies

101 Dalmatians
Lady and the Tramp
Swiss Family Robinson

Deputy Catch U. Dog

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Scroll Two

“Servant Two
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Together Time

Bible Point

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I Corinthians 13:1

Bible Story

The Unforgiving Servant
Matthew 18:26-34

Dog Breed

Great Dane

Family Fun

Try this experiment: Put two pans about the same size filled with water on a stove. Turn one of the pans to high. Turn the other on low. How long does it take each one to boil? To be patient means to have a low boiling point. To take longer to boil, we need to stay on "low" instead of "high." (You must have an adult present when doing this experiment.)

Discussion:

When is it hard to be patient and forgive someone? Is it harder to be patient with your family members, your friends or strangers? Why do you think that is so?

The Great Dane is known for being gentle and patient.



