



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 11: Impatience

Suggested Week of Use: February 11, 2024

Core Passage: Genesis 15:1-6; 16:1-6

News Story Summary

Ryan Reaves began his National Hockey League (NHL) career in 2011-12 with the St. Louis Blues. After playing with a number of teams over his career, Reaves was signed as a free agent by the Toronto Maple Leafs in July of 2023. As a veteran forward, Toronto was happy to have Reaves in the lineup. However, on December 14, while playing against the Columbus Blue Jackets, Reaves lost his balance, crashed into the boards hard, and injured his knee.

On January 27, Reaves returned to the lineup for a game against the Winnipeg Jets. Reaves has described how this season has felt like a rollercoaster year. He noted that during his time off he wrestled with patience. He admitted that the waiting was difficult, even though he was confident things would work out for him in the end. His patience paid off, as he scored a goal in his first game back and helped the Maple Leafs defeat the Jets, 4-2.

For more about this story, search “Ryan Reaves waiting patiently.”

Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, encourage adults to share about any competitive sports they may have played in high school or college. Ask: *Were you ever sidelined with an injury? How did it feel to sit on the sidelines being unable to play?* Point out that injuries require recovery time, which also requires patience. Share the story of Ryan Reaves and his experience waiting to get back on the ice to play hockey. Discuss what can help someone have patience when waiting for something. Share that this session examines how God worked to develop patience in Abram. Note that the patriarch had to wait for God to fulfill His promises—and that sometimes his patience wore thin.

Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, discuss how a lack of patience can often lead to greater problems. Remind the group of Ryan Reaves’ patience waiting to get back on the ice for his hockey career. Ask: *What could have happened if Reaves had not been patient and waited for the right time to play again?* Write the following statement on the board: *Patience is a virtue.* Encourage adults to share their reactions to that familiar saying. Affirm that patience might be a virtue, but that doesn’t make it easy to develop in our lives. Encourage adults to consider areas of their lives where God is calling them to demonstrate patience and to lean into Him when they get tired of waiting.