

WHAT'S GOD LIKE? GOD IS PATIENT

**Memory verse: 2 Peter 3:15 (NLT)**

'And remember, our Lord's patience gives people time to be saved.'

Memory verse: 1 Timothy 1:16 (ESV)

'But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.'

BIG QUESTION: WHO'S THE SLOWEST WALKER?**PERFECTLY PATIENT**

I don't know about you, but I like to walk fast! Wherever I'm going, whenever it is, I want to get there as quickly as possible. I walk so fast that Xenia constantly nags at me to slow down, she says 'who's chasing you, what's the hurry?' 'What's the hurry?' Well, I'm trying to get there as quickly as possible! Xenia enjoys the process of the journey; she makes me slow down so much that I feel like I'm walking in slow motion. It makes me very impatient... If I had it my way Xenia and I would run everywhere. However, I guess that the sight of two adults frantically running everywhere would probably look a bit strange, especially if we were carrying the weekly shop.

God never loses his patience. In fact his patience is perfect! When you become a Christian you start on a journey that will one day take you home to be with Jesus. Throughout this journey God wants to shape and change you into his image (When I say

'image' I mean What He's like). But through this journey God is patient with us, isn't that a relief?! I don't know about you but sometimes I imagine God being impatient with me for going too slowly or messing up too many times. But the truth is that He isn't, He's actually perfectly patient.

SOMETHING TO DO

As a family why don't you have a walking race to see who the fastest walker is, remember, no cheating. The official rules for Olympic race walking says that the walker's front foot must be on the ground when the rear foot is raised and the front leg must straighten when it makes contact with the ground.



The bible says that God is slow to anger. He holds back his punishment, even when we keep on sinning. But one day God will judge the world and everyone's sins will be revealed, that means even the secret ones that we think no one knows about... Scary! But if you believe in Jesus you have nothing to worry about, to every accusation you can respond 'I plead Jesus'. Although I reckon it's probably best not to keep pushing our luck. Instead we should try to become more like God. Paul spoke about this when he said 'Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love' (Ephesians 4:2, NIV). God is patient, it's a patience that's perfect and it's a patience that we should show to others.

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

- Knowing that one-day you're going to have to stand in front of God. Is there something you'd like to confess to Him today?
- Is there someone you can show perfect patience to today?

**PRAYER**

Lord, thank you for being perfectly patient with me.
Help me today to show that kind of patience to the people I meet. Amen.