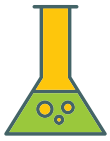




Missing out on “what could have been”

Because of the lack of trust in God’s power and promises, the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness for the next forty years and never experienced the Promised Land. How easy it is for us also to miss out on what God has for us, because we don’t trust God’s plan.



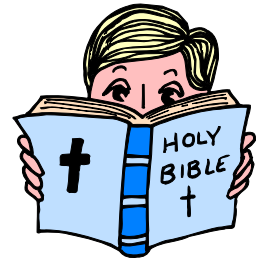
Object Lesson

Put 4 Skittles in front of each of your children. Tell them they can eat them right now, or they can wait and not eat any for two minutes. If they don’t eat any Skittles for two minutes they will get an entire bag of Skittles and may eat them after your next meal.

Read the passage about Israelites wanting to return to slavery instead of experiencing what God promised them. Sometimes doing the right thing is hard and takes time, and it is hard to wait.

Scripture

¹Then all the congregation raised a loud cry, and the people wept that night. ²And all the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The whole congregation said to them, “Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! ³Why is the LORD bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become a prey. Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?” ⁴And they said to one another, “Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt.”



[Then the LORD said,] ²¹“But truly, as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD, ²²none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice, ²³shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers. And none of those who despised me shall see it.” —Numbers 14:1–4, 21–23



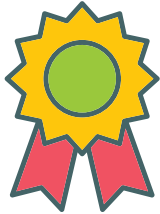
Team Work

Unscramble these words to discover things that need time to be useful or best.

1. ANABAN
2. DAHR DILOBE GEG
3. GOBILIN ETWAR
4. SARGS SESED
5. ITURF STEER
6. ITMAYRUT
7. GONL IRAH
8. INSLOG GEWITH
9. LIPYANG SECSH
10. AHMATRON

Sharing

Share about a time when you missed out on something you wanted to do, or something was taken from you, or you didn't receive something your parents wanted for you because you did not obey them.



Encouragement

Our daughter Lisa was the head athletic trainer for the UCLA women's basketball team. One day the coach came and asked her to clear a team member to play in the next game. Lisa said, "Coach, she can play now, but likely she will re-injure herself and not be able to play the championship games."

Healing takes time. When we trust God and wait on His timing, it is always best.

... but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.
—Isaiah 40:31

Final Thought

Waiting is hard. It is hard to really trust those in authority over us and listen to their instructions. We suffer from "immediate gratification syndrome." If we want something, we want it *now*. But most often, receiving the best takes time, discipline, and trust in the One who is leading us.



Thank God that He does not want you to miss out on what He has for you and that He will give you the strength to trust Him and follow Him to the "Promised Land."