

# SHARING THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL

## *St. John Bosco & Patience*

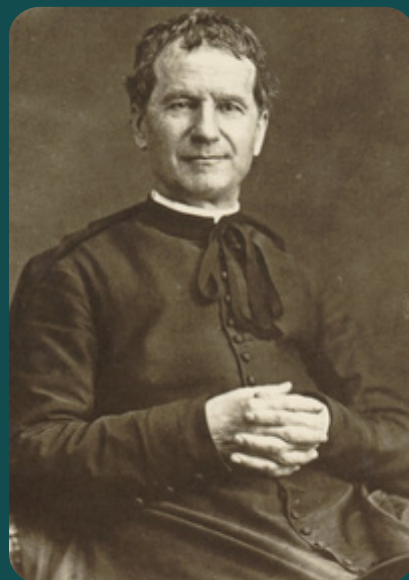
Patience means staying calm when things are hard or when we have to wait for things, trusting that God has a plan.

### IN DEPTH FOR STUDENTS

Patience is the virtue of being in control of our actions and words when things don't go the way we think they should. This includes when you can't do or have something you want, when someone is mean to you, when you or someone else makes a mistake, and when you don't like someone else's choices. It is very hard to be patient in these situations, but this is how we can love like God loves. God is very patient with us as we make mistakes or even hurt Him on purpose— He forgives us every time we ask to be forgiven! This month, we are going to practice loving like God loves us by being patient with ourselves and others!

### CONNECTION TO THE SAINT

St. John Bosco was a teacher who worked with very difficult young boys who struggled to behave well. They often didn't seem to care about loving God, and even to love themselves and others. Instead of being tough on the boys until they obeyed him, He patiently showed them that he and God loved them, and he taught them how and why to behave and to love. It was not easy to be patient with all the boys and all the other teachers at the school, some who thought they needed to be mean to the boys. However, he knew that being patient was what God would do, so he did his best to love everyone patiently and trust that God would help him when he failed to do so.



### OTHER RESOURCES;

- Saints Alive Podcast: [St. John Bosco + Activity](#)
- Photo of St. John Bosco ([Wikicommons](#))
- Biography & Video about St. John Bosco ([BeKids](#))
- Book Recommendation: St. John Bosco and His Big Gray Dog

# PRACTICAL CLASSROOM IDEAS

- **Patience Prayer Journal:** Provide each student with a simple journal. Have them write or draw about a time they had to wait or be patient. Afterward, ask them to write a prayer asking God to help them stay patient in difficult situations.
- **Patience Relay:** Set up an obstacle course or relay race with a twist: the students must wait their turn at different stages, practicing patience. Before the race, explain that sometimes we need to wait for the right moment, just as St. John Bosco trusted that God's timing was always perfect. Discuss how waiting patiently can help us grow stronger and more trusting in God.
- **St. John Bosco's Patience Stories:** Read short stories or tell age-appropriate accounts of St. John Bosco's life, focusing on his patience when working with difficult children or when facing challenges like a lack of resources. After, ask students to reflect on how they can show patience in their own lives, whether at home or school.
- **Patience Garden:** Create a "Patience Garden" bulletin board where students add a flower or plant to the garden each time they practice patience. For example, they could add a paper flower when they wait their turn or handle a frustrating situation calmly. As the garden grows, discuss how patience helps us grow in faith and virtue, just like plants need time to grow.
- **God's Timing:** Have students create a collage using pictures or drawings that represent times when they've had to wait, trust, or be patient. Encourage them to include moments when God's plan became clearer after waiting. This could also be tied to a simple discussion about how St. John Bosco trusted in God's plan, even when things were hard.
- **Patience through Prayer:** Teach students St. John Bosco's favorite saying "Give me souls, take away the rest" and discuss what it means—how St. John Bosco was focused on helping others get closer to God, even when it was hard. Ask students to share their thoughts on how they can focus on what is important, even when they feel impatient.
- **Quiet Time with God:** Set aside time during the day for quiet prayer or reflection. Ask students to sit in silence for a few minutes, focusing on their breath and allowing God's presence to calm them. This will help them practice patience and trust in God's timing. End with a prayer asking for patience in their daily lives.