

Patience



Learning & Growing
STEPS
Learning & Growing



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Patience takes faith.

By Amber Darley and Agnes Lemaire

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Growing Time

My name is Angela. Our family lived in the rain forest. We had worked hard to cut away the trees and bushes, and make a clearing where we built our huts. I was only a young girl at the time of our arrival to this particular part of the forest, but I remember clearly how hard my father and older brothers worked, and how beautiful our little home was. My mother helped to make our huts cozy and began planting things like yams, cassava, corn and millet. We even had some banana trees. I loved eating bananas.

I would watch my mother dig and prepare the earth, doing what little I could to help out, as I was only four years old at the time. I would bring water when she needed it; I would fetch the seeds or roots when she was ready to plant. I'd bring her little snacks when she was hungry, or act as a go-between for my mother and father, running little errands here and there. I'd watch over my baby brother who was very small at the time.

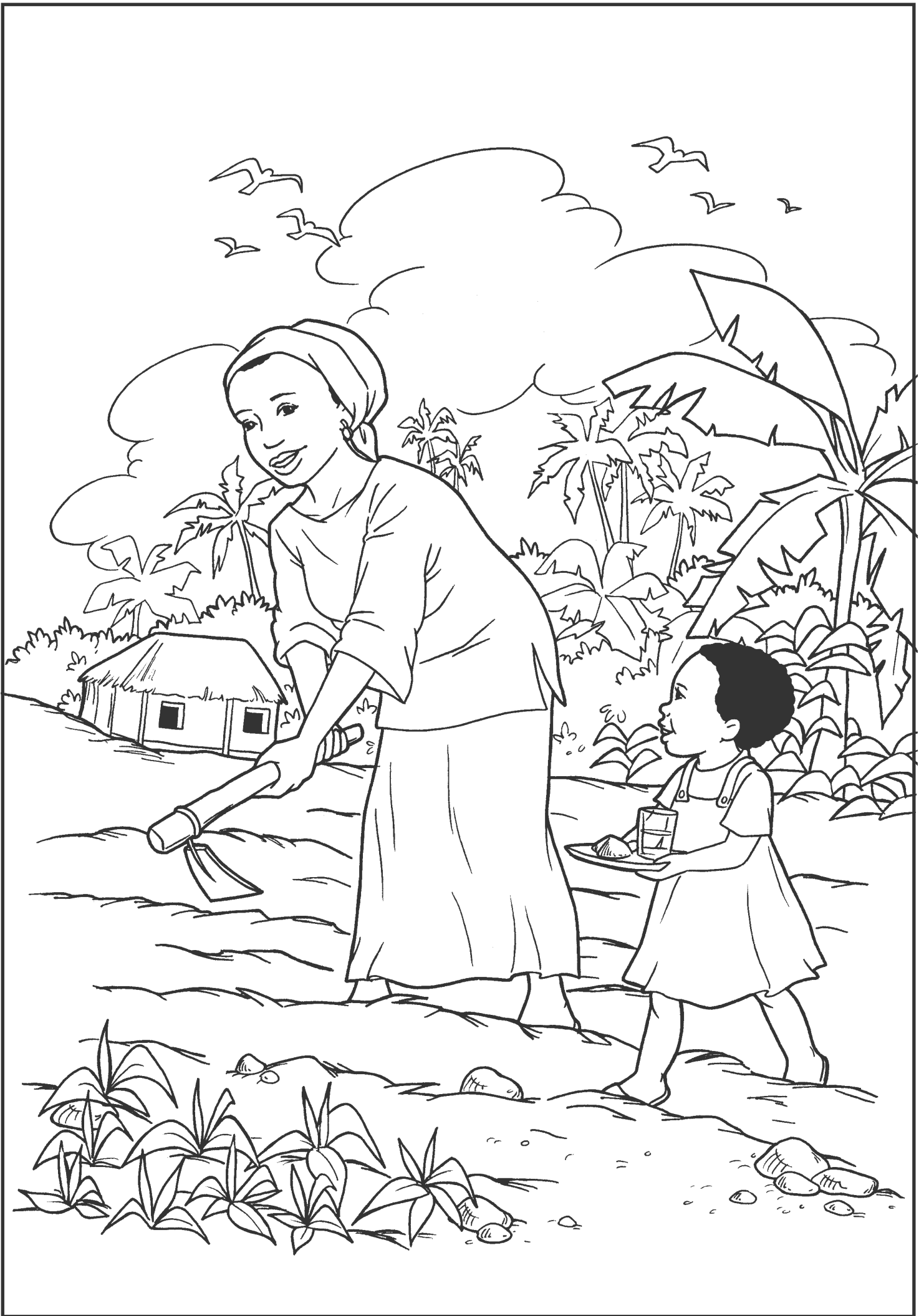
I had two older brothers, and one younger brother. I was the only girl in our family, and I wanted so much to grow up and be able to do all of the things that my mother did. I wanted to be able to plant the food and watch it grow. I was still very young, and was learning little by little as the days went by. It just seemed to take forever, and time was passing by so slowly.

One day my mother found me sitting in the corner of our hut crying. "What's the matter, my dear?" she asked.

"I want to grow up and be a big girl like you. I want to be able to prepare the earth and plant the seeds and roots. I don't want to be a little girl, but it takes so long to grow up." I sobbed.

"Maybe you don't feel like you're growing up very quickly, and it will take some time before you can till the ground and grow food by yourself. But you do help a lot and are learning very quickly, and one day real soon you'll be able to do all of the jobs that I do. You just have to be patient.

"Look at the seeds and roots we've been planting. We put them under the soil where it's dark and moist, and it takes a long time for them to start to grow. They probably want to be big plants right away, but they begin as seeds—little, tiny seeds, or roots. They're small at first, but then if they patiently wait, they begin to grow. Slowly but surely, they poke their head out from underneath the soil, and day by day they grow stronger and bigger until they finally start to bear fruit or vegetables or grains.



“And what about the banana trees? We have to wait patiently for the bananas. The cluster of bananas starts to grow, but at first they’re small and green and we can’t eat them. Then they grow and grow, bigger and bigger, growing sweeter and sweeter. We can then pick them, but we still have to wait for them to turn yellow before we can eat them. You see, waiting takes patience, but in the end we get to eat the delicious, ripe bananas.

“And consider your father and your brothers. They have to be patient too. When they go hunting, they have to wait patiently and quietly for the game. They can’t be in a hurry; otherwise they’ll scare the animals away. See, we all have to learn patience.

“You’re learning patience too. You want to be big right now, and you want to do so many things, but growing up takes time. There are many things about being little that are fun, and you’ll be big enough to do the other things soon, so enjoy each day that you have. Just like the banana, you’ll grow big and beautiful,” she said, as she held me in her arms and wiped away my tears.

Everything that my mother told me that day was true. It wasn’t long before I began learning how to plant and care for fruit trees, seeds, roots, vegetables and other plants. Then a few years later my mother had a couple of other daughters, my younger sisters. When they grew up, I began to teach them everything that I knew. We even started learning how to make bricks out of the clay that we’d collect from anthills, which my father and brothers would then use for our houses.

So don’t worry if you feel like growing up takes so long. It takes time to grow and learn, just like it took me time to learn how to farm and grow things. There’s a time and a season for us all, and we each have a special place and job. You have a special job too. If you haven’t found it yet, just patiently wait and you’ll discover it soon enough. Remember that it takes time for the banana to grow, but it’s worth waiting for.



- What did Angela have to learn?
- Does patience teach us to trust God? Why?
- If we worry and fret, does it help things to go faster?
- Why does God like us to go slow and be patient?
- Is God patient? In what ways?

The Hare and the Tortoise

There once lived a very proud Hare. He loved to stroll around the warren* with his nose held high in the air. Everyone knew that the Hare thought he was the best Hare there ever was! There was one thing that the Hare was more proud of than anything else. He had been blessed with strong back legs, and that meant he could run very fast. He never missed an opportunity to show off his running skills to his friends, and no one had ever been known to run faster than him—or not until the day he met the Tortoise, who slowly crawled by as the Hare was bragging to his friends.

“Hurry up, hurry up, old Tortoise!” laughed the Hare. “If you went much slower, the grass would grow over you!”

“You may rush all you wish,” the Tortoise said, “but I get to where I want to be soon enough, thank you.” He looked the Hare up and down slowly before continuing. “In fact, I reckon I could get there quicker than you, fast as you are.”

The Hare burst out laughing. “Quicker than me? That I should like to see!” and so he challenged the Tortoise to a race.

The arrangements were soon made, and the very next day everyone arrived to watch the Hare and the Tortoise run their race.

“Five, four, three, two, one, go!” cried the Rooster, and in a flash the Hare was out of sight and over the hill. The crowd clapped and cheered as the old Tortoise lifted first one foot and then the other and slowly began to make his way along the path. He looked neither to the right nor to the left but kept his eyes on the winding road straight ahead.

The Hare raced along the road. It was obvious to one and all that the Hare was in a great hurry, and it seemed he would surely win. Far behind him the Tortoise plodded steadily along.

Soon the Hare had reached the race’s halfway point.

“I have plenty of time,” he said to himself. “I must be miles ahead of that old slowpoke Tortoise by now. In fact, I could have a snooze right here and now, and when I wake up continue on my way and I would still have time to beat that Tortoise.” And so the Hare sat down under a tree and went to sleep.

The hours passed by and after a time the Tortoise appeared over the hill. He walked down the road till he reached the spot where the Hare sat, fast asleep. The Tortoise looked but didn't say a word, and continued steadily on his way. The sun was beginning to go down when the Hare suddenly woke up. He yawned and stretched and saw to his satisfaction that the Tortoise was nowhere to be seen. “Plenty of time to win the race!” said the Hare to himself happily.

Off down the road he sped, but as he came over the hill he saw the most amazing sight. There ahead of him was the Tortoise taking his last few steps towards the finish line! The crowds cheered wildly as his shiny shell broke the tape in two, and the Rooster declared him the winner. As the Hare panted for breath at the end of the race, the Tortoise smiled. “Slow I may be, but I keep my eye on the goal and I don't let anything distract me!”



- Have you ever been in a big hurry to get somewhere and forgot something important? Or rushed through the house and knocked something over and had to stop and clean it up? Or maybe you were going too fast and fell down and hurt yourself?
- Talk about some more examples of how going too fast can actually slow you down, and see how the quote “If you go slow, you get there quicker!” fits those situations.



The Diamond Necklace

One night I was answering the phone at the movie theater, when I received a call from a woman who sounded very worried, "Have you found a diamond necklace at your theater? I saw a movie last night and I am almost sure that I lost it there."

"No one has turned in a diamond necklace here. But we will look for it. Please wait a minute while I ask," I said to her as I turned on the recorded music for her to listen to while she was waiting. Then I went to ask some of the other workers at the theater. The first man I saw was the man who cleaned up the theatre, "Bob, have you seen a diamond necklace in the theater? A woman is on the phone who thinks she lost it here last night."

"As a matter of fact I did. I just took it to the office."

"God bless you for being so honest and turning it in, Bob."

I ran as quickly as I could back to the phone and said excitedly, "I have good news for you, Madame. Your necklace has been found."

I was expecting her to answer gratefully, but there was only silence on the other end of the phone.

"Hello, hello ... Madame are you there? ... Madame?"

The woman had already hung up. I called the phone company trying to trace the caller, but they were not able to find her number.

It was sad that she did not wait a few more minutes for the answer to her question. Her impatience caused her to lose her beautiful necklace that was so close to being hers again.



- Tell about a time you waited for something for a long time before receiving the answer.
- Did the woman have much faith that the man at the theater would find her necklace? If she did, do you think she would have waited longer?
- Talk about what this quote means: "Patience takes faith."
- Sometimes we are like that woman when we pray and don't wait for God's answer. His answer to our prayers will come in His good time. The promise is sure: "Call unto Me, and I will answer thee" (Jeremiah 33:3). We must have faith and trust God's promise to answer us! Don't give up—the answer is coming and is on its way!



Go Slow

Go slow my friend,
Enjoy the view.
Listen to God
As He speaks to you.

We're God's body
And His building too.
He builds us slowly,
Strong through and through.

God made the world
In six days it's true.
But He didn't hurry,
It was simple to do.

So when it storms
We'll stand strong,
But houses built quick
Will soon be gone.

So we should learn
From the things He made,
The flowers and trees,
The diamonds and jade.

Steady of aim
We must be too,
A vision for
God's will to do.

God takes His time,
So let's take ours.
Stop while working
And pick some flowers.

Those that hurry
They never win,
They miss the mark
And that's a sin.



God Takes His Time

God takes His time to make a tree,
A tiny babe or a bumblebee.
He makes them slow so we can see
And know the way we ought to be.

The farmer's work is very slow,
Waiting for the seed to grow.
He must have a lot of faith,
To plant his garden and to wait.

... Go slow but don't just stop
Or we may never reach the top.



Prayer and Praise

Thank You, Jesus, for teaching me that
it's good to be patient and go slow.
Please help me not to rush or go too
fast, but to be calm and trusting, just like
You. Amen.

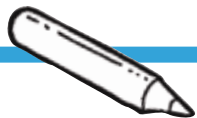
Memory Fun



Rest in the
Lord, and
wait patiently
for Him.
Psalm 37:7

Pencil Page

Picture Sequence



Look at the pictures and put the correct numbers in the blank boxes to show the order in which they happened.

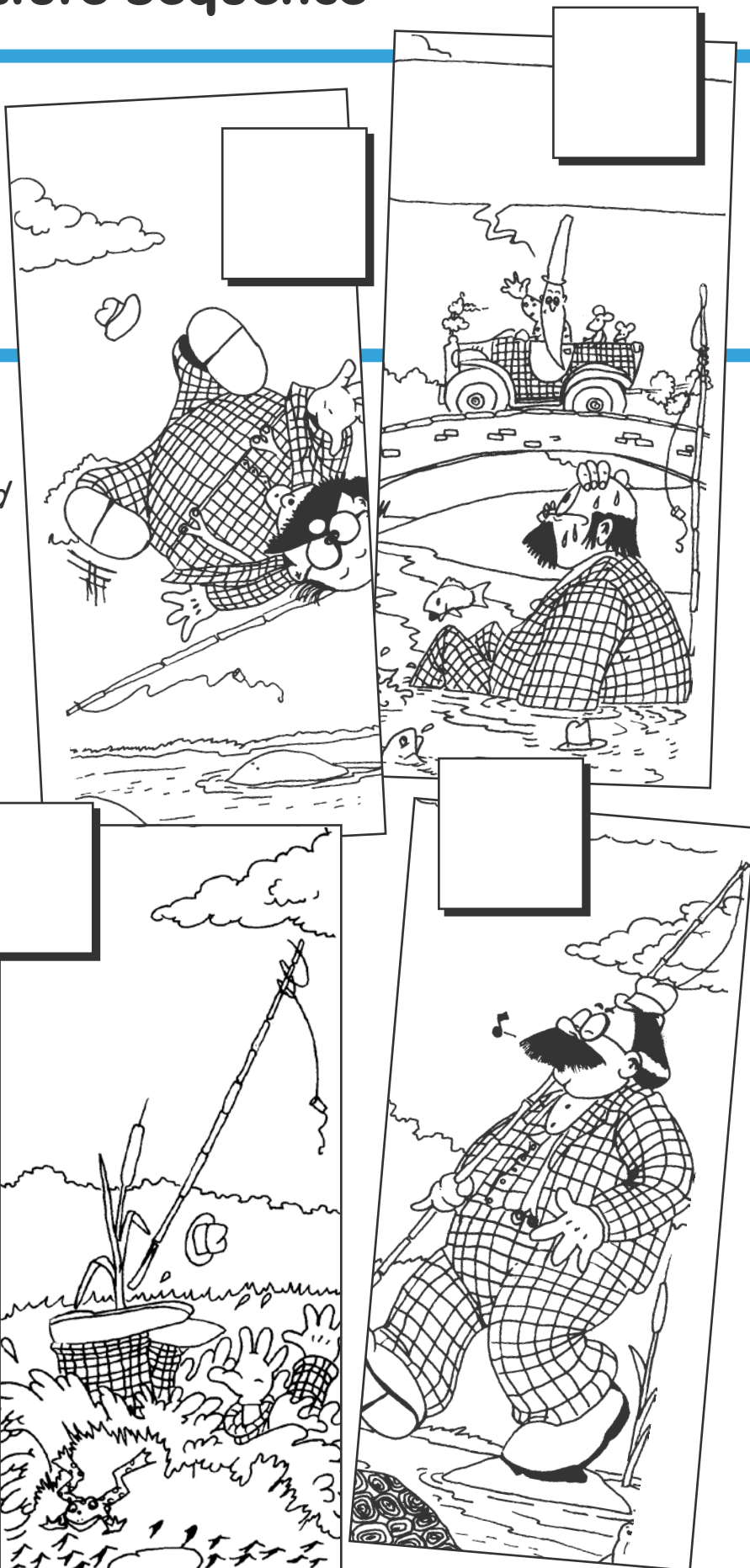
To find the message to fit the pictures, fill in the blanks by putting together all the *slanted* letters from the puzzle below.

Look!

Before you

_____ .

S	T	B	C
O	I	F	G
L	K	J	<i>E</i>
M	N	S	<i>A</i>
T	H	<i>P</i>	V
Y	B	S	M



Pencil Page

Finish the Poem



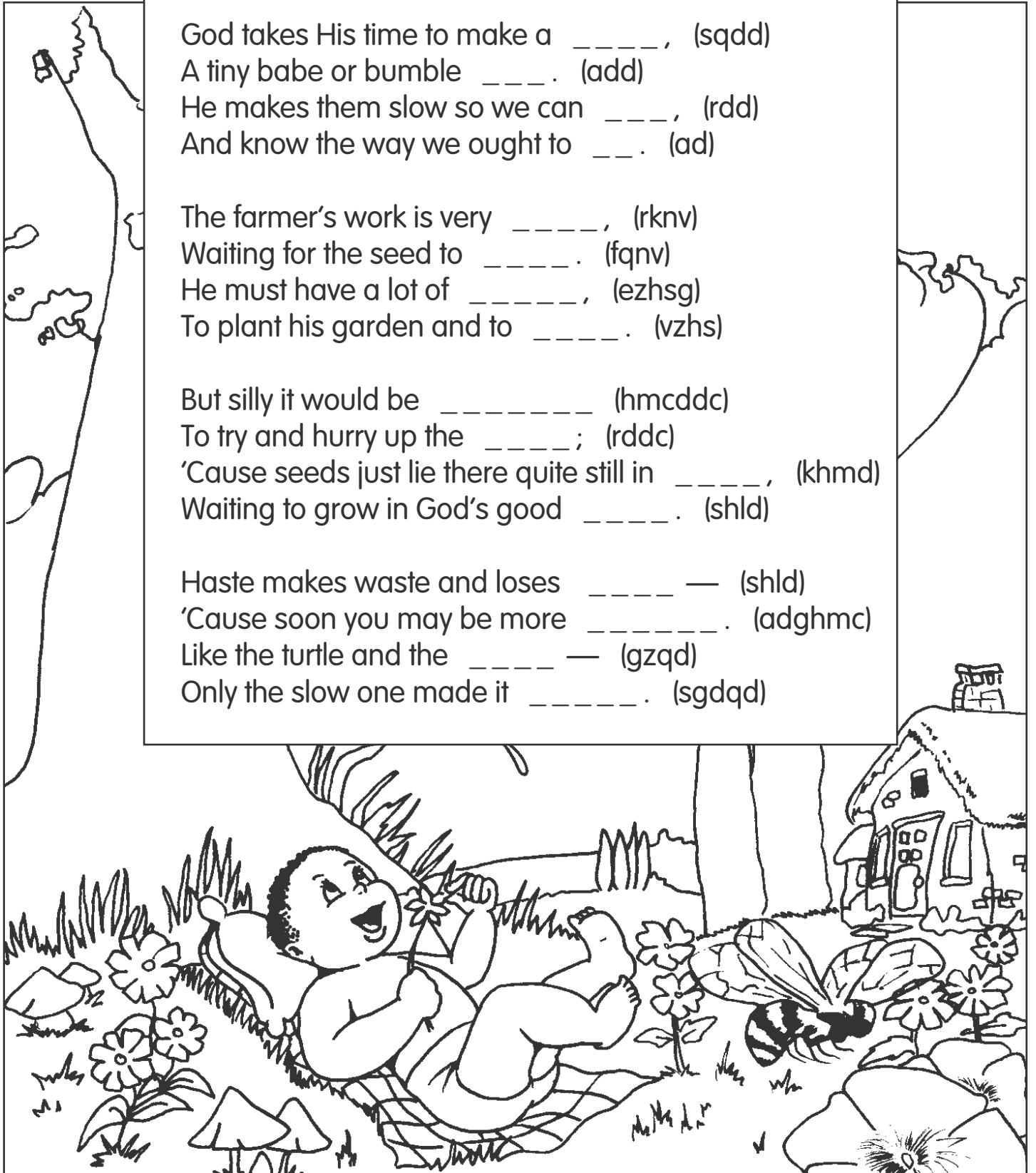
Fill in the blanks in the poem by writing the letters in the alphabet that come after the ones given in parenthesis. For example, ahakd would be Bible. (A follows Z.)

God takes His time to make a _____, (sqdd)
A tiny babe or bumble _____. (add)
He makes them slow so we can _____, (rdd)
And know the way we ought to _____. (ad)

The farmer's work is very _____, (rkvn)
Waiting for the seed to _____. (fqnv)
He must have a lot of _____, (ezhsg)
To plant his garden and to _____. (vzhs)

But silly it would be _____ (hmcddc)
To try and hurry up the _____; (rddc)
'Cause seeds just lie there quite still in _____, (khmd)
Waiting to grow in God's good _____. (shld)

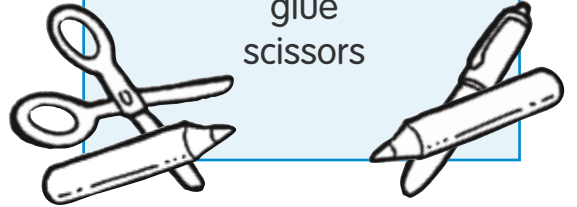
Haste makes waste and loses _____ — (shld)
'Cause soon you may be more _____. (adghmc)
Like the turtle and the _____ — (gzqd)
Only the slow one made it _____. (sgdqd)



Make and Do

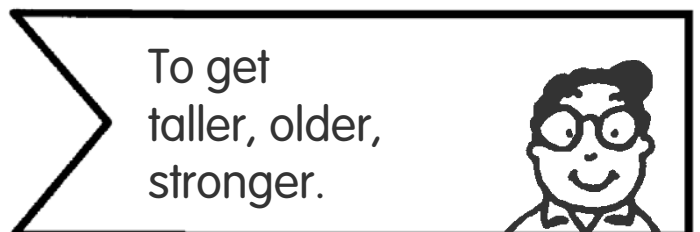
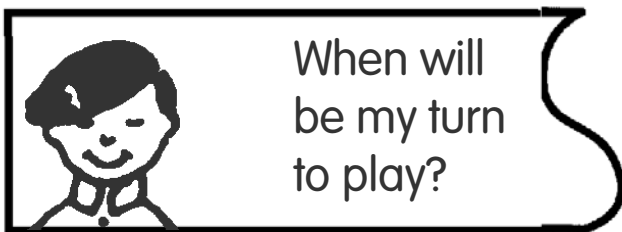
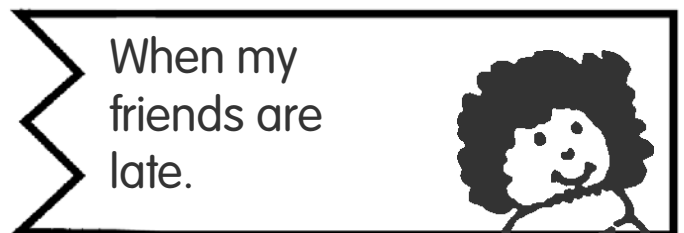
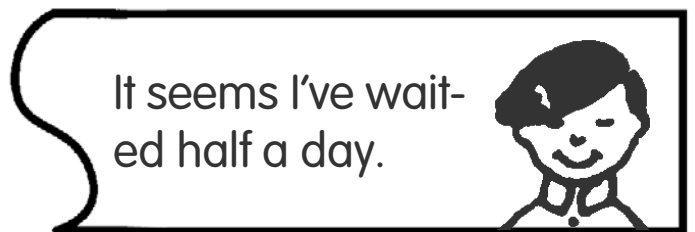
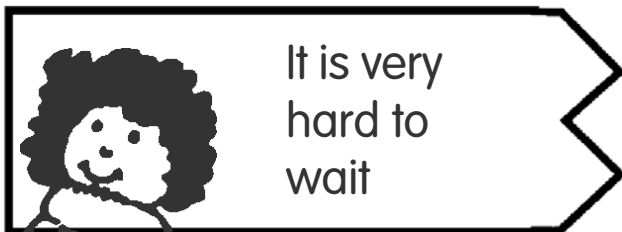
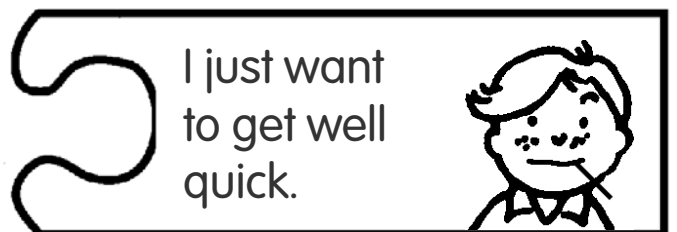
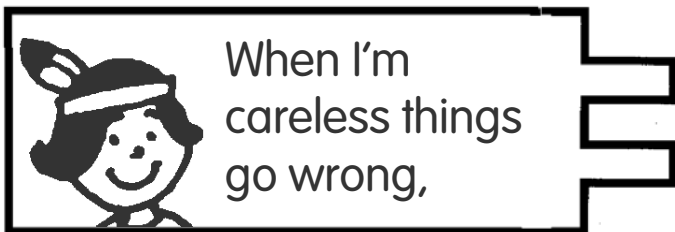
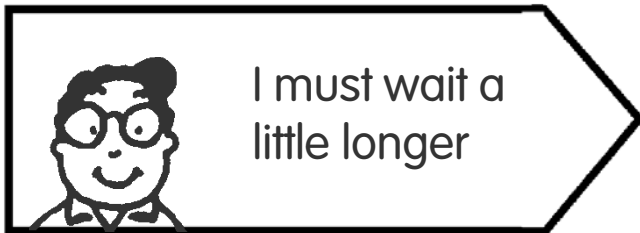
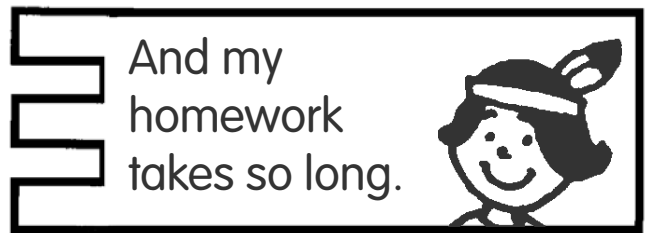
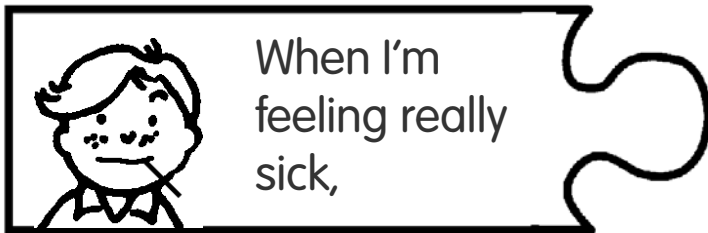
I Need Patience

You will need:
color pencils or crayons
cardstock
glue
scissors



How to:

- Color the puzzle pieces.
- Mount the puzzle pieces on cardstock. Cut out your puzzle.
- After you put the puzzle together, read each poem out loud and say "I need patience."



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From Jesus—with Love



Did you know that being calm and patient shows that you trust Me? I'm your big strong and loving Father and I'm in control of everything, so you don't have to worry or fret or rush here and there. Just be patient and take it slow and then you won't miss or forget things. I'm hardly ever in a hurry. It takes a long time for a tree to grow, or even a flower. It takes time for a baby to grow into a big strong man. When you rush around, you miss things, and you don't have time for the people you love. I always have time for you, and I hope you have time for Me, too.

If you're going too fast, you won't hear My voice in your ear telling you things. Maybe you're running and not looking where you're going and I want to tell you that there is a rock that you may trip over, but you're going so fast that you don't hear My voice and have a bad fall. Now do you understand why it's good to go slow and be patient? I can teach you so much if you just take things slow. I can whisper sweet and happy things in your ear, if you'll listen, and I can show you beautiful things if you take time to look around you. I have made this beautiful world for you, so go slow and take the time to enjoy it. I love you so much!



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