

## THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS PEACE

**BIBLE PASSAGES:** Galatians 5:22-23; John 14:27, 16:33; Romans 5:1, 8:6, 12:18, 15:13, 15:33; Philippians 4:4-7, 4:9; 2 Corinthians 1:2, 13:11; Ephesians 2:14, 4:2-3; Colossians 3:15; 2 Thessalonians 3:16; Hebrews 12:14; 2 John 1:3

**STORY POINT:** Peace is a fruit of the Spirit. Peace is made possible through God. We are to pursue peace with everyone.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Galatians 5:22-23

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What is the Fruit of the Spirit? The Fruit of the Spirit is what we can expect to see in our lives when we are guided by the Holy Spirit.

### PARENT DEVOTIONAL

This is the third Bible lesson in our study of the Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5. Each lesson plan explains a specific character quality that God creates in us through His Spirit.

Relevant Scriptures Pertaining to Peace: Galatians 5:22-23; John 14:27, 16:33; Romans 5:1, 8:6, 12:18, 15:13, 15:33; Philippians 4:4-7, 4:9; 2 Corinthians 1:2, 13:11; Ephesians 2:14, 4:2-3; Colossians 3:15; 2 Thessalonians 3:16; Hebrews 12:14; 2 John 1:3

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Bible Verse to Memorize: John 14:27: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (NIV)

The world's view of peace includes an end to war or conflict, inner peace with yourself, and/or a state of complete relaxation (being at a beach or spa). All people want peace in one way or another, whether it is just to experience a break from the worry of life or to end all wars. But the peace the world offers only lasts for a short while. War will never end on earth (until the peaceful reign of Christ) no matter how hard people try. A spa will never take all of the stress away forever. Meditation does not grant real peace.

But Christians have God's peace available to them, a peace that is greater than anything the world offers.

Peace is a fruit of the Spirit, and as we abide in Christ, we can experience the perfect peace that comes only from God.

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Fortunately, we don't have to guess what the fruit of a Christian's life is to be, since Galatians 5:22-25 tells us. When God and others look at our trees—our lives—they should see nothing but "love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."

Model for your kids what it looks like to live by the Spirit, showing and sharing with them the fruit of your life.

Much of Paul's discussion in the book of Galatians focuses on opposites. He looks at the differences between the gospel of Christ and false gospels, faith and observance of the law, promise and law, freedom and slavery. One pair of opposites that he looks at in detail is living by the flesh (following human desires) and living in the Spirit (following God's desires). The decision of which way to live makes an impact on all aspects of life. Paul is clear about the results of each way. People who choose to follow the flesh can expect their lives to hold the things that way of life produces. Ultimately, that choice means eternal separation from God.

These characteristics identify us with Christ. Paul uses an interesting image when he stresses our need to live by the Spirit. Anyone who has watched a marching band knows how obvious it is if one person is out of step with the others. In the same way, if we are not living the way that the Spirit directs us, that fact will be immediately noticed, and the results can be disastrous.

Each tree is recognized by its own fruit" (Luke 6:44).

# KINDERGARTEN - 5TH GRADE BIBLE STORY

## The Fruit of the Spirit is PEACE

We are learning about the fruit of the Spirit! When we trust Jesus and live with him, He helps us be these things: loving, kind, joyful, patient, gentle, peaceful, good, faithful, and have self control. When we say fruit, we aren't talking about the fruit we eat, we are talking about the characteristics we have.

Christians have God's peace available to them, a peace that is greater than anything the world offers. Peace is a fruit of the Spirit, and as we abide in Christ, we can experience the perfect peace that comes only from God. In order to understand true peace, what do we need to do? (Look in the Bible!) God's Word is our ultimate source of truth. We are going to look at some verses that will define what peace is. Let's turn together to Philippians 4:4-7. It reads, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice! Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (NASB)

It is definitely clear from Scripture that peace comes directly from God! Many of the books in the New Testament are actually letters written to different churches. In many of the letters, the writer begins and ends the letter with a blessing of peace. For example, 2 Corinthians 1:2, "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." (ESV) 2 Thessalonians 3:16 states, "Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all." (ESV) (See also Romans 15:33, 2 Corinthians 13:11, Philippians 4:9, Romans 15:13, 2 John 1:3.)

So why should we have peace as Christians? (Allow time for responses.) Let's turn to Romans 5:1. "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (ESV) A huge part of biblical peace is that, because of Christ, we have been declared righteous before God and no longer have to pay the penalty for our sin (justification). Our relationship with God is one of peace and not of wrath. (See also Ephesians 2:14, Colossians 3:15).

Peace ultimately comes from God, has been made through Christ, and is available to us daily through the Holy Spirit's work inside of us (John 14:27, 16:33; Romans 8:6, Galatians 5:22).

We are also called to live in peace with others. Romans 12:18 states it simply, "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." (ESV) (See also Hebrews 12:14, Ephesians 4:2-3, 2 Corinthians 13:11.) This is part of the fruit the Holy Spirit is producing in us as we abide in Christ. We have the ability through Him to live in peace with everyone.

Let's go back and focus on Philippians 4:7, "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (ESV) Peace is such an amazing result of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives! Our days can often be filled with worry and stress and fear. Biblical peace is completely opposite of all of these feelings! It is the absence of stress, worry, fear, and chaos. It is the resting and quieting of our souls before God as we remember who He is and trust in Him completely.

There is nothing in the world that could ever compare to the perfect peace of God!

We are also commanded to live in peace with one another. What does the verse mean when it says "As far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone" (Romans 12:18)? (Doing everything in our power to live at peace with the people around us. This could mean putting aside your own feelings and opinions for the sake of promoting peace.) Are you a peace-maker in your home? Why or why not? What are ways you can change?

We can experience the peace of God through the storms of life when we remember who He is, that He keeps His promises, that He is in control over every part of our lives, and that we have His Spirit within us producing the fruit of peace. When you are going through worry, stress, fear, or just a chaotic day, I want you to remember these words of Christ; be still; and remember who your God is. Trust in Him, and you will experience His peace that surpasses all understanding.

**Memory Verse:** Galatians 5:22-23 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

## **K-5th DISCUSSION:**

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Now spend time in prayer together. Remember the specific situations your children are going through. Invite them to share if they haven't already. Praise God for the fruit of the Holy Spirit, the peace we are able to have because He lives within us.

#### **Ask the following questions and discuss:**

1. Based on the verses, what does peace mean? What can we say we know about it? (It comes from God, it comes as a result of prayer, it is the opposite of anxiousness, and it goes beyond our understanding.)
2. So why should we have peace as Christians?
3. How is biblical peace different from the peace the world offers us? (It never ends, it is real, it comes from our God of peace, it is always available to us as we trust in Christ, it is expected of us as believers, etc.)
4. We are also commanded to live in peace with one another. What does the verse mean when it says “As far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone” (Romans 12:18)? (Doing everything in our power to live at peace with the people around us. This could mean putting aside your own feelings and opinions for the sake of promoting peace.)
5. Are you a peace-maker in your home? Why or why not? What are ways you can change?
6. What are the habits that can help grow the fruit of the Spirit in your life?
7. What fruit do you most recognise in yourself? Which fruit do you have most trouble submitting to the will of the Holy Spirit? What would others say?
8. Do you think that the Fruit of the Spirit usually shows gradually? Have you seen evidence of this in your life or someone else's life?

#### **Additional Discussion Questions:**

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey?
- How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember?
- How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

### **Activity**

Optional Activity: If you have time, have them draw or write out situations in their own lives where they want to experience the peace of God. They could also draw two contrasting pictures: a picture of chaos versus a picture of stillness and peace that comes when we trust in God.

**Craft - Use this link to find great activities and to learn more about PEACE.**

<http://thelittlesandme.com/the-fruit-of-the-spirit-is-peace-kids-activities/>