

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS JOY

BIBLE PASSAGE: Angels appear to Shepherds

STORY POINT: God is our joy, from His Word comes joy, and our hope for eternity gives us joy.

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 Bible lesson continues our study of the Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5. Each installment will focus on a specific character quality that God creates in us through His Spirit.

Scriptures Pertaining to Joy: Galatians 5:22-26; Psalm 43:4, 21:6, 119:111; Proverbs 10:28; Isaiah 51:11, 55:12; Nehemiah 8:10; Habakkuk 3:18-19; John 15:11, 16:20; Hebrews 12:2; James 1:2

Learning Objectives: After this lesson, the children will demonstrate:

1. An understanding that joy is a fruit of the Spirit.
2. An understanding that God is our joy, from His Word comes joy, and our hope for eternity gives us joy.

Bible Verse to Memorize: Habakkuk 3:18: "Yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation." (ESV)

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.

On the other hand, the choice to follow the Spirit produces very different results for this life and for eternity. The fruit of the Spirit includes different attitudes and actions that become more and more evident in our lives as we follow God's way. They grow in our lives just as fruit grows on a tree that is properly cared for.

These characteristics of Christians are quite varied. They include such all-encompassing ideas as love, joy, and peace. They deal with our behavior toward others: forbearance, kindness, and gentleness (power under control). And they describe our inner values of goodness, faithfulness, and self-control.

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).

1.5-5 YEAR BIBLE STORY + DISCUSSION QUESTIONS + ACTIVITY

WORSHIP

New unit means NEW SONG!!! Watch and sing the song with the kids. "Fruits of the Spirit" by Mighty Spirit Kids. There are no hand motions, so make up your own! Different movements for each fruit of the Spirit.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Q7bN3hgaZM>)

BIBLE VERSE

Since we will be in the Fruits of the Spirit unit for 10 weeks, we are going to memorize Galatians 5:22-23

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

BIBLE STORY

Fruit of the Spirit is JOY *The Angels appear to the Shepherds*

Last week we started 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, faithfulness, and have self control. When we say fruits, we aren't talking about the fruit we eat, we are talking about the characteristics we have.

We started with the fruit of Love, and now we are going to learn about Joy! The Bible describes joy as a God given gladness that doesn't change if good or bad things happen in my day. Joy comes from being with God and I can be joyful even in unhappy moments. Happiness comes and goes but Joy stays with us. We are going to read a story about when God sent angels to the shepherds in the field to tell them that his son, Jesus was born. Jesus is our greatest joy (God's too)!

Read pages from the Jesus Storybook Bible pgs 184-191 OR the paraphrased version below.

That same night, in amongst the other stars, suddenly a bright new star appeared. Of all the stars, this one was the brightest.

God put it there when his baby son was born- to be like a spotlight, shining on him and lighting up the darkness. Showing people the way to him. God wanted to tell everyone!

That night some shepherds were out in the open fields, warming themselves by a campfire, when suddenly the sheep darted. They were frightened by something. The olive trees rustled. What was that... a bat?

They turned around. standing in front of them was a huge warrior of light, blazing in the darkness. "Don't be afraid of me! I haven't come to hurt you. I have come to bring good news for everyone everywhere. Today in Bethlehem, God's Son has been born! You can go see him. He is sleeping in a manger."

Behind the angel there were troops and troops of more angels shining light and singing: "Glory to God! to God be Fame and Honor and all our Hoorays!"

Then as quickly as they appeared, they left.

The shepherds stamped out the fire, left their sheep and raced down the grassy hill, through the gates of Bethlehem, down some narrow streets, down some steps, past an inn, round a corner, through a hedge, until, at last, they reached....a tumbledown stable.

They caught their breath. Then quietly, they tiptoed inside. They knelt on the dirt floor. They heard about the Promised Child and now he was here. Heaven's Son. The maker of the Stars. A baby sleeping in his mother's arms.

This baby would be like the bright star that night. A Light to light up the whole world. Chasing away darkness. Helping people see. And the darker the night got, the brighter the star would shine!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Ask the following questions and discuss:

What is Joy?

How is Joy different from happiness?

Where does Joy come from?

How does the story of Jesus' birth remind us of Joy?

CRAFT -

Paper-plate Sun

When we are filled with joy, we feel warm and happy and shine light and love to those around us! Joy reminds me of sunshine or a bright shining star!

Supplies

1. Yellow paper (Or whatever color you want the sun rays to be)
2. Paper plate (or circle cut out)
3. Markers (or paint)
4. Glue Sticks

Directions:

1. You can make your suns anyway you want! The rays can be triangles, strips, or handprints!
2. Let your kiddos be creative and create any type of sun they want! See pictures below for examples.



Handprint Craft
PAPER PLATE SUN



CraftsonSea.co.uk



SUMMER SUN
KIDS CRAFT

