

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

STORY POINT: God has shown us perfect love through the life and death of Jesus and we will be able to show love as our lives bear fruit by the Holy Spirit.

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

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

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.

This week our focus is on the first Fruit of the Spirit, love. Christ is our perfect example of love and we can see that clearly in the crucifixion. For this lesson, you can start by briefly explaining different relationships in which people love others. Talk about the parent to child, child to parent, siblings, relatives (grandparents, cousins, etc.), and friends. Have the children share briefly what they love about their parents and/or siblings.

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 LOVE

The Crucifixion

We are going to start learning about the fruits 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.

Today we are learning about the first fruit which is, Love! The Bible describes love as this: patient, kind, rejoices over truth. Love always trusts, hopes, and perseveres. It is NOT jealous, it doesn't brag, it isn't proud, rude, selfish, angry, and it takes no pleasure in evil. God created us to love Him and love others. Jesus was the greatest example of love. Here is a story we read recently about Jesus, let's read it again and think about his love for us and how we can be loving to others.

Read pages from the Jesus Storybook Bible pgs 302-309 OR the paraphrased version below.

'So you're a King, are you?' The Roman soldiers jeered. "Then you'll need a crown and a robe. "

They gave Jesus a crown made out of thorns. And put a purple robe on him, and pretended to bow down to him. "Your Majesty!" they said.

They whipped him. And spat on him. They didn't understand that this was the prince of Life, the King of heaven and earth, who had come to rescue them. The Soldiers made him a sign - "Our King" and nailed it to a wooden cross.

They walked uphill outside the city. Jesus carried the cross on his back. Jesus had never done anything wrong. But they were going to kill him the way criminals were killed.

They nailed Jesus to the cross.

"Father, forgive them," Jesus gasped. "They don't understand what they're doing."

"You say you've come to rescue us!" people shouted. "But you can't even rescue yourself!"

But they were wrong. Jesus could have rescued himself. A legion of angels would have flown to his side - if he'd called.

"If you were really the Son of God, you could just climb down off that cross!" they said,

And of course they were right. Jesus could have just climbed down. Actually, he could have just said a word and made it stop. Like when he healed that little girl and stilled the storm, and fed 5,000 people. But Jesus stayed.

You see, they didn't understand. It wasn't the nails that kept Jesus there. It was love.

"Papa?" Jesus cried, frantically searching the sky.

"Papa? where are you? don't leave me!"

And for the first time - and the last- when he spoke, nothing happened. just a horrible, endless silence. God didn't answer. He turned away from his boy.

Tears rolled down Jesus' face. The face of the one who would wipe away every tear from every eye. Even though it was midday, a dreadful darkness covered the face of the world. The sun could not shine. The earth trembled and quaked. The great mountains shook. Rocks split in two. Until it seemed that the whole world would break. That creation itself would tear apart. The full force of the storm of God's fierce anger at sin was coming down. On his own Son. Instead of his people. It was the only way God could destroy sin, and not destroy his children whose hearts were filled with sin.

Then Jesus shouted out in a loud voice, "It is finished!"

And it was. He had done it, Jesus had rescued the whole world.

"Father!" Jesus cried. "I give you my life." And with a great sigh he let himself die.

Strange clouds and shadows filled the sky. Purple, orange, and black. Like a bruise.

Jesus' friends gently carried Jesus. They laid Jesus in a new tomb carved out of rock.

How did Jesus die? What had gone wrong? What did it mean? They didn't know anything anymore.

Except they did know their hearts were breaking.

"That's the end of Jesus," the Leaders said.

But, just to be sure, they sent strong soldiers to guard the tomb. They hauled a huge stone in front of the door to the tomb. So that no one could get in.

Or out.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Ask the following questions and discuss:

- What is love? (patient, kind, rejoices over truth. Love always trusts, hopes, and perseveres. It is NOT jealous, it doesn't brag, it isn't proud, rude, selfish, angry, and it takes no pleasure in evil.)
- What are we created to do? (Love God and others)
- How did Jesus show us love? (Died on the cross for us so we can spend forever with him)
- How can we show love to others?

CRAFT - Heart painting/ coloring

Supplies

1. "Jesus+Love" printout (found on website) or a plain piece of paper
2. Heart cutout
3. Paint (or markers/crayons)
4. Scissors and tape

Directions:

1. Cut out a heart shape that is big enough to cover the "Jesus Loves" on the page. If you don't print out the "Jesus loves" printout then write Jesus Loves and your child's name on a piece of paper.
2. Have your little crafters write their name after Jesus loves on the paper. Tape the heart over the words.
3. Have the kiddos paint or color over the heart. You can make any design you want.
4. When done coloring or painting, pull off the heart to reveal your child's name. (See photo)

