

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS PEACE

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

Learning Objectives: After this lesson, the children will demonstrate: An understanding that peace is a fruit of the Spirit. An understanding that peace is made possible through God. 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.

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).

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 PEACE

As you know, 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, 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. You know what tree it is by its fruit!

We started with the fruit of Love, and now we are going to learn about Peace! The Bible describes peace as freedom from being afraid or worried because God is in control of the whole world. We can have true peace by trusting in God. His peace helps us to not be afraid or worried about anything. We are going to read a story about when people were afraid and Jesus brought great peace!

Read pages from the Jesus Storybook Bible pgs 236-243 OR the paraphrased version below.

The Captain of the Storm

Mark 4/ Matthew 8

The sun was going down. The air was warm and still

"Let's go across the lake," Jesus said to his friends. Jesus had been helping people all day and now he was tired. So they left the crowds at the shore and set out in the small fishing boat. '

Jesus climbed into the boat to take a nap. As soon as his head touched the pillow, he fell asleep.

It was a beautiful evening. A gentle breeze rustled the sails. The friends were chatting happily as they headed out into the middle of the lake. Everything was perfect. Just right for a nice quiet sail...

They were only about halfway across when, out of nowhere, whirling winds swept across the lake, like a hurricane.

The storm blew the water into towering waves that hurled the little boat up, up, up. CRASHING back down, down, down.

The fishing boat was blown and tossed and turned - back and forth and up and down.

And then in the middle of the storm, Jesus was sleeping.

Now Jesus' friends had been fishermen all their lives, but in all their years fishing on this lake they had never once seen a storm like this one. No matter how hard they struggled with their ropes and sails, they couldn't control their boat. This storm was too big for them.

But the storm wasn't too big for Jesus. "HELP" they screamed. "Wake up! Quick, Jesus! "

Jesus opened his eyes.

"Rescue us! Save us!" they shrieked. "Don't you care?"

Of course Jesus cared, this was the reason he came, to save and rescue them.

Jesus stood up and spoke to the storm.

“Hush!” he said. That’s all

And the strangest thing happened....

The wind and the waves recognized Jesus’ voice. They listened to Jesus and they did what he said.

Immediately the wind stopped. The water calmed down. It glittered in the moonlight and lapped quietly against the side of the boat, as if nothing happened.

The little boat bobbed gently up and down. There was deep stillness and great quiet all around.

Then Jesus turned to his friends. “Why were you scared?” he asked. “Did you forget who I am? Did you believe your fears, instead of me?”

Jesus’ friends were quiet. As quiet as the wind and the waves. And into their hearts came a different kind of storm.

‘What kind of man is this?’ They asked themselves anxiously. “Even the winds and the waves obey him!” they said, because they didn’t understand. They didn’t realize yet that Jesus was the Son of God.

Jesus’ friends had been so afraid, they had only seen the big waves. They had forgotten that, if Jesus was with them, then they had nothing to be afraid of. No matter how small their boat - or how big the storm.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is peace?
- How do we get peace and where does it come from?
- What did Jesus do to the storm?
- How does this story remind us of peace?

CRAFT -

Boats!

Supplies

1. Colored Paper or paper plates
2. Paint (or markers/crayons)
3. Scissors and glue

Directions:

1. Look at the links below and decide which boat craft you would like to make (or come up with your own).
2. Follow the directions on the link you choose.
3. Or just cut triangles and rectangles out of paper and have your kiddos glue the shapes on the paper making a boat.

<https://iheartcraftythings.com/boat-craft.html>



<https://craftulate.com/paper-plate-boat-scene/>



Extra activities:

- Make your own boat that can float in the water Use corks, pool noodles or plastic easter eggs.
- Make origami boats! There are a few ways to make them. Here is one tutorial:

<https://onelittleproject.com/how-to-make-a-paper-boat/>