

## **THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS FAITHFULNESS**

**BIBLE PASSAGES:** Galatians 5:22-23; Psalm 86:15; Psalm 100:5; Psalm 89:1; 1 Samuel 12:24; Psalm 37:3; Romans 3:3-4

**STORY POINT:** Faithfulness is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, is modeled most greatly by our God, and is made possible through Christ, and that God is faithful to us, even when we are faithless.

**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**

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 FAITHFULNESS

1 Samuel 12:24: "Only fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you." (ESV)

What is your favorite sports team? How do you support your team? How do we support [your child's team]? What happens when our team loses? Do we start cheering for the other side? Why not? (*We are loyal to our team.*)

No matter what, we will always support [your team name]! They are our team. We are loyal to them. We believe in them. We cheer for them when they win and when they lose!

How does the Fruit of the Spirit of faithfulness describe our loyalty to our team? Can anyone describe faithfulness to me?

Faithfulness is a lot like loyalty...but goes much deeper. If the Bible tells us we are to be faithful, we should search to discover what that means! How can we discover more about faithfulness? By looking in God's Word! Let's go to His Word now and see what He will reveal to us about faithfulness.

*Begin by reading together Galatians 5:22-23.* The Bible tells us in this passage that faithfulness is a Fruit of the Spirit. If we are saved, the Holy Spirit is living inside of us, and we can be people who overflow with faithfulness! This does not mean that we will be faithful all the time. But as we come to know God more and more, we change! Faithfulness becomes part of who we are. With the Spirit living inside of us, He gives us the power to be faithful!

*Read Psalm 86:15,* "But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness." (ESV) This verse is said over and over again in the Bible! What does it tell us about God? (*He is merciful, gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in love and faithfulness.*) God abounds with faithfulness! This means it overflows from Him. (Possible demonstration here of pouring water into a glass and allowing it to overflow.) This is who our God is and why this verse is repeated so many times in the Bible. God is showing us how important it is that we believe in who He is. Our God is a faithful God! It is only from Him that we learn how to be faithful people.

*Read Psalm 100:5,* "For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations." (ESV) God's faithfulness endures to all generations. This means it is not just for grandparents or your parents. God was faithful to your great, great grandparents, your great grandparents, and is faithful to you, your children, your grandchildren, your great, great grandchildren, and even your great, great, great, great, great grandchildren! God's faithfulness is for all generations, past, present, and future!

*Read Psalm 89:1,* "I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations." (ESV) We know that God's faithfulness is to all generations, but what does this verse tell us to do? (*Tell all generations about His faithfulness!*) As God's people, we should be using our mouths to tell everyone about who God is, about His faithfulness!

*Read 1 Samuel 12:24,* "Only fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you." (ESV) The Bible tells us in many, many verses to be faithful

to our God. One of the main ways the fruit of faithfulness is displayed in our lives as believers is by our faithfulness to Him. So how do we show faithfulness to God? (*Worshipping Him, obeying His Word, knowing His Word, praying to Him, etc.*)

*Read Psalm 37:3*, “Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.” (ESV) The Bible tells us that faithfulness is part of who we are as we abide in Christ. What does this verse tell us about faithfulness? What do you think it means to “befriend” faithfulness? (Allow time for their thoughts.) When you make a new friend, you have to spend time and energy making the friendship grow. You have to cultivate a friendship, like you would grow a plant. We are to cultivate faithfulness within ourselves. This means intentionally being faithful to your family, your friends, and to our God. This also means praying for faithfulness to overflow in your heart, studying faithfulness in Scripture, and getting to know our faithful God who is our only perfect example of faithfulness!

**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 faithfulness we are able to show because He lives within us.

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

1. What is faithfulness and how can I be faithful?
2. What are the habits that can help grow the fruit of the Spirit in your life?
3. 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?
4. 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 topic**

- Choose a volunteer to read aloud the following scenario: “A young girl stops talking to her friend. She stops spending time with her entirely. At school, she talks badly and lies about her friend whom she used to love. She ignores her, betrays her, and is completely unfaithful to her.” What would you do if this were your friend? (Allow time for response and Discussion.)
- Choose another volunteer. Have them read Romans 3:3-4, “What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar....” (ESV)

What is God’s response to us when we are unfaithful? (*He is still faithful!*) No matter what we do, our God will always be faithful to us as His people, just as we would never stop supporting our home team. He will always keep His Word; His promises will never be broken. If we are to follow God’s example of faithfulness, how should we respond to an unfaithful friend? (*Continue to be faithful to them.*)

## ACTIVITIES AND CRAFTS

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

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