

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS GOODNESS

BIBLE PASSAGES: Galatians 5:22-23; Psalm 25:7; Psalm 31:19; Zechariah 9:16-17a; Ephesians 2:10; Philemon 1:13-14; Galatians 6:9

STORY POINT: Understanding that goodness is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, it is modeled most greatly by our God, and is made possible through Christ, and that God is good all of the time.

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 GOODNESS

Galatians 6:9: “And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” (ESV)

Opening Activity: What is goodness? Is it different from kindness? (Allow time for them to give their thoughts). In this verse, goodness does not just mean being good, but doing good works and pushing others to do good. What kinds of things do we do that are good?

Can you think of other ways we can do good works for people in our community and around the world? (*Picking up trash, clothing drives, buying gifts for children at Christmas, volunteering at homeless shelters, etc.*)

How can we discover more about goodness – what it is and where it comes from? By looking in God’s Word! Let’s go to His Word now and see what He will reveal to us about goodness.

Read together Galatians 5:22-23: The Bible tells us in this passage that goodness 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 goodness! This does not mean that we will be good and do good works all the time. But as we come to know God more and more, we change! Goodness becomes part of who we are. With the Spirit living inside of us, He gives the power to do good!

Read Psalm 25:7, “Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!” (ESV)

God is good. It is a key part of who He is that we have to believe and cling to. We see His goodness displayed to us in many ways. What aspect of God’s goodness does this verse tell us about?

(*Forgiveness, forgetting our sins*). God does not have to forgive us of the many sins we commit, but in His great love and goodness, He does.

Read Psalm 31:19: “Oh, how abundant is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you and worked for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of the children of mankind!” (ESV)

Also read Zechariah 9:16-17a: “On that day the Lord their God will save them, as the flock of his people; for like the jewels of a crown they shall shine on his land. For how great is his goodness, and how great his beauty!” (ESV)

What do we learn about God’s goodness from these two verses? (*God’s goodness is great for those who follow Him.*) If we are believers, God has promised His goodness to us. This means that whatever happens in our lives, however horrible or bad it may seem, God ultimately intends it for our good. And because He is completely good, it is impossible for Him to do anything *not* good. When you see and go through terrible times, you have to learn to cling to this truth. Our God is good, all of the time, and the things we think are intended for our harm, He intends for our good.

Read Philemon 1:13-14, “I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord.” (ESV)

I wanted us to read this verse because it reveals to us an important thing about the Fruit of the Spirit. This is a letter from Paul to a church. He wants them to free a slave from punishment, but he says he does not want them to do this out of “compulsion.” This means he does not want them to do it because he is making them do it. He wants them to do it because they want to do it. When we abide in Jesus Christ, and come to know Him more and more, the Fruit of the Spirit becomes part of who we are. We begin to want to show the fruit in our lives, like goodness and kindness. Your parents will not have to tell you to be good or to be kind, but you will do it on your own. This is what happens when we allow Jesus Christ to completely change us from the inside out!

Read Galatians 6:9, “And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” (ESV) And read Ephesians 2:10, “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (ESV) What do we learn about goodness based on these two verses? (Allow them to give their thoughts.) God has created us to do good. Doing good may be difficult and challenging, but it is also rewarding. We grow more like Christ, we learn how to be compassionate and loving to the poor and needy. We experience the love of people we may have never talked to before.

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 goodness we are able to show because He lives within us.

Ask the following questions and discuss:

1. What is goodness?
2. What are some practical ways for you to show goodness this week?
3. What are the habits that can help grow the fruit of the Spirit in your life?
4. What fruit do you most recognize in yourself? Which fruit do you have most trouble submitting to the will of the Holy Spirit? What would others say?
5. 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?

ACTIVITIES AND CRAFTS

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

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