

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS GOODNESS

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).

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 Kindness

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, joy and peace, patience, kindness and now we are going to learn about goodness! The Bible describes goodness as a model of Christ's actions of love, humility, and forgiveness. It shows integrity, honesty, and compassion towards others. It is only possible through God's power at work in my heart. Creation reflects God— His nature, character, and goodness. We are going to read the story of creation...

"In the beginning, there was nothing. Nothing to hear. Nothing to feel. Nothing to see. Only emptiness. And darkness. And... nothing but nothing.

But God was there. And God had a wonderful plan. "I'll take this emptiness," God said, "and I'll fill it up! Out of the darkness, I'm going to make light! And out of the nothing, I'm going to make ... EVERYTHING!"

God spoke. That's all. And whatever He said, it happened.

God said, "Hello light!" and light shone into the darkness. God called the light "Day" and the darkness "Night." "You're good," God said. And they were.

The God said, "hello sea! Hello sky!" and a great space opened up, wide and deep and high. "You're good," God said. And they were.

Then God said, "Hello land!" and there --- splashing up through the oceans --- came cliffs mountains, sandy beaches. "You're good," God said. And they were. "Hello trees!" God said. "Hello grass and flowers!" And everything everywhere burst into life. He made buds bud; shoots shoot; flowers flower. "You're good," God said. And they were.

"Hello stars!" God said. "Hello sun! Hello moon!" And whizzing into the darkness came fiery globes, spinning around and around ___ whirling orange and purple and golden planets. "You're good," God said. And they were.

"Hello birds!" God said. And with a fluttering and flapping and chirping and singing, birds filled the skies. "Hello fish!" God said. And with a darting and dashing and wriggling and splashing, fish filled the seas! "You're good," God said. And they were

Then God said, "Hello animals!" and everyone came out to play. The earth was filled with noisy noises- growling and gobbling and snapping and snorting and happy skerfuffling. "You're good," God said and they were. God saw all that He had made and He loved them. And they were lovely because he loved them.

But God saved the best for last. From the beginning, God had a shining dream in his heart. He would make people to share his Forever Happiness. They would be his children, and the world would be their perfect home.

So God breathed life into Adam and Eve. When they opened their eyes, the first thing they ever saw was God's face. And when God saw them he was like a new dad. "You look like me," he said. " You're the most beautiful thing I've ever made!"

God loved them with all his heart. And they were lovely because he loved them.

And Adam and Eve joined in the song of the stars and the streams and the wind in the trees, the wonderful song of love to the one who made them. Their hearts were filled with happiness. And nothing ever made them sad or lonely or sick or afraid!

God looked at everything he had made. "Perfect!" he said. And it was.

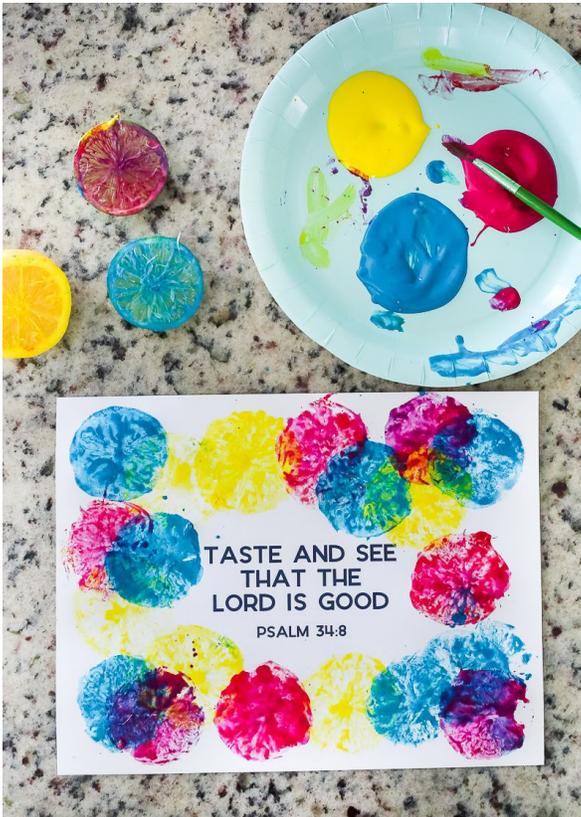
But all the stars and the mountains and oceans and galaxies and everything were nothing compared to how much God loved His children. He would move heaven and earth to be near them. Always. Whatever happened, whatever it cost him, he would always love them.

And so it was the wonderful love story began...

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What is goodness?
- Where does goodness come from?
- How does this story teach us about goodness?
- How can we be good and show goodness?

CRAFT - Fruit Painting



Supplies:

1. "Taste & See" print out. Print out [here](#)
2. Lemons, oranges or apples
3. Paint

Directions:

1. Cut fruit in half
2. Dip fruit in paint
3. Stamp fruit on the paper, making prints