

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS PATIENCE

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 Patience

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 and now we are going to learn about Patience! The Bible describes patience as waiting with a cheerful and calm heart. It is being able to wait to do things instead of doing what I want to do right now. Patience is giving grace to others (even people that aren't easy to get along with) and loving them even when they make mistakes. I can be patient and wait cheerfully with God's help.

We are going to read a story about when God gave two people a promise of something they really wanted, but they had to wait and be patient for a loooong time...

*Read the paraphrased lesson below or
Read from Jesus Storybook Bible pages 56-61*

Many people were sad and getting sick. God's world was still filled with tears and it was never meant to be like that.

But God was ready to do something about it., He was going to make all the wrong things right and he was going to do it through... a family

"Abraham," God said. "How many stars are in the sky?"

"Let me see," Abraham said, rolling up his sleeves.

Ask the kids if they have ever tried counting stars? Is it hard? Easy? Do you think it is possible?

Abraham tried and he kept losing count. "Too many!" He said.

"Guess what!" God laughed.

"I will give you so many children and grandchildren and great grandchildren, you won't be able to count them either."

Abraham couldn't help but giggle at such a wonderful idea. But how would he have a family? He didn't have any children and it was too late for him to have babies because he was 99 years old!!! What does God mean and can he really do it?

Ask the kids if they think 99 is old. Do people who are 99 have babies?

"Abraham, believe me!" God said. "Abraham, I will make your family very big. Until one day, your family will come to number more than even the stars in the sky. You will be my special family, my people, and through you, everyone on earth will be blessed!"

What a great promise! One of Abraham's great-great-great-grandchildren would be the promised One, the Rescuer! (*Do you know who that will be? Yes! Jesus!*)

"But this is too wonderful and too good to be true!" Abraham said.

"Is anything too wonderful for me?" God asked.

So Abraham trusted and believed God.

When Abraham's wife, Sarah, heard the promise God gave Abraham, she laughed! Could she really have a baby at 90 years old?

Sarah didn't believe God could do what he promised. She forgot that when God says something, He means it! Sure enough, nine months later, Sarah gave birth to a baby boy! They named him Isaac.

God would do as He promised, like He always does.

One day God would send another baby. This baby would bring joy to the whole world. This baby would make everyone's dreams come true.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What is patience?
- How can we be patient?
- How does this story teach us about patience?
- What were Abraham and Sarah waiting for?
- Did God answer their prayers?

CRAFT -

Abraham & Sarah Crafts

Go to the link and view all the craft & coloring sheet printouts [here](#)

Directions:

Abraham & Sarah have a baby craft:

1. Print out
2. Cut out Sarah & Baby.
3. Color the pictures.
4. Attach Sarah & baby with a brad. If you don't have a brad, you can glue it.

Abraham and the stars craft

1. Print out
2. Color
3. Cut out
4. Fold in half and tape over a stick or straw
5. Move the stick back and forth.

