

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS GENTLENESS

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 Gentleness

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, goodness, then faithfulness, and now we are going to learn about gentleness! The Bible describes gentleness as being loving, tender, calm, and humble in the things you say and do instead of being harsh or mean. It is a mildness or meekness (quiet, gentle) of spirit. When I am gentle with someone I speak the truth in love. Our God is very gentle with us. The Bible says he is our shepherd and we are his sheep. He is gentle with us like a shepherd with his sheep. We are going to read Psalm 23 where it talks about God being our shepherd...

Read from the Jesus Storybook Bible 130-135 or the paraphrased version below.:

David was a shepherd, but when God looked at him he saw a king.

Sure enough, when David grew up, that's just what he became. And David was a great king. He had a heart like God's heart - full of love.

Now, that didn't mean he was perfect, because he did some terrible things - . No, David made a big mess of his life. But God can take even the biggest mess and make it work in his plan.

"I need a new heart, Lord," David prayed, "because mine is full of sin. Make me clean inside."

God heard David's prayer, He forgave David and made David a promise "I will make you great, David. And one day, a King will be born into your family, and he will heal the whole world."

Did you know that David was a songwriter, too? David's songs are like prayers. They are called psalms and this one is called "The song of the shepherd." It goes like this....

God is my Shepherd
And I'm his little lamb.
He feeds me
He guides me
He looks after me.
I have everything I need.

Inside, my heart is very quiet.
As quiet as lying in soft green grass
In a meadow
By a little stream.
Even when I walk through
The dark, scary, lonely places
I won't be afraid
Because my shepherd knows where I am.

He is here with me
He keeps me safe
He rescues me

He makes me strong
And brave.
He is getting wonderful things ready for me

Especially for me
Everything I ever dreamed of!

He fills my heart
So full of happiness
I can't hold it all inside.

Wherever I go I know God's Never Stopping
Never Giving Up
Unbreaking
Always and forever Love
Will go too!

God gave David that song to sing to his people, so they could know that he loved them and would always look after them- Like a shepherd loves his sheep.

And one day, God was going to do something that would inspire thousands upon thousands of new songs. God was going to show his people once and for all just how much he loved them.

Another shepherd was coming- a greater Shepherd. He would be called the Good Shepherd. And the Shepherd was going to lead all God's lambs back to the place where they had always belonged - close to God's heart.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What is gentleness?
- How did God show gentleness in this story?
- Who is our shepherd?
- How can we show gentleness?

CRAFT - Sheep Masks



Supplies:

1. Paper plate or cardstock or paper
2. Black paper (or markers)
3. Cotton balls
4. Glue

Directions:

1. Cut a hole out of the center of the paper plate or cut paper in a circle and cut a circle out of the middle big enough to put your child's face in.
2. Cut out ears out of black paper and glue on the plate.
3. Cover the plate with cotton balls.