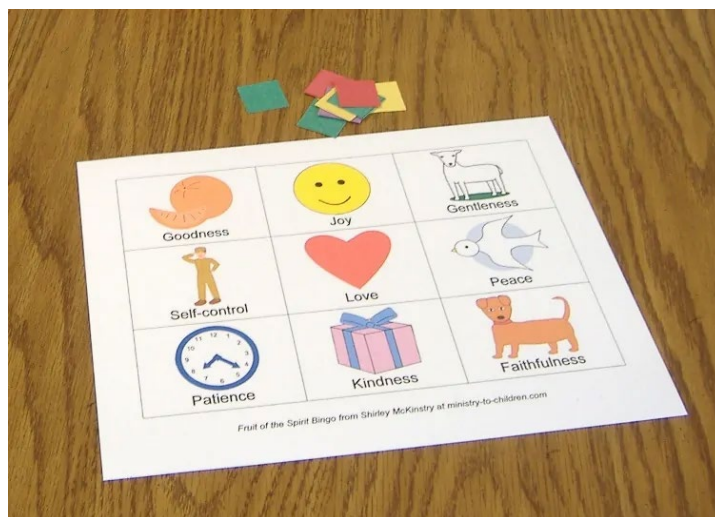


# “Fruit of the Spirit” Bingo Review Game

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You can download this printable game from our website

<https://sundayschool.works/fruit/>



God wants to produce the Fruit of the Spirit in children’s lives. This game helps them become familiar with the qualities that are listed in Galatians 5:22-23. It would be suitable for any lesson about the Fruit of the Spirit.

1. Print the bingo cards and the bingo calling cards on card stock or heavy paper, and cut apart the calling cards (20 bingo cards and 9 calling cards are attached).
2. Cut colored paper or cardboard into 1-inch squares to make markers (or choose to use other markers).
3. Give each player a bingo card and a handful of markers.
4. The leader draws a calling card, reads the title, and holds the card up for everyone to see.
5. Each player with a square matching the calling card places a marker on that square.
6. The first person to get three markers in a row horizontally, vertically, or diagonally wins the game.
7. Dump the markers and start over. Players can trade cards if they wish.
8. Prizes are not necessary; kids love learning and playing games just for the fun of it.

# “Fruit Basket Upset” Review Game

The following is a simple and quick game which can be used along with a series or lesson about the Fruit of the Spirit. This game will help the children review the list of the Fruit of the Spirit.

**Objective:** To always find a seat in the circle and to practice memorizing the Fruit of the Spirit.

## Game Set-up:

1. Place chairs in a large circle, so there is one less chair than total number of children participating.
2. Every child will sit in a chair facing the center of the circle with one child leftover who will begin the game standing in the middle.

## How to Play:

1. Each seated child will **silently** choose one Fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness or self-control) without telling anyone else which fruit they have chosen.
2. The child standing in the middle of the circle will call out one Fruit of the Spirit, such as “kindness”.
3. The seated children who chose “kindness” will then get up from their chairs and move across the circle to any open chair left by another child.
4. Meanwhile, the child who called out “kindness” will also try to find an empty seat and sit down.
5. Most likely a new child will be leftover to call out the next Fruit of the Spirit of their choosing and the game continues.
6. What ties this game to its title is the child standing in middle of the circle always has the option to call out “fruit basket upset”, which means every seated child no matter their chosen fruit will have to get up from their seat to find a new one. This can become a bit chaotic, but you are bound to hear some laughter, too.
7. This game will not end with one winner, but there will be a child in the middle of the circle when you decide the game is finished.

Tips:

1. To add variety to this game you can change the way the children move across the circle to their new seat. They could run, which is what they will most naturally do, skip, walk, hop on one foot or two, gallop, side step, bear crawl, or crab walk. Your choice of movement would need to be based upon the children in your class, their physical abilities, and what they happen to be wearing that Sunday morning.
2. A game is usually more fun when you stop it before they have grown tired and played it for too long. If they are having fun when you say time is up and are disappointed it is over, then they will more likely want to play it again in the future.

## Bonus Game Ideas (optional)

The following game ideas first appeared in the VBS curriculum “Big Heart Farms” available as a free download on Ministry-To-Children. It was written by Tara Tegard.

<https://ministry-to-children.com/free-vbs-fruit-of-the-spirit/>

Many of these games are better if you have a large area for activities. You will be directing the physical games and praying with the kids before the game, teaching them how to play, encouraging and if necessary, disciplining them during game play and then most importantly, helping the kids to discover the Bible point the game makes. Above all, have fun with the kids, and love them like Jesus does!

### Spirit Walk

**The Play:** Set up an obstacle course of various objects stretching the length of the field. Use empty boxes, broomsticks, orange cones, hula hoops, etc. On one side of the field, have kids partner up. Blindfold one kid per pair. (Bandanas and scarves work great.) Have the blindfolded kid spin in place five times, to get them slightly dizzy. When you say go, the non-blindfolded kid guides his partner through the obstacle course, being sure to avoid the obstacles. Have all the teams go at once, or as many as you can possibly fit on the field. Once the team reaches the other side of the field, switch roles. Blindfold the kid who was just the leader and have them spin around five times. Their partner leads them back across the obstacle course. Wait for everyone to finish before discussing spiritual meaning.

**The Point:** When we let the Spirit guide us, we don't always see where he is taking us. Just like we did not see where we were going with blindfolds on. It can sometimes be scary to follow the Spirit, because we don't know if we will run into things (problems) along the way. It can be hard to listen to the Spirit's voice, too. Sometimes we can hear other voices calling out and we may want to follow those voices instead of God's voice, just like we heard the other leaders' voices during the game. We had to listen carefully for our leader's voice. Sometimes our leader may have made a mistake and accidentally run us into an obstacle. But the Spirit will never make us go the wrong way. Even though it is sometimes scary and hard to do, when we follow the Spirit, we glorify God.

# Heavy Weights

**The Play:** This is essentially a potato sack race. Each child will race three times. You will need a potato sack for each child. (These can be purchased online for about \$2 each, or you could have a crafty seamstress from your church make you a bunch for cheap.) You will also need a backpack for each child, weighted down with rocks or water bottles or books. The bags should be pretty heavy, but not to the point that it would hurt the kids' backs. For the first race, have the children race with just the sack. This is the practice round, to get used to potato sack racing. Don't worry about winning or losing. Congratulate everyone for just finishing the race. The second round, load each kid down with a heavy backpack. Have them complete the race with the heavy weights. Mention how that was harder. Race one more time with no load, so they can feel the difference of having the weight lifted from their shoulders.

**The Point:** This race represents our lives. When we follow our flesh and sinful nature, it's like we have a heavy weight on our shoulders. It is hard to do anything well with something weighing us down. Our sin weighs us down. There is nothing we can do to take away our sins and lift that weight. Jesus has to do it for us. He took away our heavy weights, our sin, when he died for us on the cross. Now, when we believe in Jesus, we can run the race without the

# The Rules Game

**The Play:** You will need ten buckets. Line five small up on one side of the field with a couple of feet between each of them and the other five (bigger buckets) lined up the same way across the field. For one set of buckets, label each bucket with a different color. (Sand pails may work great for this.) For example, have one bucket labeled purple, one blue, one red, yellow, and green. Label the other set of buckets with shapes. Have a triangle, circle, square, heart and star. You also need five balls, all the same size. Label these to correspond with the colors on the small buckets. Start the game. Do not tell the children the rules, but blow a whistle or shout when they do something wrong. Tell them they can't do whatever they did wrong before continuing game play. You want them to get frustrated with this. My suggested rules are: They can't use their hands to grab the balls. The red ball has to go in the blue bucket. The blue ball goes in the yellow bucket, the purple ball in the green bucket, the green ball in the red bucket and the yellow ball in the purple bucket. They have to work as a team to get the right ball in the right bucket. Then they have to work as a

team to get the right small bucket into the right big bucket. When they are holding a color bucket with the right ball in it, they can only take one step, then they have to pass the bucket off. The red bucket goes with the star, the yellow bucket with the circle, the green bucket with the heart, the blue bucket with the triangle, the purple bucket with the square. If these supplies or rules won't work for your group, make up something equally challenging and ridiculous. Just be sure the kids don't know the rules and have to work together. You may need to simplify this for younger players.

**The Point:** This is a frustrating game. It is hard to play when you don't know the rules. Fortunately, real life is not like this game. We have a way to know the rules, so we don't get the whistle blown on us. The Bible is our rulebook, our guide on how to get through life the right way. We should read our Bibles daily so we know how to follow God and please him.

## Homebound

**The Play:** This game is a variation on freeze tag. It would be best to have a helper play this game with the kids. You need someone to play the Enemy, Satan. An adult or teen volunteer would be best for this. Have the Enemy stand in the middle of the field. (You may need multiple enemies, depending on the number of kids you have. You should have one enemy for about every ten kids.) Line the kids up on one side of the field. Give them each an index card to write their name on. Have them drop the index card right behind them, so it does not get stepped on. On the far end of the field, past the enemy, have tokens of some sort just past the finish line. Be sure you have one for each child plus a few extras. Small wooden crosses would be great for this. Even further back, at the very end of your playing space, have a large poster or banner with a crown on it. Use the same poster for every team, every round, all day. Leave the names on the poster, so by the end of the day, every kid can see their name on the poster. Have tape available in small strips to hand to the children. The goal of the game is to have every kid make it to the other end of the field without the Enemy touching them. If the enemy touches them, they are frozen. Make sure the enemy lets at least one or two kids through. The kids who make it to the far side of the field need to rescue their frozen friends. In order to rescue their frozen friends, they have to take a token to their friends. Whoever has a token cannot be frozen by the enemy. So it would be a great idea for these kids to take a token for themselves as well as their friends. Once they hand the token to the frozen friend, the frozen friend can run to the finish line. Once everyone reaches the finish line, the kids then need to run back to the starting line and get the index cards with their names on

them. (The enemy does not need to be on the field now, since all the kids have a token.) The kids need to grab the card with their name and then run back to the finish line. They can then tape their name onto the crown poster. For a simpler version of the game, skip having the enemy. Have younger players run across the field, collect their token, run back to get their names, and then run to the finish to tape their names on the crown poster.

**The Point:** The Kingdom of God is a place of community. It is not only a place to get to someday, but the kingdom of God is in us when we believe in Jesus. Satan freezes us and our sin keeps us from being in the Kingdom, but when we have Jesus, Satan can't stop us from being in the kingdom. Just like the tokens stopped the Enemy from freezing us. Our job as Christians is to tell everyone about Jesus, to help "unfreeze" them and free them from their sins. That way, everyone can add their name to the kingdom.

## Scrap the Sin

**The Play:** You will need the large buckets from Wednesday for this game. This time, they will act as trash cans. Label these with a large, simple cross. Line them up on one end of the field with a few feet between each one. On the other side of the field, scatter sheets of paper with age-appropriate sins written on them. Feel free to write the same sin more than once. For younger kids, use pictures of sins, such as one kid pushing down another or stealing candy from a grocery store. Make sure you have a lot of papers spread around, enough for each kid to have a chance to grab at least five sheets. The goal is to get rid of the sins. Make this into a team game. Divide the kids as evenly between the five buckets. (Use fewer buckets if you have fewer kids. Try to have at least five kids per team.) Have the children line up in front of the buckets. When you give them the signal, they have to race to the other end of the field, grab a piece of paper, crumple it up and race back to throw it in their bucket. Then they repeat this process until all the sins are gone. They can only grab one sheet of paper at a time, no cheating! Whichever team has the most sins in their bucket wins. To make this game harder, you can add things that aren't sins to the sins. Older children will have to read the papers and decide if the act on it is a sin or not. Don't throw away making a new friend or helping your sister clean her room, those are good things! If you want to save on paper, you could use snack sized paper plates to write/ draw the sins on. These could be reused throughout the whole day.

**The Point:** When we belong to Christ, we crucify our old way of living. We get rid of our sins and flesh by leaving it all at the cross. Because Jesus died for us on the cross and took our punishment, our sins are left on the cross. They are dead, and away from us forever. God forgets about all the bad things we have done when we throw them away to follow Jesus.