



The Fruit of the Spirit

Bible Story: The Fruit of the Spirit - Galatians 5:16-26

Bottom Line: The Holy Spirit changes the way we think and act to be more like Jesus.

Memory Verse: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV

Christ Connection: *When we believe in Jesus, the Holy Spirit begins to change us. Paul told the believers in the Galatian church how to recognize that God is working in someone’s life. People who are saved by Jesus become more like Him, and the Holy Spirit gives them power to say no to sin and to live in a way that pleases God.*

10 Minutes SOCIAL: SETTING THE TONE OF THE EXPERIENCE

CEREAL BOX MIX UP

What You Need: cereal box cover (cut into 16 equal squares), scissors

What You Do:

- Break your group into 2-3 teams
- Place the pieces into a pile face down.
- Race to see which team can put their cereal box back together the fastest.
- For an added challenge you could cut the cereal box cover into a more difficult kind of pattern or have the students complete the challenge with one hand behind their back.

What You Say: “You guys did a great job putting your boxes back together. Today in Large Group we are looking at ways to we build our faith like the boxes you assembled today.”

10 Minutes Worship: CELEBRATING WHAT GOD IS DOING

GAME, SONGS, OFFERING AND PRAYER

Fruit Basket Toss

What You Need: toy or plastic fruit, baskets, countdown clock

What You Do:

- Make 2 teams of 5 kids.
- Invite the teams to line up on one side of the room and place a basket about six feet in front of the first player in each line.
- Give both teams a pile of play fruit and challenge them to toss their fruits into their respective baskets.
- The first team to land all of their fruit in their basket wins or team with most fruit in the basket.

What You Say “Wow, you tossed a lot of fruit into those baskets. Today we will talk about a kind of fruit that you can’t toss or eat. We will learn about the fruit of the Spirit. Whom do you think grows the fruit of the Spirit?, let’s sing together and then listen to find out.”

15 Minutes LARGE GROUP: COMMUNICATING GOD’S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS

Today’s Passage

¹⁶ So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹ The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. **Galatians 5:16-26**

Context:

First, we learned that when we trust in Jesus, God gives us the Holy Spirit and makes us His children. Then He begins to change us from the inside out. God changes how we interact with Him and with others. God wants us to show friendship and love to one another. Today’s Bible story is called “The Fruit of the Spirit.” We’re not talking about apples and bananas. You might call this story “the proof of the Spirit” or “how we know God is changing us.”



Today's Takeaways

- When God is working in our lives, we know it and people see it.
- **BL:** The Holy Spirit changes the way we think and act to be more like Jesus.
- As God's kids, we are a part of His family and He wants for us to grow to live like Him.
- Changing to be like Jesus is called sanctification, and it happens over a lifetime. You won't wake up one day and suddenly be perfect. But you will see little clues in how you think and act that show God is at work in your life.

Give kids a chance to believe in Jesus for the first time. Remind them that God loves them so much that He sent Jesus to earth to pay for their sins. Lead them to pray as you pray. Pray that believers will submit their lives to the Holy Spirit and follow Jesus.

25 Minutes SMALL GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Discussion Questions:

- What are some of the clues that God is working in your life?
- Who should see that God is working in your life?
- What can you do to show your family that God is working in your life?

Activity: Fruit of the Spirit Behavior Chart

What You Need: "Fruit of the Spirit" Activity pages (1 set per kid), crayons, scissors, glue, zip-top bag (1 per kid), stapler

What You Do:

- Give each kid a set of fruit, a tree and the verse page.
- Kids will color each fruit as you talk about what kids can do to show their parents how they are using what they learned today.
- Get kids to give you ideas for themselves and possibly other people in the house.
- After kids are done coloring they can cut out their fruit and put it in the zip-top bag.
- Staple the tree and verse page to the baggie for each kid to take home.

What You Say "In our activity today we played with fruit. Fruit is really just a picture of what can grow in us as we learn more about Jesus. As we continue to grow, I am sure that others around you will know the fruit that is growing in your life. Share this with your family and encourage them to help you find ways to grow your fruit."

Activity: Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: "Key Passage Poster", white board, Markers, eraser

What You Do:

- On a dry erase board or chalkboard, write out the key passage.
- Invite a volunteer to read the verse for the class and then erase one word.
- Invite another kid to do the same, erasing a second word.
- Continue in this way until kids have erased all the words and are saying the verse from memory.

What You Say "Great job with that key passage. There is still time to memorize it, so keep working on it. This verse is from 2 Corinthians, one of the books of the Bible written by the apostle Paul. Paul wanted the Corinthians to know that the sin in their lives was against God's will for them and showed that they didn't fully understand the gospel. When we trust in Jesus, we are new creations, changed inside and out. **Who changes us? The Holy Spirit changes us to be like Jesus for God's glory.**"

Pray and Dismiss:

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Say:

"God, help us to live for You. Apart from You, we desire to live selfishly, but You sent Jesus to save us. Thank You for the Holy Spirit, who changes us so we can live on mission for You. Amen."

5 Minutes HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

As adults arrive to pick up, ask kids to share what they learned about how the Holy Spirit helps you to grow fruit in your life. Encourage families to find ways to use their fruit behavior chart to encourage growth in their houses.