

Fruit of the Spirit

Bible Story: Fruit of the Spirit • *Galatians 5:22-23*

Bottom Line: You can help others know God.

Memory Verse: “God’s power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.” *2 Peter 1:3a (NIV)*

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

1. Bible Story Review - Fruit of the Spirit Bingo

What You Need: “Fruit of the Spirit Bingo Cards” and “Fruit of the Spirit Scenarios” Activity Pages, bingo markers

What You Do:

- Pass out a “Fruit of the Spirit Bingo Card” to each child.
 - If you have more than ten kids in the group, divide kids into two groups and then pass out the bingo cards, making sure each kid in each group has a different card.
 - Play the game as usual, but allow there to be a winner from each of the divided-up groups.
- Point out the different “fruits” on the card.
- Instruct the kids to cover the free space in the center with a bingo marker.
- Explain that you will read a scenario and the kids must determine (as a group) which “fruit” it’s an example of (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control).
 - *NOTE: Some scenarios may have more than one answer. Make sure the group comes to a consensus on the answer and remind kids to only mark the fruit that the group settled on.*
- Encourage kids to cover that “fruit” with a bingo marker. **(Kids can cover every spot on their card that has that particular fruit.)**
- **Make sure to not read the scenarios in order.**
- Mark them off as you read them.
- The first kid to get five in a row—vertically, horizontally, or diagonally—wins!
- Play again as time and interest allow.

What You Say:

- Discussion Questions:
 - God sends his Holy Spirit to us.
 - Did God give us His Spirit to us to be our boss?
 - *(No, God sent his Spirit to help us.)*
 - Which of these fruits is easiest for you?
 - Which is the hardest?
 - When you are tempted to act in the opposite way (to be unkind, impatient, etc.), what should you do?

- “Today’s verses from our Bible story remind us of something VERY important.
- God doesn’t expect us to show gentleness or peace or faithfulness or to have self-control all the time while using our own strength.
- These things are Fruit of the Spirit.
- That means when you trust Jesus, and the Spirit lives in you, He will help you be each of these things.
- There are lots and lots of ways you can show each of these fruits.
- God is gentle and kind and patient.
- He is good, and He loves us more than we could ever imagine.
- So my challenge to you is to ask the Holy Spirit to help you show each of these fruits when it’s easy and when it’s hard.
- Remember that when you do, you’re showing others who God is.
- So when you allow God’s power through His Spirit to help you show kindness, joy, peace, and love, **[Bottom Line] you can help others know God.**

[Make It Personal] (Tell the kids about a time when you showed one of these Fruit of the Spirit when you REALLY wanted to do just the opposite. How did being connected to the Holy Spirit help produce this fruit in you? And how did your actions help someone else know God?)

SNACK TIME**TALK ABOUT MEMORY VERSE DURING SNACK TIME**

2. Memory Verse “God’s power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.” *2 Peter 1:3a (NIRV)*

Fill in the Blank – fruits of the Spirit

What You Need: Bibles, white board, dry erase marker

What You Do:

- Write the memory verse on the white board: “**God’s power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.**” *2 Peter 1:3a*
- Below it write the following in large block print: “God’s power has given us everything we need to live a life of _____.”
- Select a kid to say one of the fruits of the Spirit and write it in the blank. Then, as a group -read the verse with the fruit inserted.
- Erase the fruit from the board.
- Continue selecting volunteers to say different fruits of the Spirit and write them in the _____, then read again as a group with the fruit inserted.
- Keep going until you’ve covered all of them.

What You Say:

- “I’m so glad we can tap into God’s power and He will work through us to help us be kind and patient and loving, especially when that’s the last thing we want to do!
- God has given us everything we need, including a helper, His Spirit.
- We aren’t alone!
- And remember, when you Power Up and show these fruits, **[Bottom Line] you can help others know God.**”

3. Prayer

What You Need: “Question Boxes,” pens, slips of paper

What You Do:

- Encourage kids to think about which fruit of the Spirit they have the most trouble showing.
 - They can refer to their bingo card from earlier to help them remember each one.
 - They might even think of a specific person or situation. For instance, it might be hard to be patient with their little brother, or perhaps it's difficult to show self-control this summer when it comes to screen time.
- Instruct kids to write down the fruit they chose on their slips of paper.
- Before you pray, pass out kids' “Question Boxes.”
- Ask the kids to search their boxes to see if there are any questions that were not answered that they would like to ask now.
- Have the kids put their “fruit slip” in their box and encourage them to ask the Holy Spirit to help them show that fruit.
- Pray for the kids in your group.

What You Say:

“Heavenly Father, thank You for loving us. Thank You for reminding us this week that You will give us everything we need so that we can follow You. Thank You for sending Jesus to die on the cross so we can have a relationship with You. Thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit to help us. I pray that through Your Spirit, You would help us to show love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control. Because when we do, we can help others know about You. Thanks for an AWESOME week. We love You. In Jesus' name, amen.” *(Make sure to send the “Question Boxes” home with the kids.)*

4. Travel Time

As you travel to the next track, use the following questions to keep the conversation going and to keep kids thinking about what they're learning!

- What's your favorite fruit and why?
- What's your least favorite fruit?
- If you had to assign a fruit to each of the Fruit of the Spirit to help you remember them, what would you choose for love? *(Repeat for each Fruit of the Spirit.)*