

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 - In Step with the Spirit

What You Need: "In Step with the Spirit Gameboards" and "In Step with the Spirit Cards" (Activity Pages); game tokens

What You Do:

- Guide kids to get into groups of three or four.
- Give each group a gameboard and a set of cards. Invite each child to choose a token.
- Direct kids to set their tokens on START.
- Place the cards face down in a stack.
- Guide kids to play the game as they'd play Candy Land® by taking turns drawing a card from the pile, reading its fruit of the Spirit (provide help as needed), and moving their token to the appropriate space.
 - If they draw a card with "doubles" (two fruits on one card), they get to move to the second space with that particular fruit, instead of the very next space with that fruit.
- When kids complete their moves, lead them to think of one way—with God's help—they could show that fruit of the Spirit.
- If they're stuck for ideas, ask prompting questions to help them:
 - With God's help, how could you be kind to a friend?
 - With God's help, how could you show love to your mom?
 - When could you be patient with your brother or sister?
 - When could you be gentle?

What You Say:

- “When you listen to the Holy Spirit and follow Him by doing what He says, your life will show God’s love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
- And when that happens, people can see God in you, and **[Bottom Line] you can help others know God!**
- Wow!
- “So stay close to God.
- Read His Word and do what it says.
- Think about Him and how much He loves you.
- When you do, your life can show the fruit of His Spirit, and **[Bottom Line] you can help others know God.”**

SNACK TIME

TALK ABOUT THE MEMORY VERSE DURING SNACK

2. Memory Verse 2 Peter 1:3a (NirV)

What You Need: Bibles, dry erase board, markers

What You Do:

- **Invite** a kid to look up 2 Peter 1:3
- **Read:** -“God’s power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.”
- Print the verse on the board. Say the verse aloud as you write.
- Say the verse a second time. This time let kids choose a different color for the following details:
 - To **underline** “God’s,”
 - **Draw rays** extending from “power,”
 - **Circle** “everything,”
 - **Draw a wavy line** under “need,”
 - **Draw a smiley face** above “godly life.”
- Talk about how God’s power has given us everything we need to live a life of _____ (Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control)
 - For each fruit of the Spirit you list, let a kid volunteer to tell the group one way he can show that fruit in his life today.

What You Say:

- “When you believe in Jesus, God gives you His Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit is God’s power in us.
- He gives us the power to show others God’s love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
- We call those things the Fruit of the Spirit.

- “When you believe in Jesus, you can allow the Holy Spirit to lead you, or you can be led by something else.
 - *(Lead kids in a quick game of Follow the Leader. Change motions often to keep interest high.)*

- “I just led you through some actions, but when you’re led by the Holy Spirit and you follow Him, you’ll **love** other people.
- You’ll bring **joy** to others and make **peace** with others.
- You’ll be **patient** with others.
- You’ll be a **kind** friend—a **good** friend.
- You’ll be someone is **faithful** and **gentle**.
- And you’ll **control what you say and do**, so that the people around you don’t get hurt.
- And when you do, **[Bottom Line] you can help others know God!**”

3. Prayer

What You Say:

- “So what’s one way you can stay close to God so that others can see the Fruit of the Spirit in you?
 - *(I can pray, I can read my Bible and do what it says, etc.)*

[Make It Personal] (Tell kids a practical way you’ll strive to stay close to God this week.)

“When you believe in Jesus, God gives you His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God’s power in us. He gives us the power to show others God’s love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. And when you do, **[Bottom Line] you can help others know God!** Let’s pray.

“I want you to take some time to silently ask God to help you show the fruits of the Spirit this week. *(Pause.)* Now thank God for the power He gives us to live godly lives. *(Pause.)* In Jesus’ name, amen.”

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 to eat? Why?
- If you chose an actual fruit to go with love, which fruit would you choose? Why?
- If you chose a fruit to go with joy, which fruit would you choose? Why?
- If you chose a fruit to go with peace, which fruit would you choose? Why?