

FOLLOW UP ACTIVITY

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Objectives to be Understood: you can set your mind on the things of the Spirit and be led by the Spirit, and bring forth the Fruit of the Spirit of Jesus. (Note: This is a nine week activity-one week to learn each of the nine Fruit of the Spirit)

Materials: Basket or container; Run a copy of the "Description of Fruit of the Spirit" to cut out each description, fold and place in basket; scissors; unlined paper; crayons; markers; pencils; See Variation.

Parent/Teacher Script:

The Word of God says, "...those who identify with the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit." (Romans 8:5) What do you think that means? *[Listen to Responses]* It means when you truly know that you are a child of God (God is a Spirit) you should set your mind to think about the things of the Spirit of God so Holy Spirit can lead you and help you. Everyone who is led by the Holy Spirit is God's son. To be led by the Holy Spirit is to set your mind to remember that you are God's son or daughter—and know Holy Spirit will help you to choose to do the right thing to bear much fruit. Did you know there is fruit inside Holy Spirit? *[Listen to Responses]* It is not the fruit that grows on trees. The fruit in Holy Spirit is called the Fruit of the Spirit. What do you think the Fruit of the Spirit is? *[Listen to Responses]* The fruit is the mind of the Holy Spirit in you that helps you to obey Jesus. Your mind is how you think.

Jesus wants you to think and do things by his Holy Spirit. Jesus does NOT want you to let your feelings be your leader. Sometimes what you feel will NOT be what Jesus said. Jesus told us two big commands to do from the Words Father spoke. Jesus told us to LOVE Father first with all of our heart, with all our soul, and with all of our strength. And also to LOVE other people just like you love yourself. Sometimes loving other people on the earth is hard because everyone is not nice. Sometimes you might feel like doing something or saying something that is NOT kind or the right way God told His children to love. But Holy Spirit makes it easier and helps you. He reminds you to use the Fruit of the Spirit in you.

When you choose to THINK about the things of the Spirit, and you choose to obey the Words Jesus said, you are being led by the Spirit. Then Holy Spirit who is in you and with you will help you to bear much fruit. The Fruit of the Spirit is how Jesus wants you to think. You are showing the Fruit of the Spirit whenever you choose to show *LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, HUMILITY, and SELF-CONTROL*. We are going to do an activity to learn what this fruit is and show you what the Fruit of the Spirit looks like in you.

Activity Directions:

- Give each child paper. Set out markers, crayons and pencils.
- Ask each child to pull the name of a "Fruit of the Spirit" from the basket.
- Read aloud the "Description of Fruit of the Spirit" that the child pulled.
- Tell child to draw a picture of them showing the fruit. For example, "kindness" could be a drawing of you helping someone. "Self-Control" could be a drawing of you NOT hitting someone, etc.
- Tell children the fruit they pulled is their special fruit to practice for the week.
- Their assignment is for each child to look for ways to let other people see their fruit. After the week is over, children are to return and talk about what happened.
- To help children become awareness of each of the nine fruits of the spirit, continue this activity over nine weeks letting children pull a different fruit from the basket weekly to practice. (If the same fruit is chosen from basket by a child let them pick again until they select a different fruit.)
- Document on the last page of the "Student Progress Record" the Fruit of the Spirit that you observe the child doing, in addition to positive information the child shares.

Variation: Make a "Fruit of the Spirit" tree. Make enough removable pictures of fruit to go on the tree for each child to have at least one. Write the name of a Fruit of the Spirit on each fruit. (Tape pictures of the fruit onto the tree) Instead of using the basket to pick a fruit, let children take a fruit from the tree. Continue to follow Activity Directions.

DESCRIPTION OF FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

LOVE: Whenever you need help to love someone, Holy Spirit will help you to think about God's LOVE. If you don't want to love the person, think about how much Jesus and Father love them. Think about how the person may not know about God's love. Pray and talk to Father. Ask Him to help you. What do you believe will happen when you ask for help? [Listen to Responses] Holy Spirit will remind you that the fruit of the love of God is in you! You can choose to love instead of following how you feel. Show LOVE to someone this week.

JOY: Holy Spirit has the fruit of JOY in Him and you! Joy is being happy inside no matter what is happening around you because of Jesus. When you keep the joy of the Lord Jesus in your heart it makes you strong. When you feel sad and need help to keep your joy, remember Holy Spirit is with you, so ask Father to help you keep His joy in your heart. What do you believe will happen when you ask for help? [Listen to Responses] Holy Spirit will help you and you can choose to think about the JOY in you and be strong like our Lord Jesus! Show your JOY this week.

PEACE: Holy Spirit has the fruit of PEACE in Him and you. When people around you are upset or angry, you don't have to be upset or angry because you have the PEACE of Jesus in you! When you need help to keep your peace, who is your helper with you? *[Listen to Responses]* Holy Spirit is your helper. So ask Father to help you keep His peace in your heart. What do you believe will happen when you ask for help? *[Listen to Responses]* Holy Spirit will remind you to choose the fruit of peace and to stay calm! You can choose to be peaceful no matter what happens. Remember to thank God for his peace. Show your PEACE this week.

PATIENCE: Father knew that sometimes you will have to wait for some things. So the fruit of PATIENCE is in the Spirit for you. If you feel like you cannot wait for something to happen, just remember you already have patience inside of you. Ask Father to help you to show your patience and wait until it's your turn. What do you believe will happen when you ask for help? *[Listen to Responses]* Holy Spirit will remind you and help you to choose to show the patient in you! Show your patience this week.

KINDNESS: The fruit of KINDNESS is in Holy Spirit and you. Have you ever seen someone who was being mean? *[Listen to Responses]* Jesus wants you to show love and be kind to them. If you need help to be kind and to choose to do things God's way, think and remember that kindness is already in you. If you still need help, pray and ask Father. What do you think will happen when you pray? God will help you. You have the power of Holy Spirit in you to help you show kindness this week and all the time.

GOODNESS: The fruit of GOODNESS is in Holy Spirit and you. Father is good and He does everything right. When Jesus came to earth, He showed us how to do good things God's way. As a child of Father, you should look for ways to show the goodness of God to others every day. So when you see someone that needs something good that you can do for them, and you need help to want to do it, pray and ask Father. And what will Father do? *[Listen to Responses]* Holy Spirit will help the fruit of God's goodness in you to come into your heart! Show the goodness of Father and Jesus this week.

FAITHFULNESS: The fruit of FAITHFULNESS is also in Holy Spirit and you. To be faithful means that someone can depend on you to do what they asked you to do. Jesus chose to obey his Father and was faithful. Jesus did everything that Father told Him to do. Father could trust Jesus. Jesus wants you to obey Him so he and Father can depend on you. But if you need help to be faithful, what should you do? *[Listen to Responses]* Pray and ask Father. And what will happen when you pray? *[Listen to Responses]* Holy Spirit will help you and remind you that you have faithfulness already in you. So choose to be faithful. Show faithfulness this week where Jesus can depend on you to show Father's love to others.

HUMILITY: Just like Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit, you have the fruit of HUMILITY inside you. When you show humility, you do not think higher of yourself than you do others. You can choose to respect others and not be rude. You are polite, humble, and thank others for the good they do. When someone yells, fights or is mean hearted, you can choose not to yell, fight or be mean in your heart. You have the power of humility in you to treat other people the same way you want to be treated. Jesus told you to pray for those who are rude and mean and show His love to them. But if you want to hurt the person instead of showing humility, what should you do instead? [Listen to Responses] Pray and ask Father to help you, and Holy Spirit will help and remind you to choose to use the power of the fruit of humility. Be humble and show others how you respect them and treat them the way you want to be treated this week and always.

SELF-CONTROL: God has put in you the power of the fruit of SELF-CONTROL. Self-control means that you have the strength and power inside of you to control yourself and be the leader of how you feel. You can be quiet when others are rude, or loud or mean. If someone calls you a bad name, you can control yourself and not get angry because when people say or do bad things it means they do not know Father's love or they are not thinking about it. Jesus does not want you to be angry at anyone and let the sun go down that day. If you feel anger at them, do not do any bad thing. What could you do instead? [Listen to Responses] Pray and ask Father! And who will help you? [Listen to Responses] Holy Spirit will help you to remember and think about the power of the fruit of self control in you. You can choose to show self control this week and all the time.

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT SONG!

I have love inside of me.

It's growing big just like a tree.

When I show love, it grows in me.

Yes, I have love inside of me.

What is another fruit that Father put inside of your “Born Again” Spirit? [Listen to Responses]

(Sing the names of the different Fruits of the Spirit: LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, HUMILITY, SELF-CONTROL)

I have _____ inside of me.

It's growing big just like a tree.

When I show _____, it grows in me.

Yes, I have _____ inside of me.

Scriptures:

*Romans 8:4-6; Romans 8:14-16; John 15:5-7; Galatians 5:16-23; Jude 1:20; John 3:7; Matthew 5:44;
Romans 12:17-21; John 14:26; John 15:5-8; I Thessalonians 5:17; Ephesians 4:26*