

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Galatians 5:22)

Fruit of the Spirit – Galatians 5:22-23

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: SPIRIT

Today's Bible story is from one of the letters Paul wrote to the church at Galatia.

During his missionary travels, Paul helped establish the church at Galatia and became friends with the followers there. After helping the church get established, Paul left the community to start another.

While Paul was continuing his missionary journey, he heard that there were other Christian missionaries teaching the people that all Gentiles had to practice Jewish customs, primarily the custom of circumcision. Paul wrote to the believers in Galatia to tell them this wasn't true and to discourage them from listening to the missionaries encouraging them to do so.

Part of the letter to the Galatians encourages the believers to turn away from things that keep them from living a spiritual life. If they live a spiritual life the fruit of the spirit would grow in their lives. The "fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." These feelings, actions, and values are still important goals for us now.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

Find a quiet place to sit. Place your feet on the ground and place your hands palms down on your knees. Take a deep breath in and let it go. This time as you breathe in, think, "Spirit, guide me." Exhale and think, "All my days." Repeat several times.

Come Together

Come Together

Supplies: *Class Pack, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Wonder Box, green cloth, battery-operated candle, heart*

Prepare Ahead: *Set up a Wonder Table (see p. 3) with a green cloth, battery-operated candle, and a Wonder Box (see p. 3). Display the Unit 1 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 10 & 15) and Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 22). Place the heart inside the Wonder Box.*

- Point to the Unit 1 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 22), and invite the children to wonder about what the word *Spirit* means.
- Invite the kids to join you in a circle.

SAY: This month we have been hearing stories about the Holy Spirit and the ways it guides the followers of Jesus. This week we will read a letter Paul wrote to believers in a town called Galatia.

- In this curriculum, we recommend reading stories from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*. Allow an elementary-age child to read the story, “Fruit of the Spirit” (pp. 306–307) from the storybook.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Fruit of the Spirit – Preschool

Supplies: *Reproducible Kids’ Book, crayons*

Prepare Ahead: *Photocopy “Fruit of the Spirit” (Reproducible 4A) for each child.*

- Invite the preschoolers to use crayons to color the picture.

SAY: The Spirit is in each of us. One way we know the Spirit is in us is by the way we behave. When we show love, or are patient, we are showing that the Spirit is in us.

Can You Spot the Hearts? – Younger Elementary

Supplies: *Reproducible Kids’ Book, crayons*

Prepare: *Photocopy “Can You Spot the Hearts?” (Reproducible 4B) for each child.*

- Hand out a copy of “Can You Spot the Hearts?” to each child.

SAY: The Spirit is in each of us. One way we know the Spirit is in us is by the way we behave. When we show love, or are patient, we are showing that the Spirit is in us.

- Invite the kids to find and circle the hearts in the picture.
- Encourage the kids to color the pictures.

Word Search – Older Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils or pens

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Word Search" (Reproducible 4C) for each child.

- Hand out a copy of "Word Search" to each child.

SAY: This month, we heard stories about the Spirit. Find and circle words from this month's stories.

- Encourage the kids to find and circle the words from this month's sessions.

June Stars and Constellations – All Ages

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "June Stars and Constellations" (Reproducible 4D) for each child.

- Hand out copies of Reproducible 4D.
- Invite the kids to look over the stars, constellations, and star pictures on the page.

ASK: Do you recognize any of the star pictures on the page?

- Invite the kids to share any star pictures they recognize. This sheet shows the same stars and constellations that we saw in May. Use this opportunity to see if any kids in your class have tried to find star pictures in the sky.

SAY: This fall, we began looking at the night sky to see star pictures. If you are having trouble finding these shapes, here's a tip.

- Point to Orion on the star chart.

SAY: Orion is the figure of a man. His belt has three bright stars that are pretty easy to find in the winter sky. If you can find the belt, you might be able to find some of the other stars and constellations on the sheet.

- Invite the kids to take the sheets home and look at the sky.

Wonder Time

Interactive Bible Story

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Fruit of the Spirit" (Reproducible 4F) for each child.

- Invite several readers to take turns reading the story one section at a time.

WONDER: What other feelings or actions are of the spirit?

Share a Story

Supplies: Celebrate Wonder DVD, TV, DVD player

- Invite the children to join you and to sit in a circle on the floor.
- Watch the Session 4 video (Celebrate Wonder DVD).

Wonder with Me

Supplies: Class Pack, Wonder Box, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Lay out the Wonder Story Mat for Unit 1 (Class Pack—pp. 11 & 14).

Cut out the Bible story figures (Class Pack—p. 6) if you haven't already.

- Place the Wonder Box on the Unit 1 Wonder Story Mat.
- Show the children the Unit 1 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 22).

SAY: Today's faith word is *Spirit*. The word *Spirit* means the feeling that God is with you.

- Show the children this week's figure—a symbol for prayer and living spiritually.

WONDER together:

- What fruit of the spirit is hard for you?
 - What fruit of the spirit is easy for you?
 - What does it feel like when God is with you?
 - Why do you think Paul chose these feelings and actions instead of others?
- Place the figure on the Wonder Story Mat.
 - Open the Wonder Box to reveal the heart.

WONDER: Why do you think a heart is in the Wonder Box this week?

Experience Wonder

Watercolor Painting

Supplies: card stock, watercolor paints, paintbrushes, cups of water

SAY: Paul wrote a letter to the believers in Galatia to encourage them to live well and to follow the Spirit. When we follow the spirit, we are loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle, and have self-control.

ASK: How would you illustrate living following the Spirit?

- Give each kid a piece of card stock and paints.
- Encourage the kids to paint a picture of what living a life following the spirit could look like.
- If a child needs an idea, they could paint a picture of showing love or kindness to another person.
- Invite the kids to show the group their paintings.

Examine the Bible Verse

SAY: Our Unit 1 Bible verse is Galatians 5:22. Find it in your Bibles.

ASK: Is Galatians in the Old or New Testament? (*New*) Where is the Letter to the Galatians located in the New Testament? (*ninth book*) In what chapter of Galatians is our verse located? (*5*) What is the verse number? (*22*)

SAY: Our Bible verse tells us what a life of faith following the Spirit looks like.

- Gather the kids around the Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 10 & 15). Read it together.

Peaceful Place

Supplies: Leader Guide—p. 113, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, book: Maybe God is Like That Too, by Jennifer Grant; fruit seeds; magnifying glass; paper; crayons or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy the Unit 1 Faith Word coloring sheet (Leader Guide—p. 113) for each child.

- Assist the children, as needed, as they interact with the items provided.
- Invite the children to explore fruit seeds.
- Have each child color the Faith Word coloring sheet.

Tip: All of the supplies/activities suggested for the Peaceful Place are optional.

Go in Peace

Spiritual Practice – Exploring the Spirit Through Guidance

SAY: A spiritual practice is something we do to help us be present with God. A spiritual practice can be anything because you can be with God any time, anywhere, and any way! This month we are going to do a guided prayer to connect with God.

- Guide the children through a spiritual practice:
 - Find a quiet place to sit. Place your feet on the ground and place your hands palms down on your knees. Take a deep breath in and let it go. This time as you breathe in, think, “Spirit, guide me.” Exhale and think, “My whole life.” Repeat several times.

SAY: The Spirit will be with each of us for our whole lives. The Spirit will keep us connected to God and each other.

PRAY: Repeat after me: “God, thank you for the Holy Spirit. Help me to feel how close you always are to me. Amen.”

- Bless the children before they leave. Touch each child as you say this blessing: “May you feel God’s love all around you every day.”

Family Spiritual Practice

Supplies: Reproducible Kids’ Book; Leader Guide—pp. 111, 112

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy “Celebration Chart” (p. 111) and “Family Letter” (p. 112) for each child.

SAY: Let’s take a look at your Take-Home Pages (*Reproducibles 4F–4G*). Ask your family to read the Bible story and participate in this week’s spiritual devotion with you. There’s an extra activity for you to do sometime this week.

- Send home a copy of the Take-Home Pages, a copy of the Family Letter, and a copy of the Celebration Chart with each child.

Supplemental Activities

Preschoolers – Growing Flowers From Seed

Supplies: potting soil, clear plastic cups, plastic spoons, flower seeds, water

SAY: The Spirit helps us grow in wisdom, love, and truth. Water, sunshine, and soil help flower seeds grow into pretty flowers. Let's grow some flowers that help us remember that we are growing in the spirit.

- Give each child a cup. Help them fill the cup 3/4 of the way with soil.
- Give each child a spoonful of seeds and a spoon.
- Encourage them to bury the seeds in the soil.
- Invite the kids to get a spoonful of water to water their seeds.
- Send the starter plants home with the children.

Early Elementary – Share the Joy

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, card stock, markers or crayons, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Share the Joy" (Reproducible 4E) onto card stock for each child.

SAY: One of the fruit of the Spirit is joy. Joy is a deep happiness that we feel no matter what is happening in our lives. It's a happy, hopeful feeling. Let's share joy with others.

- Give each child a copy of "Share the Joy."
- Encourage them to color the cards.
- Help them cut out the six cards.
- Invite them to give the six cards to six people who need cheering up this week.

Older Elementary – Adding Fruit

Supplies: paper, pens or pencils

SAY: Paul wrote a letter to the believers in Galatia to encourage them to live well and to follow the Spirit. When we follow the Spirit, we are loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle, and have self-control.

ASK: What other attributes might we be if we were to follow Jesus' teachings? *(No answer is incorrect. Some suggestions are empathetic, honest, and active in our community.)*

SAY: These are great ideas! Let's add another verse to our memory verse that includes these attributes.

- Invite the kids to write their new verses onto paper with pens and pencils.
- Encourage them to share their verses with the class.

Intergenerational Activity – Fruit of the Spirit Charades

Supplies: nine index cards, marker

Prepare Ahead: Write a fruit of the Spirit on each index card: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control

SAY: Paul wrote a letter to the believers in Galatia to encourage them to live well and to follow the Spirit. When we follow the Spirit, we are loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle, and have self-control.

SAY: We're going to take turns acting out the fruit of the Spirit and seeing if we can guess which one is being acted out.

- Invite a participant to draw a card.
- Encourage that participant to act out the card.
- Invite the other participants to guess what the card attribute is.
- Continue playing until everyone has gotten to act out a card.