

Fruit of the Spirit Introduction

Discussion:

Ask: How many of you like fruit? What are some names of fruit? What are some of the different colours of fruit? Where does fruit grow?

Discuss fruit from trees and vines and give a few examples of each. Apples, pears, and peaches grow on trees, while vines give us grapes and watermelons.

Ask: Do you think that nice fruit grows on healthy trees? What would happen if the tree or vine was sick; would it be able to produce good fruit?

Ask: Does anyone know that Jesus used the idea of fruit to compare to people? Why would He do that? Let's look at what the apostles Matthew and John wrote about what Jesus said about fruit:

"So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit." - Matthew 7:17

"Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit." - Matthew 12:33

"By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples." - John 15:8

Say: In nature, only trees or plants that are healthy can produce good fruit. Plants have to focus on making their roots strong in order to stay alive. Just like plants, we need to keep our roots strong by listening to what the Bible teaches us. Then we will be able to make strong branches that can produce good fruit. But, how can we do that?

The apostle Paul tells us:

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." - Galatians 5:22-23

As you say each fruit, write it down on a printable, chalkboard, or piece of plastic fruit, discussing and giving examples as you go along. It's important to always list or place the fruit in the right order from the Bible. This helps them remember the verse. The songs and action are always in the same order too.

Say: So, why is it so important to know how to create better fruit in ourselves? We can learn to live in a way that pleases God and makes our lives happier! We produce our good fruit with our *actions*. If we try to remember all of the names of the fruit, we can keep them in mind as we go throughout life. Even adults have to sometimes remind themselves of the best way to act by thinking about the Fruit of the Spirit!

Pray: Heavenly Father – thank You that I am Your child.. and Father I pray that my life may become so full of love for Christ Jesus, that the Fruit of the Spirit may grow and develop in me – to Your praise and glory. Amen.

Play the Fruit of the Spirit Children Song video.