



Bible Passage: Galatians 5—6

● (Fruit of the Spirit and Galatia)

REMEMBER VERSE

Heal me, O LORD, and I will be healed; save me and I will be saved,
for you are the one I praise.
Jeremiah 17:14

The Holy Spirit Makes Us New



Schedule

- Anticipate**
5–10 minutes
- Celebrate & Respond**
Large Group
35–55 minutes
- Respond & Bless**
Small Group
20–25 minutes



Environment: COURSE CORRECTION

This environment flows out of Hebrews 12:11–13 and is the direct opposite of punishment. Instead, biblical discipline for a child encompasses a season of pain, the building up in love, and a vision of a corrected path with the purpose of healing at its core.



Inspire

"Father God, please let this tree grow some fruit," I prayed, looking up from the base of our barren apple tree. For the past three years I'd watched this tree, harvest after harvest. It had never produced fruit. It lived in front of the house in which I rented a room during college, during the "partying" phase of my life. I'm not proud of that season, but I needed it. I needed to run away from God and hit a low point to understand the extent of God's love. Eventually, to clean up my life, I moved out of there and back in with my parents.

Recently, a room in the same house became available, and I decided to move back in. A few weeks after moving in the second time, I was floored when my roommate said, "The cutest baby apple is growing on the tree." When I ran outside, a tiny apple hung from a branch. I grabbed my phone and called my mom.

"That is weird," she said. "But the real test will be if it bears *good* fruit." My mom explained that the original owner had planted the tree, and it grew pretty well, but a storm literally broke the base of it. The owner replanted it, and, surprisingly, the tree continued growing. But its fruit was bitter. Each year the fruit swelled and ripened on the tree only to fall and rot. After I heard the back story, the solo apple on our tree seemed so much more special—something only God could do.

A few weeks later, about 50 apples were hanging from the branches. They were still too tiny to eat, but each week I went outside, stood at the base of the tree, and prayed for good fruit.

My story is a lot like that of the tree. I've had a fair share of storms in my life—situations that caused me to feel uprooted and broken. But out of unexpected grace and love, God chose to continue working on me. He waited with me through the time I produced "bad fruit." And, in His perfect timing, His love healed and restored me.

NOTES :



Erika Abdelatif
TruStory Team



Equip

Galatians has been called the “Magna Carta of Christian Liberty.” Paul’s letter to the church in the city of Galatia passionately proclaims the believer’s freedom in Christ. Although widely influential and inspiring, the letter to the Galatians has posed some difficult questions for biblical scholars. It’s impossible to know for sure when this letter was written, where it was written, and even to whom it was written. Although Paul clearly states he is writing to the church in Galatia (Galatians 1:2), scholars debate whether “Galatia” refers to northern Galatia, the original area known as Galatia, or southern Galatia, an area containing cities where Paul and Barnabas established churches—cities such as Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Derbe, and Lystra.

Despite some of the difficulties the text poses for scholars, why Paul wrote this letter is crystal clear: to correct false teachings about the Christian’s relationship to Mosaic law. Certain Jewish leaders at the time were teaching that believing in Jesus wasn’t enough—believers also needed to follow Jewish ceremonial and temple laws such as circumcision, kosher eating, and observance of feasts. When Paul heard the Galatians were listening to these false teachings, he wrote a passionate letter to correct them and encourage them to “stand firm” in their freedom (Galatians 5:1).

The question of whether Christians needed to obey the Mosaic Law was hotly debated throughout many early churches, not just in Galatia. In fact, it caused so much confusion and disruption that the apostles in Jerusalem held a council to officially address the question and provide correct teachings (Acts 15:1–35). Paul and the other apostles agreed that in Christ, Gentile believers aren’t bound to keep the Law. We’re new creations—free to live lives led by the Spirit.

Resources

www.biblegateway.com/resources/commentaries/IVP-NT/Gal/Scriptural-Appeal

Kulikovsky, Andrew S. 1999. “The Historical Context of Paul’s Letters to the Galatians and Romans.” *Biblical Hermeneutics: The Science of Interpreting the Bible*. <http://hermeneutics.kulikovskyonline.net/hermeneutics/galromhc.pdf>





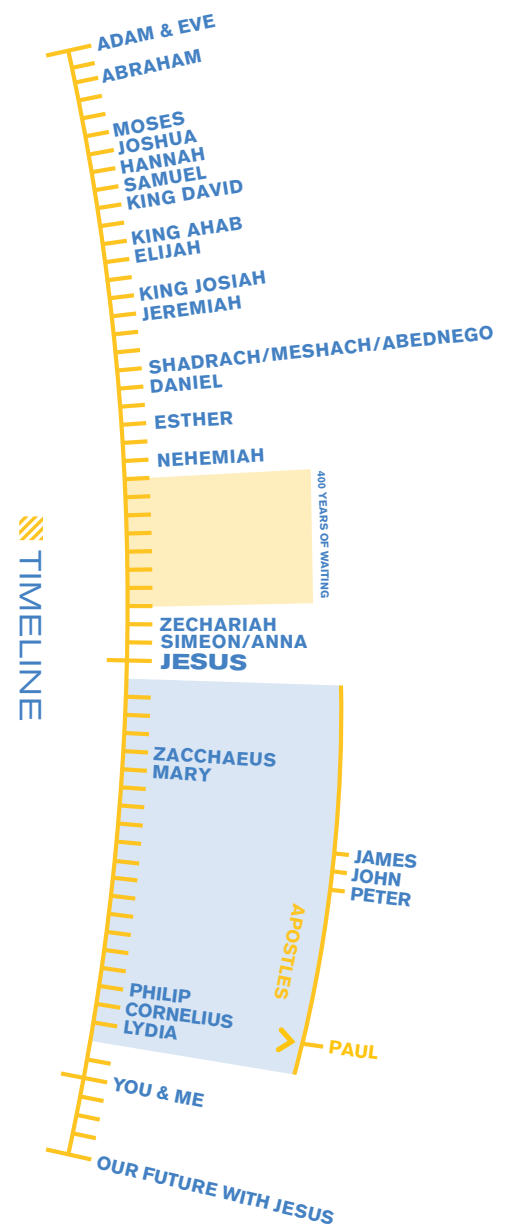
Support

Many of us may struggle to understand the freedom we have in Christ. So did many of the Jews who came to believe in Jesus, as the book of Galatians describes. These new believers thought that keeping every jot and tittle of the Law showed other people the validity of their faith. They didn't understand that the Law, which prompted external obedience, could never produce true godly living. But the Messiah brought His believers the Holy Spirit who lives inside us and gives us the internal motivation to live lives pleasing to God. The Spirit inside us makes us want to obey, and yielding to Him produces the righteous fruit God desires.

This week, take some time to read Galatians from start to finish, as well as Acts 15:1–35. Before you read, pray this: "Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long" (Psalm 25:4–5).

As you read, write down any new insights the Lord reveals to you. Afterward, if you feel led, pray this prayer: "Father, help me to understand what it means to be made new by Your Holy Spirit. Correct my course and place me on Your path. Help show my children that they don't need to be burdened by the Law. Instead, grow in me the desire to yield to Your Spirit. Amen."

TruStory Team





Lesson Overview



Experience	Time	Summary	Supplies/Prepare (Master Supply List under Resource Tab)
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Anticipate//
Small Group
Check-In

5-10 min.

Encourages interaction among kids, leaders, and parents; engages the kids in curiosity and anticipation of the lesson; and creates an inviting atmosphere.

Fruits and Vegetables

- variety of seed packets (with pictures on the front)
- paper plates or bowls
- optional: whole fruits and vegetables, knives, envelopes, markers

Celebrate//
Large Group

20-35 min.

Establishes community and tells stories both personal and biblical in a fun and engaging way.

Traditions

- mementos for your church Traditions (rocks, marbles, gum balls, etc.)
- Remember Verse cards, slide, and animation (see Resource Folder)

Connect

- Connect Question slide (see Resource Folder)

The Big God Story

- Bible
- Timeline slide and animation (see Resource Folder)
- props: phone (cell phone or other phone), desk or small table, shoebox (or other box to be a mailbox)
- pen, paper, and envelope
- image: map of Paul's journeys (see Resource Folder)
- sound effects: ringing phone, door knock (see Resource Folder)
- optional: volunteer to play Paul, seed packets from Anticipate

Respond//
Large Group

15-20 min.

Creates space for children to respond to the Holy Spirit in worship and community as a large group.

You Make Me New

- person outline (1 per child; see Resource Folder)
- pens, pencils, markers

Lesson Overview



Experience	Time	Summary	Supplies/Prepare (Master Supply List under Resource Tab)
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Respond//
Small Group

15-20 min.

Discusses truth, reflects on the lesson, engages in relationships, and creates a project or a piece of art individually or together.

Reflect: The Holy Spirit Makes Us New

- Bibles
- questions

Engage: Fruit of the Spirit

Option 1: Fruit Tree (for Younger Kids)

- fruit template (1 per child; see Resource Folder)
- butcher paper (or brown construction paper)
- crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- scissors, tape
- optional: poster board

Option 2: New Fruit (for Younger or Older Kids)

- construction paper (various colors)
- butcher paper (or brown construction paper)
- crayons, markers or colored pencils
- scissors, tape
- optional: poster board

Option 2: Fruit on the Vine Game (for Younger or Older Kids)

- grapes template (1 per child; see Resource Folder)
- circular purple stickers
- dice

Bless//
Small Group

5 min.

Sends the kids out with a sense of peace and blessing so they can be a blessing to their families and others.

- Bible (for the blessing)
- HomeFront Weekly (1 per child; see Resource Folder)



SMALL GROUP

 SECTION

Anticipate//

5–10 min.

Small Group Leaders



An energizing time for parents and kids to start engaging with the material that will be presented in the lesson.

It is intentionally designed to spark curiosity and cultivate a sense of awe and wonder about God.

Encourage parents to participate in this time with their kids.



Partner Church Comments

"I created a slide show of seeds that ran during the Anticipate time. The kids had a good time trying to guess what each seed would become."
Mountainbrook Community Church

Fruits and Vegetables

SUPPLIES

- variety of seed packets (with pictures on the front)
- paper plates or bowls
- optional: whole fruits and vegetables, knives, envelopes, markers



SET UP

Number each plate or bowl (on the bottom) to correspond with a number you put on each seed packet. Open each seed packet and sprinkle a few of the seeds onto a plate or into a bowl. Be careful to keep some seeds in each packet for reference. Randomly mix up and arrange the seed packets with the paper plates or bowls on a table for the kids to explore. Optional: Have whole (washed) fruits and vegetables matching the pictures on the seed packets for the kids to eat (being careful of food allergies).

ENGAGE

During this Anticipate, ask the kids to look at the seeds. Ask them to guess which seeds grow into which fruits and vegetables. As they guess, ask them questions about fruits and vegetables, such as **What's your favorite fruit? What's your favorite vegetable? What's your least favorite vegetable?** After they guess, reveal the matching seeds, or let the kids look inside the seed packets to see if they're correct.

To encourage the early Christians to continue on their path toward true salvation in Jesus, Paul wrote them a letter. In his letter, he explained that when we're connected to Jesus, the Holy Spirit produces good fruit in us.

Optional: Have the kids harvest seeds from the fruits and vegetables by cutting them open (with adult supervision) and pulling out the seeds. The kids can place the seeds in envelopes (on which they can draw images of the plant-to-be) and take the seeds home to plant in their own gardens.

Programming Note

The activity option in Anticipate is created to take place during your check-in time. Your time frame may range from five to ten minutes, depending on your church's facility and service-time setup. You can choose the option above or add an idea of your own.

This section is also created to be flexible according to your facility. If it works best to direct kids and their parents to individual small group rooms for this time, set up activities in each room. And if you check kids directly into your large group space, arrange your Anticipate activities accordingly.



LARGE GROUP

 SECTION

Celebrate//

20–35 min.

Host/Storyteller



Kids get to be a part of the faith community of God's family.

They participate in traditions and share them with newcomers, connect through fun and interaction, and experience The Big God Story through storytelling.



Birthdays

A Common Tradition

Whenever a child in your church has a birthday coming up, ask her to come up front to be sung to and prayed over. Encourage the kids to have fun celebrating the child on her special day by singing loudly and enthusiastically!

Welcome and Traditions

After everyone is gathered as a large group, open with Traditions. During Traditions, you are helping the kids work toward a common goal and giving them mementos to celebrate things like memorizing the Remember Verse, inviting a friend, or bringing their Bibles.

REMEMBER VERSE

This is a good time to introduce kids to the Remember Verse. As they arrive, open a Bible and read it together if time allows. Remember Verse cards, slide, and animation can be found in the Resource Folder.

Heal me, O LORD, and I will be healed; save me and I will be saved, for you are the one I praise.
Jeremiah 17:14

Mementos can be anything, such as rocks, marbles, gum balls, or connecting blocks. Use a clear plastic or glass container to fill so the kids can watch their progress. Or have them contribute to the building of a structure with connecting blocks. If you have multiple services, use separate containers or building stations for each one. Once the kids have been awarded their mementos, direct them to put the mementos into the container or to add them to the building effort. When the common-goal tradition is complete, have a celebration!

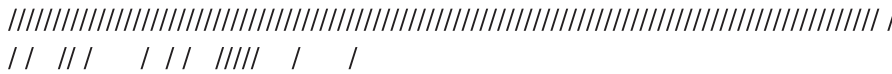
Connect

Connect is a time to laugh, play, and enjoy each other's company. Engaging questions, energizing games, and creative activities encourage the community to get to know each other.

Invite kids to ask each other the following question or one of your own. Encourage them to ask someone they might not know yet. After a minute or two, ask several kids to tell the group their friends' answers. (See the Connect Question slide in the Resource Folder.)

Question

If you could combine the names of any two fruits, what would you choose (for example, orangeana or kiwapple)?



The Big God Story

Storyteller

During The Big God Story, the kids will learn about Paul's letter to the Galatians. Though this part of The Big God Story can be delivered verbatim, read it before the lesson so you can personally interact with the material. Share stories from your life, and speak with your own style by varying your intonation and gestures.

Tip

Before sharing this account of how the Holy Spirit makes us new, point out to your kids that what they are about to hear is true and is recorded in the Bible. Open your Bible to the passage and leave it open and visible throughout The Big God Story. Establish a consistent place to keep this Bible every week.

Invite kids to open their Bibles and follow along in Galatians 5–6 as you storytell. Encourage adult volunteers to keep an eye out for kids who need help finding the Scripture passage, and allow enough time for each child to locate the passage. You may even want to project the reference on a screen or write it in large print on a poster or whiteboard.

The Holy Spirit Makes Us New

SUPPLIES

- Bible
- Timeline slide and animation (see Resource Folder)
- props: phone (cell phone or other phone), desk or small table, shoebox (or other small box to be a mailbox)
- pen, paper, and envelope
- image: map of Paul's journeys (see Resource Folder)
- sound effects: ringing phone, door knock (see Resource Folder)
- optional: volunteer to play Paul, seed packets from Anticipate

SET UP

Write "Mailbox" on the side of the shoebox. Put props and supplies in the storytelling area. Cue map and sound effects. Ask someone to play the part of Paul, or plan to make a quick change into Paul.

For the past few weeks we've heard about how the Holy Spirit led the disciples to travel all around and tell people the good news of Jesus Christ. (*Show map of Paul's journeys, and point out some of the churches on the map.*) **We've also heard how many new believers started churches! And the people in these churches took care of each other, loved each other, and praised God together as a faith community.**

Visual Aids

You will find JPEGs of various visual aids in the Resource Folder for every lesson of TruStory. Though we often refer to projector screens, do not feel limited by this. Please use these files in whichever format works best for your church, whether you use computer media, an overhead projector, or poster board.



The Big God Story



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Well ... most of the time. After a while, the people in these churches started to get confused and get off track. Today we're going to hear about how God used the apostle Paul to speak out against some false teachers who were confusing new Christians in Galatia. We're going to hear how God used Paul to help move the Galatians from a path of confusion to a path in which they trusted and followed God alone. God really used Paul to ... *(play sound effect of ringing phone and look at your phone).* Oh, excuse me, I have to answer this call. *(Pick up the phone and pretend to talk.)* Hello? Oh, wow ... you mean *the* Paul, as in Paul the apostle? Wow! You sound upset! What's wrong? Oh, well, I'm here with the kids, and they need to hear this too. Why don't you come over and tell us what's wrong? *(Play sound effect of door knock. Greet Paul as he enters the storytelling area.)*

Paul: Thanks so much for letting me come over; I really needed to talk to somebody. I got a letter saying that the new Christians in Galatia have started to listen to some false teachers. *(Show map.)* Because the people of Galatia are new in their faith, these Jewish teachers are confusing them about what's true. They're teaching them that they need to follow Jewish Law in order to be saved. But that's not the good news of Jesus Christ! The good news is that Jesus died and rose again so we can be made new! We can have the Holy Spirit—God Himself—live inside us and guide our lives!

But it seems like the Galatians have forgotten this. It seems like they used to be walking on the right path but somehow got off course. Because this isn't what God wants for them, I feel very strongly that He wants to use me to write them a letter reminding them of the truth of their salvation. Now, where's a pen and some paper? *(Grab a piece of paper and a pen, sit down, and start to act as if you are writing a letter.)*

"Dear Galatians, I've heard that you're listening to false teachers. I want to encourage you to remember that Jesus came to set you free from the Law of sin and death. Don't go back to thinking you're bound to the Law and must do good works to show that you're a part of God's family.

"I know you want to please God, and that's good! I know you don't want to sin, and that's good too! But you can't become good on your own, by trying to fix yourself or checking off a 'To Do List' to please God. Only God, through the Holy Spirit, can give you a new heart, free from sin.

"Don't listen to the people saying you must be bound to the Law of Moses. The Law that God cares most about is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. I hear you're arguing and fighting with one another. That's not what God wants! He wants us to serve one another in love, not tear each other down. The way to get back on course to loving God and others is to let the Holy Spirit make you new." *(Pause here, as if thinking about what to write next, then speak directly to the kids.)*

The Big God Story



Partner Church Comments

"We had the drama teacher from our connected school come and play the role of Paul, which made this part of The Big God Story just come alive."
First Baptist Church

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I know the Galatians are having a hard time understanding what it means to be made new in Christ. I want to see if I can explain it better, so maybe you can help me. When you plant a tomato seed, what type of fruit does the plant produce? (Encourage the kids to respond.) **Right! A tomato. How about strawberry seeds? Orange seeds?** (Optional: Show seed packets from Anticipate.) **Right! Whatever type of seed you plant, that's the kind of fruit that grows from it. The plant doesn't have to try to grow an apple or an orange. When we surrender our lives to Jesus, He fills us with the Holy Spirit. And guess what the Spirit grows in us? Right! The Holy Spirit gives us spiritual fruit.**

When you think about a person who's filled with the Holy Spirit, what kinds of things stand out? Let's see ... love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The fruit of the Spirit includes all of these. Sin is the opposite of these things and includes anger, jealousy, bickering, lying, or disobedience. But we're no longer slaves to sin because we've been set free through faith in Jesus! I think I should add these things to the letter. (Act like you're writing all of these things into the letter, then continue.)

"My friends, I care very deeply about you and really want you to understand that in Christ you don't have to try to become a new creation. You just are! As long as you stay connected to God, the Holy Spirit will do all the work of healing your sin and making you into a new creation—something created to look and act like Him!

"Friends, I love you very much. Please do not give up the freedom you have in Christ by listening to these Jewish teachers. Instead, stand strong in the Spirit! Sincerely, Paul, servant to Jesus Christ, our Lord." (Fold the letter, place it in an envelope, and drop it in the prop mailbox). I don't know what's going to happen when the Galatians read this letter, but I know God wanted me to write it. Well, I'm going to go tell more people the good news about Jesus. Goodbye! (Paul exits.)

Storyteller: **Wow, what a great letter! God really must have given Paul the words to speak to His church. What's really cool about the letter is that we can still read it today. It's printed in our Bibles, in the book of Galatians.** (Open your Bible and show the kids where to find the letter to the Galatians.) **And Paul's letter is still true for you and me! Through Jesus, we can be made into a new person by following the guidance of the Holy Spirit and trusting that He will produce a harvest of good fruit in us if we stay connected to Him! We can trust that God will make us into new creations—able to be more and more like Him every day.** (Tell a story of a time when you realized the joy of God making you into a new creation.)



LARGE GROUP

 SECTION

Respond//

15–20 min.

Host/Worship Leader



This is a time for kids to worship through silence, prayer, singing, giving, sharing, thanksgiving, and many other ways.

Make plans for your worship time but prepare yourself and your team to hold them loosely if the Holy Spirit leads the group in a different direction.

Partner Church Comments

"The leader used a great analogy of doing things in our own strength vs. the power of the Holy Spirit: He used two screws and a piece of wood and showed the difference between screwing in the screws with a regular screwdriver and screwing them in with the help of a power drill!"

Good Shepherd Church

You Make Me New

SUPPLIES

- person outline (1 per child; see Resource Folder)
- pens, pencils, markers

SET UP

Print the person outline (one copy per child). Complete an outline to show the kids as an example. Have pens, pencils, and markers easily accessible.

ENGAGE

We just heard about Paul writing a letter to the church in Galatia, telling them they didn't have to follow the Law in order to show that they were a part of the family. Jesus' death on the cross fulfilled the Law. He freed us from the Law and gave us the Holy Spirit. That means we don't have to worry about following the Law by doing good deeds. What amazing news: Jesus has forgiven us! We're new creations in Christ!

Now we're going to take some time to think about the changes the Holy Spirit has made in our lives. (Hand out the person outlines.) **On the outside of the person, write or draw the things you think describe God. Inside the person, write or draw things God has given you because the Spirit lives inside you.** (Show the example of the one you made. Have leaders nearby to talk with kids who might not yet have a relationship with Jesus.)

When you're done, we'll take some time to pray, asking God to plant the seeds of Himself inside your hearts so you'll produce fruit that comes from Him.

IT'S OKAY IF ...

Help kids understand that God speaks to us in many ways—mostly through His Word, prayer, and others. Encourage them to ask God for the ability to hear His voice, but also give them the freedom to know that it's okay if they do not always experience Him in the ways that other people do.



SMALL GROUP

 SECTION

Respond //

15–20 min.

Small Group Leaders



A time to engage in relationship, reflect on the lesson with spiritual conversation, and/or create a meaningful project or piece of art.

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Reflect: The Holy Spirit Makes Us New

When we believe in Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives in our hearts and makes us more and more like Him. He makes us into a new person! (Leaders: Encourage the kids to open their Bibles and read the suggested passages.)

Questions for Younger Kids

- Why did God lead Paul to write a letter to the Galatians? (Galatians 1:6–9; 3:1–3)
- How can we be more like God? (Galatians 5:13–18)
- How does the Holy Spirit lead us to be more like Him? (Galatians 5:13–26)
- What is the fruit of the Spirit? (Galatians 5:22–23)

Questions for Older Kids

- Why did God lead Paul to write a letter to the Galatians? (Galatians 2:15–21; 5:7–10)
- What were Jewish teachers telling the Galatians? (Galatians 6:12–15)
- What is the good news? (John 3:16)
- How does the Holy Spirit makes us new? (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- How does the Holy Spirit lead us to be more like Him? (Galatians 5:13–26)
- What do you have to do to be saved? (Acts 16:31; Romans 10:9)
- How does God make you into a new creation? (2 Corinthians 3:18)

Engage: Fruit of the Spirit

SUPPLIES

Option 1: Fruit Tree (for Younger Kids)

- fruit template (1 per child; see Resource Folder)
- butcher paper (or brown construction paper)
- crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- scissors, tape
- optional: poster board

Option 2: New Fruit (for Younger or Older Kids)

- construction paper (various colors)
- butcher paper (or brown construction paper)
- crayons, markers or colored pencils
- scissors, tape
- optional: poster board

Option 3: Fruit on the Vine Game (for Younger or Older Kids)

- grapes template (1 per child; see Resource Folder)
- circular purple stickers
- dice



Resource Tip

“Finish the Sentence” activities are available for this lesson. Premium, Unlimited, and Combo users may access this resource on the My Lessons page > Extras > Small Group Enhancements.

Partner Church Comments

“A leader had the kids give a fruit of the Spirit and an example or act out how that fruit is evidenced (charades-like), and as it was guessed, the winner could color in a grape.”
Voyagers Bible Church

SET UP

Option 1: Fruit Tree (for Younger Kids)

Print the fruit template (one per child). Using brown paper, create the trunk and branches of a tree on a wall or on several large pieces of poster board. Set out the supplies.

Option 2: New Fruit (for Younger and Older Kids)

Using brown paper, create the trunk and branches of a tree on a wall or on several large pieces of poster board. Set out the supplies.

Option 3: Fruit on the Vine Game (for Younger and Older Kids)

Print the grapes template (one per child).

ENGAGE

When we surrender our lives to Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside us. As we grow in Christ, we begin to produce the fruit of the Spirit: “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control” (Galatians 5:22–23).

The only way we can produce the fruit of the Spirit is to stay connected to Jesus.

While Jesus was on earth, He said:

I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; ... If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. (John 15:5–8)

Option 1: Fruit Tree (for Younger Kids)

Today we’re going to have fun “growing” our own fruit tree! Hand out the fruit templates and let the kids color them in any way they’d like. Then have them cut the fruit out (or, for the littlest kids, cut the fruit out for them) and tape it to the branches of the tree (or have a leader tape the fruit if it’s a tall tree).

Option 2: New Fruit (for Younger and Older Kids)

Lots of different kinds of fruit grow all over the world. Use your creativity to create some new types of fruit! Let the kids use the supplies to draw and cut out new fruits and then tape them to the branches of the tree. They could use the fruit they invented during Connect or create something completely new.

Option 3: Fruit on the Vine Game (for Younger and Older Kids)

Let’s play a game that gets us thinking about what it means to be attached or detached from the “vine” of Jesus. When we’re attached to Jesus, we’re alive in



NOTES :



Him. When we're detached from Him, our faith dies—just like fruit dies when it is not attached to the branch or vine.

Divide the kids into groups of two to four, and hand each child a grape template. Within each group, have each player take a turn rolling the dice. After each roll, and with the help of an adult volunteer, the player should add up the total of the two dice on a piece of paper and keep a running total. When a player reaches 20 points, he should add a grape sticker to his template. For every 20 points a player achieves (40, 60, 80 etc.), he adds another grape sticker to his template. The first player to fill the fruit template wins!

For younger kids, use only one die and lower the point value needed to fill the template.



SMALL GROUP

 SECTION

Bless //

5 min.

Small Group Leaders



A blessing can be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words of encouragement or guidance.

A blessing can be offered in order to ask God's Spirit to overflow from the child's life to bless others or prayed over a child for the purpose of declaring God's protection, joy, or wisdom.

Leader Tip

The blessing can be done in many ways, but the more intentional you are about it, the more powerful it will be. Depending on whether parents are able to join in at this time, you may want them to put their hands on their child's head or kneel and look him in the eye as they bless him. Leaders, be sure to model how you envision the blessing working in your church so your volunteers and parents become comfortable with it.

As kids are blessed, tell them they have the opportunity to also be a blessing to others. Encourage them to freely share with others the joy and love they have received from God.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands in front of them, palms up. This posture is meant to symbolize a willingness of heart to respond to God's Holy Spirit and receive what God has for them. Invite them to remain in this posture as you bless them. Encourage parents to come early in order to read the blessing over their child.

Open a Bible and read Galatians 5:22–25 (NLT):

The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

May you know, through Jesus, that you have been set free. May you always be connected to Jesus, the true Vine, and bear good fruit. Praise the Lord for making you into a new creation! Amen.

home|front

HomeFront Weekly: Be sure to send home the HomeFront Weekly for next week's lesson! This preteaching tool for parents encourages families to spend time in God's Word together before children arrive at church.

HomeFront Monthly: Every four weeks we highlight one of the 10 environments. For each new environment, parents should receive HomeFront Monthly. This resource gives families ideas for how to create fun, spiritually forming times in their homes—setting aside a sacred space for family in the midst of their active, everyday lives!

