



Story: Fruit of the Spirit 1

SUPPLIES NEEDED

You will need the following:

13 Sheets of Cardstock (8.5" x 11")

13 3 mil Laminating Film

DIRECTIONS

- Print pages 2-15 two-sided. Laminate the story pages.
- Print pages 16-27 two-sided. Cut the "letters" along the gray line. Laminate all the letters and cut them apart.
- As students arrive, give them a few letters and ask them to look up the verses and fill in the blanks using a transparency (wet erase) marker.
- During class, read the story while holding up the pictures. When you come to the verses in the lesson, have the students take turns reading their "letters." At the end of class, they should put their "letters" in the correct "mailbox" (see Epistles Mailbox Bulletin Board).

Clip Art: Laura Strickland
<http://www.whimsyclips.com/>

Illustrations: Free Bible Images
www.freebibleimages.org

Graphics: @Phillip Martin
www.religion.phillipmartin.info

Graphics: @Masaru Horie
www.christiancliparts.net/



Before Holding up the Picture:

Before we start talking about the Fruits of the Spirit, can you tell me what it means to “bear fruit”?
(Answers might vary...Bearing fruit means producing actions that come from your heart)

Hold up Picture:

Listen while I read from Matthew 7:15-20:

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

Ask / Discuss:

What is one way to identify false teachers? *(By their fruits)*

Can a bad tree produce good fruits? *(No)*

What will be done to the tree that does not bear good fruit? *(It will be cut down and thrown into the fire)*

GALATIANS



Hold up the picture:

In the book of Galatians, Paul writes to the Christians in Galatia telling them to let the Spirit of God rule in their hearts and to put away any evil desires within them. First Paul warns them to avoid the works of the flesh, such as idolatry, hatred, selfishness, and envy. Paul warns them that anyone who practices these sins would not inherit the kingdom of God. Now let's look at the Fruits of the Spirit that Paul lists in Gal. 5:22-23. These are nine characteristics that Paul said we should have as Christians.

Let the students take turns reading the "letters" (NASB):

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

Discuss:

Let's look at each of these attributes more in depth...

LOVE



Hold up picture:

We talked about Love a lot in our lesson last week. What can you tell me about Love? *(Answers may vary)* Let's read a couple of verses about Love.

Let the students take turns reading the "letters" (NASB):

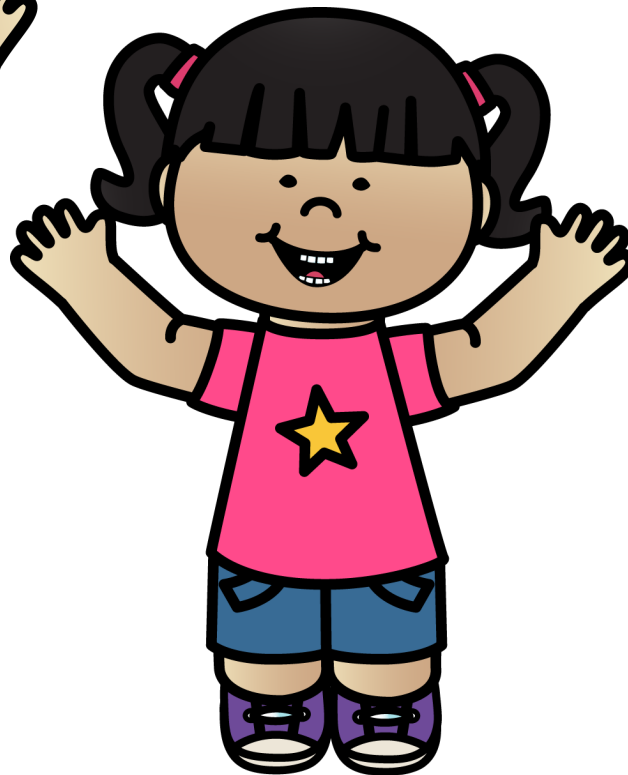
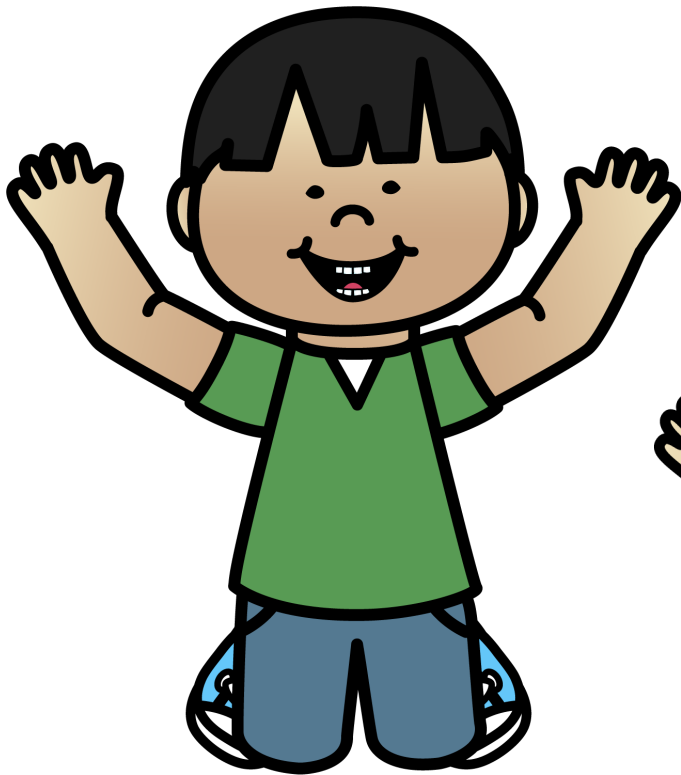
Gal. 5:13-14 - For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Rom. 12:10 - Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;

Ask / Discuss:

How does the world usually describe love? *(As an emotion)* How does the Bible describe love? *(As an action)* God wants us to show our love for others through our actions. We need to make sure we are always putting others before ourselves. Jesus showed the ultimate way example of love by doing what? *(He died for our sins)*

JOY



Hold up picture:

The next Fruit of the Spirit is Joy. How would you describe joy? *(Happiness, delight, gladness)* I'm going to read a two verses in the Old Testament before we read from Colossians and James.

Nehemiah 8:10b says, "Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

Psalms 35:9 says, "And my soul shall be joyful in the Lord; It shall rejoice in His salvation."

Are we supposed to find joy in earthly things, like our friends, our job, or a new car? *(No)* No, some things on earth might bring us happiness, but that happiness usually doesn't last. Where does true joy come from? *(From the Lord)* Let's see what the NT says.

Let the students take turns reading the "letters" (NKJV):

Col. 1:24 - I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,

James 1:2-3 - My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

Ask / Discuss:

What did Paul tell the Colossians that he rejoiced in? *(His sufferings)* Does it sound strange to be joyful even when things aren't going well for us? *(Yes)* Yes, sometimes when I feel like everything is going wrong for me, I have to quote these verses and remind myself that my true joy is found in heaven and not here on earth.

PEACE



Hold up picture:

The third Fruit of the Spirit is Peace. How would you describe peace? (*Calm, quiet, freedom from war*) Let's see what the Bible says about Peace.

Let the students take turns reading the "letters" (NKJV):

Rom. 12:18 - If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

Heb. 12:14 - Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

Phil. 4:6-7 - Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

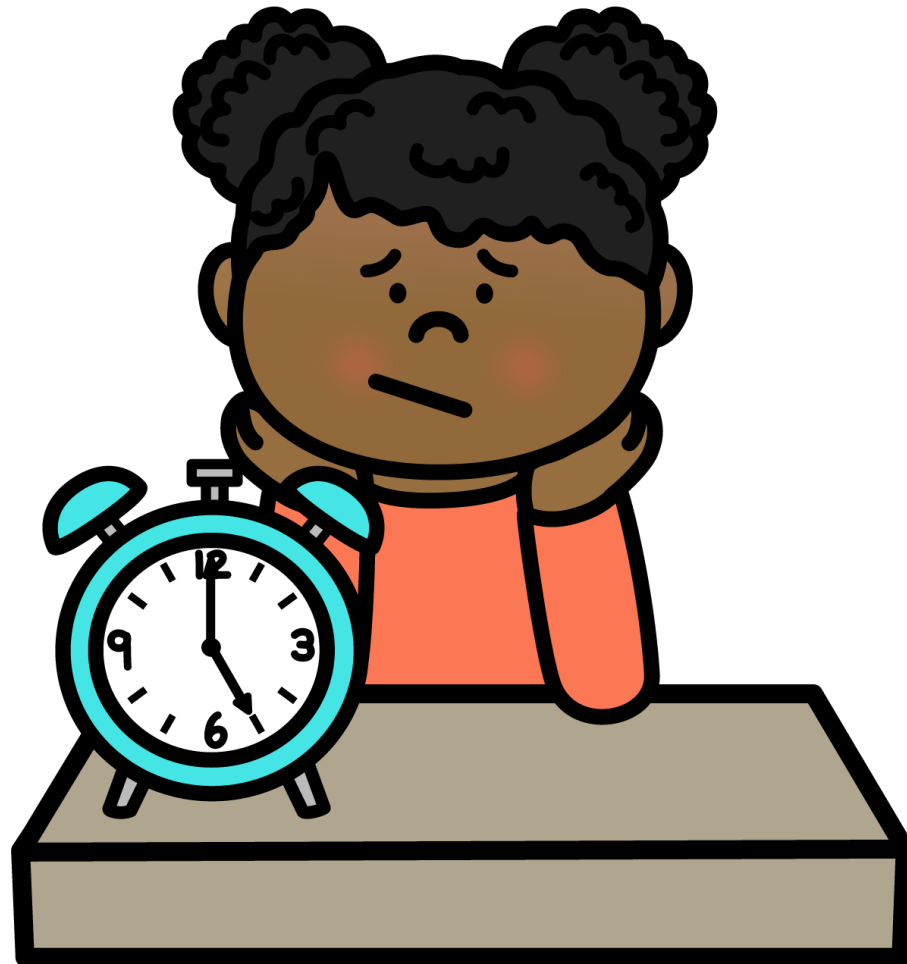
Col. 3:15 - And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Ask / Discuss:

There are two areas in which we need to have peace. The first part is living in peace with others. If we are arguing with people all the time, we will keep others from seeing who? (*The Lord*) We need to always set an example for others. We want others to see Christ in our every day actions.

The second area we need to have peace, is within ourselves. Have you ever been really worried or anxious over something? (*Yes*) Well, we need to make sure that our worries aren't weighing us down or eating us up inside. What's the best way to deal with anxiety? (*Praying*) Praying to God and giving our problems over to God can help us have inner peace.

PATIENCE



Hold up picture:

The next Fruit of the Spirit is Patience. How would you define patience? *(Waiting without complaining, longsuffering, enduring)*

Psalm 40:1 says, “I waited patiently for the Lord; And He inclined to me and heard my cry.”

Have you ever prayed for something and you felt like God didn’t answer your prayer? *(Maybe)* Does God always answer our prayers immediately? *(No)* Sometimes we might think God isn’t answering our prayers, but the answer might just be “Not yet” and we need to wait patiently for God’s timing. Let’s see what the NT says about Patience.

Let the students take turns reading the “letters” (NASB):

2 Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

2 Tim. 4:2 - preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

Ask / Discuss:

How is God patient with us? *(He gives us time to repent; He doesn’t punish us right away)* How do we need to preach or teach others? *(With great patience)* Sometimes, you might try to teach someone about Jesus and they don’t accept it right away...they might just need some time to think about it or study the Bible more themselves. We need to be patient and hope that those seeds we are planting will eventually grow.



Hold up picture:

We're going to stop there and we will finish the rest on Wednesday. Let's say the first four Fruits of the Spirit together: ***(Love, Joy, Peace, and Patience)***

How can we gain all of these qualities? ***(Studying the Bible, Praying to God)*** The more time we spend reading God's Word and surrounding ourselves with godly examples, we can grow in righteousness and produce the good Fruits of the Spirit that Paul wrote about in Galatians.

(After the lesson, have the students put "The Epistles" in the correct mailboxes.)

From: Paul



To: The Galatians

From: Paul



To: The Galatians

Gal. 5:22-23

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 5a / #1

But the _____ of the Spirit is love, joy,
peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
gentleness, self-control; against such things there
is no law.

Gal. 5:13-14

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 5a / #2

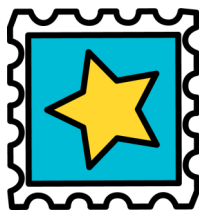
For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not
turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh,
but through _____ serve one another. For
the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the
statement, "You shall _____ your neighbor
as yourself."

From: Paul



To: The Romans

From: Paul



To: The Colossians

Rom. 12:10

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 5a / #3

Be devoted to one another in brotherly _____;
give preference to one another in honor;

Col. 1:24

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 5a / #4

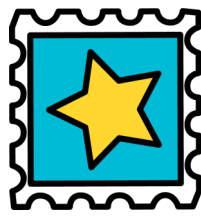
I now _____ in my sufferings for you,
and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the
afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which
is the church,

From: James



To: The Christians
in Jerusalem

From: Paul



To: The Romans

James 1:2-3

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 5a / #5

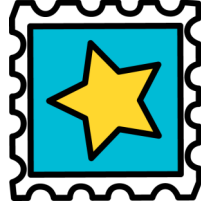
My brethren, count it all _____ when you fall
into various trials, knowing that the testing of
your faith produces patience.

Rom. 12:18

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 5a / #6

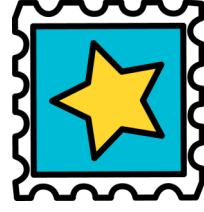
If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live
_____ with all men.

From: ?



To: The Hebrews

From: Paul



To: The Philippians

Heb. 12:14

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 5a / #7

Pursue _____ with all people, and holiness,
without which no one will see the Lord:

Phil. 4:6-7

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 5a / #8

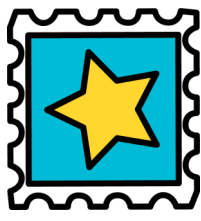
Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer
and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your
requests be made known to God; and the
_____ of God, which surpasses all
understanding, will guard your hearts and minds
through Christ Jesus.

From: Paul



To: The Colossians

From: Peter



To: The Christians
in Asia Minor

And let the _____ of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

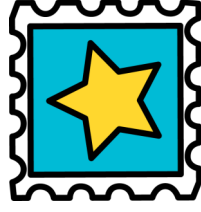
The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is _____ toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

From: Paul



To: Timothy

From:



To:

Preach the word; be ready in season and out of
season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great
_____ and instruction.