

*Get Ready!***Gifts From God**

By: Jessica Cooper

**Text**

Galatians 5:7-26

**Key Quest Verse**

“Love your neighbor as yourself.” Galatians 5:14b

**Bible Background**

A letter written by the apostle Paul to the people of Galatia, the book of Galatians reminds its readers that Christ alone is sufficient for the salvation of men. Indeed the fruit of the Spirit is a gift that is offered to those who are new creations in Christ and Paul lists them in chapter 5, verses 22-23: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” They are not listed as requirements to abide by but rather a result of living in the Spirit. What a wonderful message to the churches of Galatia and a tremendous promise to us!

*Get Ready!***Lesson Quest****What I want my students to:****Know:** God gives us gifts**Feel:** Blessed by God**Do:** Love others, even when it's difficult**Leader's Devotion**

Galatians 5:9 says, "A little yeast leavens the whole lump of dough." Although most people don't make their own bread anymore, and therefore don't see this effect, many people are getting into the hobby of scrapbooking. As anyone who makes scrapbooks will tell you, you must use acid-free paper. Although you do not immediately see why this is necessary, a few years into it will leave your perfectly planned acidic pages a yellowed mess.

We may not think the children we interact with on a daily basis notice our little slips, whether it be jealousy over a new car a neighbor has or arguments with a friend or spouse, wait a few years and you will begin to see the mess. Living by the fruit of the Spirit comes a lot easier for little ones, but we as adults really must strive to grow. After all, we want our memories to be filled with love and joy, peace and goodness, not a spoiled piece of fruit or tattered yellow album.

Get Set!



### Option A

#### GIVING GOOD GIFTS

**Materials:** A paper sack with a large, rough rock inside, a big, bright gift bag with a soft blanket in it.

**Procedure:** Welcome your students and tell them you're going to a birthday party later and are still trying to decide which gift to take. Take the rock out of the bag and ask if they think it's a good present. Ask if it's something that you could cuddle up with and really enjoy. Wait for responses. Tell the kids that the rock is kind of like "hate". It isn't very pretty or comforting. It's not something you'd want to give somebody or hang onto yourself. Next bring out the blanket and ask the same questions. **The blanket is like love. It can make you feel better, and give you a warm fuzzy feeling. It's nice to give to someone else to let him or her know you care about them and like being their friend. Let's look at our Bible story today to see what God wants us to know about love and hate.**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

### Option B

#### FRUIT FROM GOD

**Materials:** One spoiled piece of fruit, and one good piece

**Procedure:** Hold up the bad piece of fruit and ask who would like to eat it. Let kids respond. Ask them why they wouldn't want it, and how they can tell that it's not very good. Then show the good fruit. Ask who would like to eat it, why, and how they know it's good. **In our Bible story today, we are learning about fruit that God gives us. Which kind of fruit do you think He'd like us to have?** (Let kids respond). **That's a trick question, because God's not talking about apples and oranges, He's talking about different characteristics we have. Let's find out just what He means.**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

*Get Set!*



### Bible Story

**Materials:** A scroll (simply roll up a piece of construction paper) in the form of a letter listing a few ‘sinful natures’ and all of the ‘fruit’ found in Galatians 5, 6 inflated balloons with sad faces drawn on them, 9 needles or pins that are sharp enough to pop a balloon, and a balloon with a smiley face and a fairly large piece of tape on the back that should be hidden from the kids.

**A long time ago, there was a man named Paul who didn’t believe in God. For God to like him, he thought, he had to follow a bunch of rules, and he wanted the freedom to do whatever he wanted. But he didn’t know that God is the only way to get real freedom. After he learned about this, he wanted to tell everyone he possibly could. So he became a missionary. Do you know what a missionary is? (Let kids respond). Paul decided to help build churches in a place called Galatia. A few years after he left, he learned that the people he had helped weren’t doing what God wanted them to do. So he wrote a letter to the people of Galatia. (Pull out scroll and pretend to read from it). Paul tells the people that just a little bit of bad, messes up a lot of good. Have you ever done something you’re not supposed to do and gotten in trouble? (Let kids respond). So you all know what Paul means! It’s hard to do something wrong and have consequences. Paul told the people that the best thing they could do was to love each other even though it was difficult. Paul didn’t want them to hurt each other did he? What does it feel like when someone is mean to you? (Let kids respond). I think I know how we all feel. (Have one person come up front as you get a balloon and needle.) I’m going to hold this balloon for you and when I say one of the things that God doesn’t want us to do, I want you to push the needle into the balloon okay? Name a sin. “Liking something more than liking God.” (Have child pop the balloon). Yep, that’s how I feel when someone hurts my feelings, and I’m sure God feels the same way. (Repeat the process with 5 different volunteers, naming hatred, jealousy, anger, selfishness, and fighting). I know if I was God, I’d sure be pretty grumpy after hearing so many balloons pop all the time! That’s why Paul also tells us how we can make everyone, God, other people, and ourselves feel good. He calls these the fruit of the Spirit. (Pull out the happy balloon with the tape and all the needles. As you name a ‘fruit’ “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, and self-control”, push a pin into the tape. It won’t pop!) Now that’s what I like to hear! Isn’t God great?! He knows it’s hard for us to be loving to everyone, so He gives us these wonderful gifts to help us!**

*Go!***Fruit Trees****ART/CRAFTS**

**Materials:** A toaster oven, dry moss, markers/paints, string or yarn. For each child: a 10”x ¼” wooden dowel with nine 1/8” pre-drilled holes (tree trunk), nine 5”x 1/8” dowels (tree branches), a 3”x3”x 1/4” wooden base with a ¼” pre-drilled hole, and nine fruit shapes out of “shrink art” plastic with a hole pierced through the top.

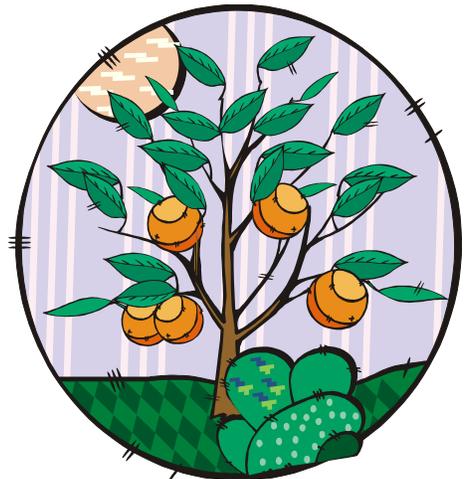
**Quest Connection**

This tree represents each of the fruits of the Spirit.

**Procedure:** Let kids color or paint their fruit shapes and write a different “fruit” (love, joy, patience, etc.) on each one. Follow the directions on the shrink art packaging as to how long to bake them. While they’re cooling, let kids assemble and decorate their trees. Then thread the string or yarn through the hole at the top of each fruit. Hang them on the trees!

**Close**

**Just like we think of Christmas every time we see a pine tree, let’s think of God’s blessings for us whenever we see our fruit tree!**



**Go!****Neighborly Cards****ARTS/CRAFTS**

**Materials:** One piece of construction paper for each child, scissors, old greeting cards, glue, stickers, markers

**Quest Connection**

**Paul tells us to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

**Procedure:** Have kids pick a piece of construction paper, and fold it in half. Then let them decorate the front of it by cutting out pictures from the old cards and gluing them to their paper. They can also use stickers or their own artwork. On the inside, have students write a message to their neighbor relating to Galatians 5:14b. Tell the kids to deliver them (with a parent).

**Close**

**Not only are we going to make our neighbors feel good, we'll also make ourselves feel good by sharing the good news about God! God will really feel happy because we're using the 'fruits' He's given us, like love, kindness and goodness!**

**Go!****Fruit Kabobs****FOOD**

**Materials:** For each child you will need napkins, a pen or pencil, recipe card, chopstick, and 9 different pieces of fruit

**Quest Connection**

**God gives us fruit and the fruit of the Spirit.**

**Procedure:** Give each student a writing utensil, recipe card and chopstick. Hold up a piece of fruit and have kids write or draw it on their card. Then next to that, have them write love, or draw a heart. Give children a piece of that fruit to put on their chopstick. Continue doing this with all the fruits. When you've gone through all the fruits, kids will have an easy way to remember all the gifts from God. Enjoy the fruit when finished! (Note: See teacher Resource Page for hints on which fruits are easily remembered with each characteristic.)

**Close**

**Lord help us to grow in Your Spirit as these fruits have grown in the ground. Thank You for all You give us. Amen.**

**Go!****Fruit Tag****GAME**

**Materials:** A big open space to run around in

**Quest Connection**

This will help us review and be able to quickly name the fruit of the Spirit. The better we know our fruit, the better we can use the qualities in our every day lives.

**Procedure:** Choose one player to be ‘it’. All the other people run around, trying to avoid getting tagged by ‘it’. If the player who is ‘it’ gets close to another person, that person can squat on the ground and say one fruit of the Spirit. If he can’t think of one before ‘it’ says one, that person becomes ‘it’.

**Close**

Just like we had to outrun the person who was ‘it’, we also have to outrun sin in our lives.



**Go!****Missionaries****GUEST QUEST**

**Materials:** A missionary who is willing to tell your class about what he or she does

**Procedure:** Tell kids that someone very special is here to talk to them about doing what God wants us to do. Introduce your missionary. Let him talk for a given amount of time, allowing time to take questions from the kids.

**Quest Connection**

**Paul was a missionary; without him, we wouldn't know the fruit of the Spirit. Isn't it great that today we still have people like our guest who tell others about God's love and the fruit of the Spirit.**

**Close**

**Even if we don't go to far away places, we can still be missionaries right here. By using the gifts of the fruit of the Spirit, we reflect God's love every day!**

**Go!****Growing in the Spirit****ART/CRAFTS**

**Materials:** For each student you will need a 3 inch paper circle, a 12”x 2 ½” strip of paper, 4 3”x 3/4” oval papers, and four brads. You will also need construction paper, markers, glue, and stickers.

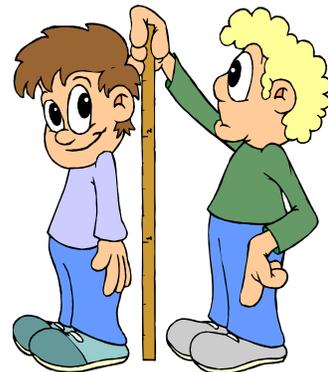
**Procedure:** Give children the circle shape and have them draw their face on it. Then glue these to the 12” strip. Have them make arms and legs out of the oval shapes. Attach these with brads to the strip. On the strip, have them draw their body. Fold the strip accordion style, so it looks like a fan. Glue the bottom fold to a piece of construction paper. When done correctly, the paper boy or girl should have moving arms and legs, and ‘grow’ when stretched upward. Have kids write on the paper “I’m growing in the fruit of the Spirit.” If time allows, let kids add fruit trees that can grow with them, or just add fruit stickers and drawings.

**Quest Connection**

We all grow spiritually and physically and God is concerned for us as we grow. Sometimes it can be easy to overlook staying healthy as we spiritually develop but it is just as critical as keeping our bodies healthy.

**Close**

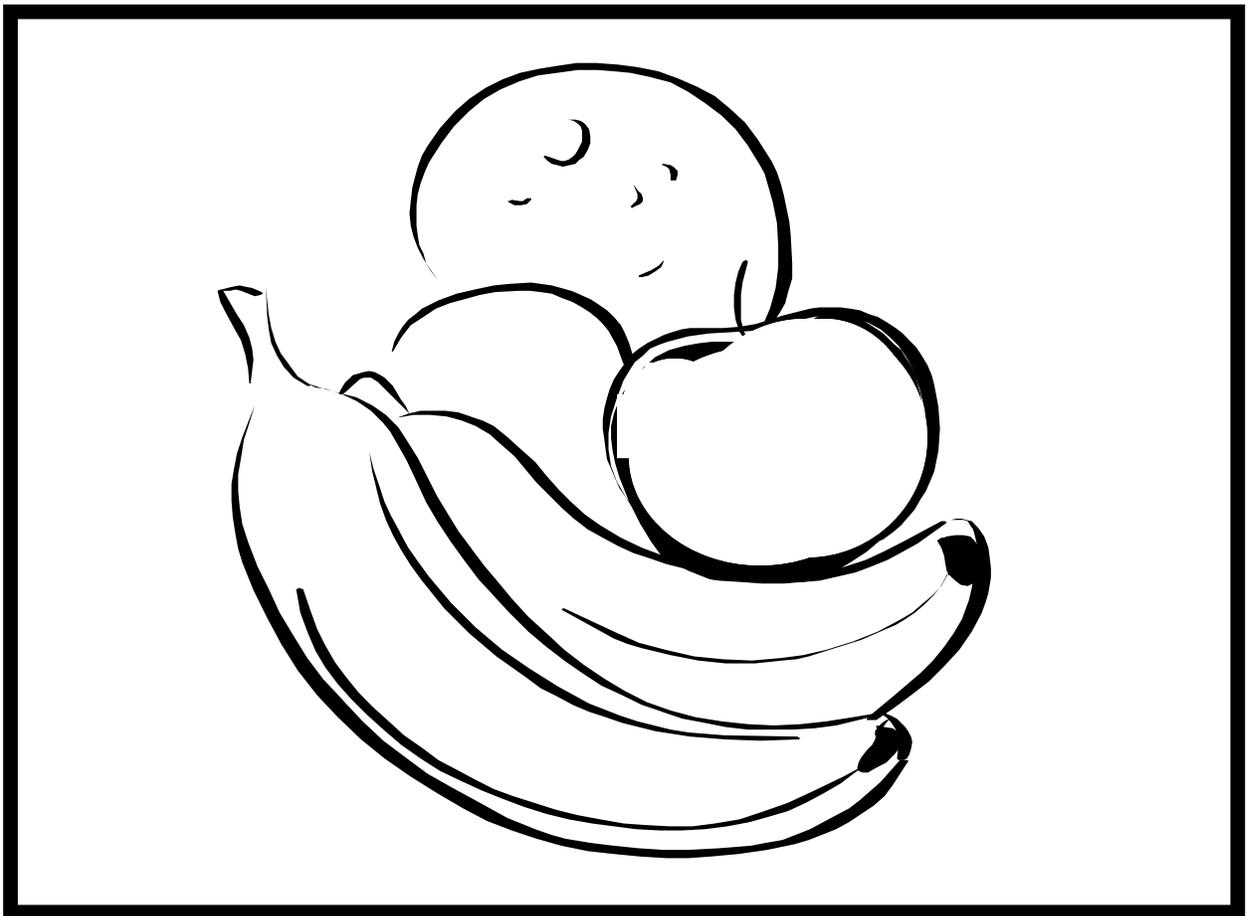
Lord, help us to continue to grow big and strong, both in our bodies and in our hearts.  
Thank You. Amen.



Color this picture. Then cut it apart in wavy shapes. Now you have a puzzle.

The fruit of the Spirit is love,  
joy, peace, patience, kindness,  
goodness, faithfulness,  
gentleness and self-control.

Galatians 5:22



# Fruit of the Spirit

Find the words listed under the crazy word search hidden in the puzzle.  
Then write the 'leftover' letters on the spaces at the bottom to see a secret message!

S S E N D N I K L O J S  
E C N E I T A P V O S N  
C H U R C H E Y Y E O A  
U S S E N E L T N E G I  
E C A E P R N D E I T  
G E V O L H O B O R A  
M I S S I O N A R Y A L  
S Y O U R G S E L F A  
S E L F C O N T R O L G  
S S E N L U F H T I A F

Church	Galatians	Gentleness
Kindness	Joy	Missionary
Goodness	Peace	Faithfulness
Patience	Love	Self-Control

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If you could be any kind of fruit, what would you be?  
Draw a picture or write a story telling why you chose that fruit.  
Think about the fruit God has put into our hearts!



Fruit of the Spirit	Edible Fruit
Love	Strawberry (The fruit of love)
Joy	Orange (Juicy-Joy)
Peace	Watermelon (A piece of...)
Patience	Pear (Alliteration)
Kindness	Grapes (Easy to share)
Goodness	Banana (Healthy and good for our body)
Faith	Cherry (Hope it's seedless)
Gentleness	Peach (Soft)
Self-control	Apple (Eve in the Garden of Eden)