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A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 1, LESSON 27

Bible Lesson: The Godhead (Trinity)

Have you ever come across a problem or situation that you just couldn't seem to figure out? God is like that. Since God is so great and wonderful, we should not be surprised that He is hard for our minds to understand Him.

We use the word to describe the three Persons of God: Father, Son & Holy Spirit. (*The word "Trinity" is not found in the Bible.*) Now, let's learn how the Holy Spirit is one Person of the Trinity.

(*Teacher note: You may use either the egg or water demonstrations to explain the separate working of each Person. See the supplement for lesson #27.*)

In the Bible we discover a lot about the Holy Spirit. He is our Helper, our Teacher, our Guide. He is a Person. He is God.

The Bible uses some interesting symbols for the Holy Spirit to show us some of His characteristics:

- **Wind** — He is like the wind, power-

ful and quick (John. 3:8; Acts 2:2).

- **Fire** — He is like fire because He purifies us (Acts 2:3 & 4).
- **Water** — He is like water because He satisfies our spiritual thirst for God (John 7:38,39).
- **Dove** — He is like a dove because He is gentle and will not hurt anyone (Luke 3:22).
- **Oil** — He is like oil because He gives healing and illumination/understanding (Acts 10:36).

We have learned that the Holy Spirit is God and that He wants to be a part of our everyday living by helping us to live for God.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

There is no scripture that uses the words "Trinity" or "Godhead" but scriptures that relate the relationship of the Holy Spirit to the Trinity.

Story: "Chickens and a Wedding Ring"

Note: This story series gives children an idea how a twelve-year-old boy and his family can be guided by the Holy Spirit.

Object needed: Before you read this story, have an envelope prepared as a prop. It will

contain a wedding ring. (*It can be a fake one.*) Explain that this first story in our series is an entry in a journal of a boy named Tommy who lives on a farm in Oregon. (*You will find a full script on the supplement page.*)

QUIZ QUESTIONS

Q: Name the three Persons of the Godhead.

A: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Q: How does an egg (or water) demonstrate the Trinity?

A: As an egg has shell, yoke and white, but is still one egg, so is the trinity three and yet one.

Q: Does any Bible verse mention all three Persons of the Godhead?

A: Yes, Matthew 28:19 says, "Baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

MEMORY VERSE:

"...baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19



God is three Persons in one; God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit.



Chickens and a Wedding Ring (Tommy's Journal Entry for June 6)

I lost my favorite music CD once and so I know how my mom felt today when she lost her wedding ring (*hold up a ring*). After searching and searching for it, she began to panic.

At our family prayer time this evening she told us all how it happened. Mom was washing up dishes from breakfast this morning. My brother Aaron, my sister Amy and I were finishing our morning chores. Mom took off her wedding ring and sat it on the counter while she checked the garbage disposal. Just then she heard a loud scream from Amy coming from the chicken coop.

Since one of Amy's morning chores is to feed the chickens and gather the eggs, Mom thought Amy was having trouble again with our mean rooster, Max. So Mom quickly jerked off her apron and ran out the back door to rescue Amy. At the chicken coop she saw Max safely locked up in the adjoining chicken pen that we only use when we have baby chicks.

As she ran toward the chicken coop, Mom remembered when Amy learned to lock Max up before gathering the eggs. When she was five, Max flew up at little Amy, clawed at her arms and frightened her so much she broke down into tears. That evening at family prayer time, Dad read the verse from 2 Timothy 1:7, "God didn't give us a cowardly spirit but a spirit of power, love, and good judgment." The whole family prayed that the Holy Spirit would help Amy overcome her fear of Max. The next day I showed Amy how to throw a small amount of chicken feed into the adjoining chicken pen. When Max went in to eat the feed, I helped Amy reach through the fence and close the little gate to trap Max. "I used to be scared of him too." I admitted

"So, why did Amy scream?" Mom wondered. Then she saw why. There was Amy, egg on her shirt and hands trying to scoop broken eggs into her little basket. "Don't worry," Mom reassured her, "Accidents happen to all of us." They both went back into the house to help Amy wash up and change her shirt. That's when Mom suddenly realized her wedding ring was missing.

Just when she was beginning to feel panic come into her heart, Mom stopped and asked Amy to pray with her that the Holy Spirit would help them find her ring. Mom turned to Amy and said, "I am remembering that story Jesus told about the woman who lost a coin and then swept her whole house until she found it." "Well, Mom, let's sweep the whole kitchen." Amy replied. They made a game of it as they swept every inch of the kitchen. Suddenly, as Amy swept under the front of the refrigerator, out popped the wedding ring. They both danced around the kitchen for joy. The ring got lost when Mom heard Amy scream. She jerked off her apron and threw it onto the counter. That knocked the ring off onto the floor where it rolled under the refrigerator.

At our family prayer time Mom and Amy told the story of the chickens and the wedding ring and how they prayed for the Holy Spirit to help them. I had a prayer request for the family: I want to go to Middle School Camp in August and it costs two hundred ten dollars this year.

Dad said, "Isn't Aaron also planning to go to Kid's Camp in July?" "Yes, we promised him he could go when he was in fourth grade," Mom replied. I was almost sorry I had brought up summer camp because Dad seemed worried.

Then Dad said he also had a prayer request, "Unusually heavy spring rain made snow in the foothills thaw too quickly and caused a small flood that washed out a bridge over the river near our place." He explained that now our family will have to drive more miles out-of-the-way for all our summer activities and shopping. He thinks that this will cost more for gasoline at a time when his work is slow. Dad led in prayer that the Holy Spirit will help our family and meet our needs. I liked his prayer, "Lord, you have taught us not to worry about anything, but instead to tell you about everything. We depend on You, Lord, and we have faith that You will meet all of our needs according to Your riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

(Written by: Sammy Jamison)



Demonstrations: Teaching the Trinity to Kids

Teacher: here are two ideas for teaching the Trinity to Kids. You will have the best results if you only try to use one of them:

EGG

An egg is one object with three parts: shell, white substance and the yolk. It is not a complete egg without all three parts. One part is just as important as the other if it is to make up a whole egg, yet it can be separated into three parts. All three parts can be used in a different way — the yolk and white are used for cooking, the shell holds it together and protects it.

WATER

We can see water as a liquid, steam, or ice.

- A glass of water can quench my thirst.
- *Boiling water* releases steam (have a steam iron or thermos of hot water).

- Ice can be used to keep food from spoiling.

Scientists call water H₂O. It appears in different forms, but whether it is liquid, steam or ice, it is still H₂O. We may refer to the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit, but we are still speaking of God.

Take the Lesson Home (*Ideas for Families*)

Parents, here are some guidelines to help your children understand more about the Holy Spirit:

1. Teach them the Holy Spirit is a person, not a thing. (Psalm 139:7-12)
2. Teach them that the Holy Spirit worked with Jesus. (Acts 10:38; Matthew 3:16-17; 12:28)
3. Teach them that Jesus wants every believer to receive the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:8; 2:4, John 7:38)
4. Teach them how to respond to the Holy Spirit's initial indwelling presence. (Acts 2:4; 1 Corinthians 14:14-15; Romans 8:26-27)
5. Pray in the Spirit with your children on a regular basis. (1 Corinthians 14:4; 2 Timothy 3:14-15)

The Holy Spirit wants to do more for us and our children than what we've allowed Him to do. And if we'll diligently seek Him, we'll find rich rewards and avoid years of heartache.

When the Holy Spirit was poured out on believers on the Day of Pentecost, Peter immediately pro-

claimed that children could receive the Holy Spirit. Many Christian adults today have the opinion that boys and girls are too young to receive the deeper things of God. Yet, throughout the Bible, the Lord manifested Himself to children and shared important truths with them. (1 Samuel 3:1-15; Matthew 21:14-16; Isaiah 8:18)

Today, more than ever before, our children need to be filled with the Holy Spirit. The temptations and pressures of growing up have become stronger than at any other time in history. Because of television, radio, music, and the Internet, young people are in constant contact with the world. This generation of children is exposed to the world's evils at an earlier age than in any other time.

Jesus taught His disciples that the Holy Spirit would comfort and guide believers into truth (John 16:13). The Holy Spirit is eager to help children find the answers to today's challenging questions.



A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 1, LESSON 28

Bible Lesson: The Holy Spirit in Me

After Adam and Eve sinned, God the Father showed His love by sending His Son Jesus to be our Savior. God the Son willingly gave His life and died on the cross for our sins. When Jesus went back to heaven (the ascension), He sent the person of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was sent to serve us, to work in us, and to work through us.

A. Before salvation: The Holy Spirit shows us our sin and helps us want to respond to God.

B. Salvation: When we make Jesus Lord of our lives the Holy Spirit comes to live in us. Jesus called this being born again.

C. After Salvation: We need the Holy Spirit to help us live the Christian life. We cannot do it by ourselves. The Holy Spirit comes and lives in us and helps us make right decisions and gives us the ability to live a life that pleases God.

Story: “Blue Ribbon”

Review: Show the envelope from last week with the wedding ring and then, re-tell highlights of last week’s story.

Object: Have a blue ribbon to show.

Question: Can you name one thing the Holy Spirit does for us?

Question: Can you name one way the Holy Spirit uses us to help others?

Here are some of the things the Holy Spirit does:

- Gives power (Acts 1:8)
- Helps us pray (Romans 8:26)
- Glorifies Jesus (Acts 16:14)
- Tells us we are God’s children (Romans 8:16)
- Tells of God’s greatness (Acts 2:11)
- Teaches us all things (John 14:26; 16:13)
- Convicts us of our sins (John 16:8)
- Comforts (John 14:16)

Prayer: Lord, help me to listen to the Holy Spirit in my life. Help me to use the power He brings into my life.

Read the story: Say, today we are reading another page from Tommy’s journal. *(a full script is included as a supplement to this lesson.)*

QUIZ QUESTIONS

Q: Before salvation how does the Holy Spirit help us?

A: He shows us our sin and helps us want to change.

Q: At salvation how does the Holy Spirit help us?

A: He comes to live in us.

Q: Name three things the Holy Spirit does for us.

A: Serves us, works in us, works through us.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

The Son reveals the Father God and the Holy Spirit reveals the Son.

MEMORY VERSE:

“When He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth.” John 16:13



The Holy Spirit works in us and through us.



Blue Ribblon

(Tommy's Journal Entry for July 3)

I turned twelve today, I had a great party and got some nice gifts, but tonight my mind is not on parties or presents. I am praying that the Holy Spirit will help me earn the money I need for summer camp in August. I only have ten dollars saved. I will be earning fifty dollars this week at the fair by collecting money from cars as they park in a friend's pasture near the fairgrounds. That gives me my registration fee, but leaves \$150 (for me it may as well be a thousand.)

Have you ever earned a blue ribbon? (*Show the blue ribbon.*) I never have. Amy told me this morning that she was going to win a blue ribbon for me for my birthday. She and her horse, Sundance, competed in the barrel race competition at the county fair today. Amy is seven and which puts her in the "Little Wrangler" class for the under eight-year-olds. She has been riding Sundance every day and practicing running the barrels every Saturday at our neighbor's horse farm to prepare for the competition. I prayed for her to win and she did. She came in first place.

I am concerned about my brother Aaron. I think he is feeling left out. He always acts a little depressed when it's my birthday or Amy's and that's probably because we are getting a lot of attention (and gifts). Also, he hasn't been able to go to the fair yet because Mom said he had to finish one more test in math or technically he's not a fourth grader and she won't let him go to Kid's Camp in two weeks. (Sometimes there are disadvantages to being home schooled.) But Aaron finished his test today and so now he gets to go with us to the last day of the fair tomorrow.

I remember when Aaron and I were baptized in water at a spot in the river that runs through our farm. Aaron was seven and I was ten. Mom invited some of our friends and our grandparents. We all had a big picnic. Pastor Lovelace and Dad baptized us both. Then, that summer at Kid's Camp I experienced a different kind of baptism. It was what the Bible calls being baptized in the Holy Spirit. And I also received my prayer language. One thing that Aaron told me last week was that he is praying to be baptized in the Holy Spirit when he goes to Kid's Camp in two weeks.

At our family prayer time my Dad said he got some good news. When the construction company that is rebuilding the bridge over the Molalla River asked folks to recommend a good mechanic around here who could fix one of their diesel engines, people said, "Scott Jensen at Riverview Farm. He repairs all of our tractors when they break down." I am always amazed at how God answers our prayers. The bridge going out during the flood made more expenses for our family, but because of the bridge being repaired, my Dad will earn more than enough money to make up for it. Thank-you God.

(Written by: Sammy Jamison)



Visuals: Symbols of the Holy Spirit

Symbols: wind, fire, water, dove, and oil. Prepare the above symbols as visual aids to use while teaching about the Holy Spirit. You may create pictures on poster board or make overhead transparencies. You could even have a child draw each one on the dry erase board.

Word Strips:

- **“Who the Holy Spirit is.”** — While holding up this word strip, teach that the Holy Spirit is: Person, Guide, Gift, Comforter, Teacher, Revealer, and Helper.
- **“Who the Holy Spirit is not.”** — While holding this word strip, teach that the Holy Spirit is not: Tempter, It, Ghost (*as children define the word*), Myth or Mystery.

Teach the kids that the Holy Spirit is Someone Who will never scare you or embarrass you. He will never cause you to act in any way that would cause others to laugh at you or make others fearful of Him. He does not “control” you.

Note: the emphasis in this lesson is to teach that the Holy Spirit is a PERSON Who is capable of feeling, thinking and acting. He is capable of directing us. He is sensitive to our response. A PERSON has to live somewhere. The Holy Spirit’s home is within every believer. (Read 1 Corinthians 6:19.)

Take the Lesson Home (*Ideas for Families*)

Parents, we are learning about God the Holy Spirit in 4X4. You may want to use this topic in your family devotion time this week. The following information makes a nice supplement to the lesson taught in class:

What the Holy Spirit Does:

Teach you	John 14:26; Luke 12:12
Convict you	John 16:8
Pray through you and for you	Romans 8:26, 27
Comfort you	John 16:13
Remind you	John 14:26
Reveal the Bible	Ephesians 1:17
Help you live the Christian life	1 John 4:4

We learned that the Holy Spirit is a Person.

As a Person, the Holy Spirit...

- Has a will of His own — 1 Corinthians 12:11
- Knows all things — 1 Corinthians 2:10
- Works miracles — Acts 6:8

What We Can Do to the Holy Spirit:

- We can grieve or offend Him — Acts 7:51; Ephesians 4:30
- We can talk against Him
- We can lie to Him — Acts 5:3
- We can sin against Him — Matthew 12:22-32



A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 1, LESSON 29

Bible Lesson: Baptism of the Spirit (*What is it?*)

Peter before the day of Pentecost:

Peter was a man with many faults to go with his faith in Jesus. We see him walk on water with Jesus, but we also hear Jesus say to him, "Get behind me Satan" when Peter speak out of the wrong attitude. Before Pentecost Peter is the one who denies his friend on the day of Jesus' crucifixion.

Peter after Pentecost: What an amazing change comes over Peter after he is baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2). He preaches a sermon and 3,000 people become Christians. Then Peter steps into leadership of the church and every day people join the Christian community. When a crippled man asked for money, Peter healed him instead, and when a crowd gathers, Peter preaches again. Peter now spoke and acted with authority.

Jesus said to expect this: Jesus had told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for this "baptism of the Holy

Spirit." (Acts 1:4 & 5) We read in Acts chapter 2 about how all the disciples were assembled when a sound like a violent wind came, "tongues of fire" appeared, resting on each disciple, and they began to speak in other languages. Some people who heard them accused them of being drunk.

What happened to Peter can happen to us because:

1. ...It is the **PROMISE** of God the Father (Luke 24:49).
2. ...It is the **FREE GIFT** of God the Father and the Son (John 14:16; 15:26; Acts 1:4; 2:38; 5:32).
3. ...It is the **COMMAND** of the Lord Jesus (Acts 1:4; 5:32; Eph. 5:18).

How the baptism with the Holy Spirit changes us: Read Acts 1:8. This is Jesus saying we will be given His ability to do His work.

Teacher note: see supplement to this lesson for "How to be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Story: "The Danger of Apples and Barn Roofs"

Give a brief synopsis of the two previous stories before you begin. You might show the objects: the ring and the blue ribbon. For this lesson, have a nice big red apple to hold up at the right spot in the story. (*A full script of this story is included as a supplement to this lesson*)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

Pentecost is an annual celebration on the Jewish calendar. It falls 50 days (a week of weeks) past Passover and is sometimes called the Feast of Weeks.

QUIZ QUESTIONS

Q: How did Peter change after Pentecost?

A: He had more power and authority.

Q: Who gives the gift of the Holy Spirit?

A: God the Father (Acts 1:4)

Q: On the day of Pentecost, what sound did they hear?

A: A violent wind

Q: At Pentecost, what appeared on their heads?

A: tongues of fire

MEMORY VERSE:

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8



The baptism with the Holy Spirit is a gift from God the Father.



The Dangers of Apples and Barn Roofs (Tommy's Journal Entry for July 3)

Object: Have a **Red Apple** to hold up.

When I started this day I prayed that God would guide my steps by His Holy Spirit. Boy, did He ever answer my prayers and help me to be in just the right place at the right time! Something told me to go out to the barn and I prayed and asked the Lord if it was Him telling me to go. I felt His voice saying, "Yes, go now!"

God knew that my sister, Amy, had seen the apples on the tree next to our barn while she was riding her horse. The apples were getting red and ripe. She rode right up next to the tree to get one to feed Sundance, but they were just out-of-reach. Then she told Sundance to stand still and she stood up on the saddle.

Well, she got one apple and fed it to Sundance, but then, for some reason, she decided to try for another. This time she climbed first up onto the saddle and then stepped off onto the low roof of a shed attached to the barn. That roof has wooden shingles and so she didn't slip. However, when she walked on over onto the main barn roof to try to reach a nice big red apple, her shoes slipped on the metal roofing and she fell and slid down to the rain gutter.

When I got there, Amy's little toes were in the rain gutter and that was all that was keeping her from plunging to the ground. She was screaming for help and

crying. Quickly I got the ladder that hangs on the side of the barn and leaned it against the loose rain gutter right next to where Amy was barely hanging on. I climbed up and helped her onto the ladder with me and got her down safely.

At our family prayer time tonight our family had a lot to be thankful for. Besides Amy's barn rescue, Aaron got home from Kid's Camp and he had some great news. God answered his prayers (and mine). He was baptized in the Holy Spirit and received his prayer language the very first chapel service at camp. I don't think I have ever seen him so happy.

Dad was also very happy tonight. While he was fixing the diesel engine for the bridge repair crew, they found out that he also did welding and so they asked him to weld some of the supports for the new bridge. Now he has plenty of work for the rest of the summer.

(Written by: Sammy Jamison)



How do we receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit?

Guidelines to use with children who seek the baptism with the Holy Spirit:

1. The child should be taught what the Bible says.
2. The child should know the purpose and value of this gift from God.
3. The child should desire the baptism with the Holy Spirit.
4. Assure the child that Jesus is the Baptizer and so the experience will be a positive one.
5. Explain to the child that when God gives the gift of praying in an unknown tongue, it is an ongoing, lifetime gift.

How do we receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit?

Everything we receive from God is done so by faith (Hebrews 11:6).

1. We receive by faith:
 - Faith in the promise of God (Lk. 11:11-13; Mk. 11:24).
 - Faith that the promise is for you (Acts 2:38, 39; Lk. 11:10).
 - Faith with an attitude of praise and thanksgiving.
2. We receive by yielding to Christ, Who baptizes us.

Caution: Speaking in tongues is a gift from Jesus (Luke 11:9-13) and should never be forced or manipulated. The Holy Spirit seeks to shine through us, not control us. He will utilize our tongue, lips, and voice which are yielded to Him.

Take the Lesson Home (*Ideas for Families*)

Lesson topic: Baptism with The Holy Spirit.

Bible passage: Today's lesson is from Acts chapter 2 and how Peter was changed after he was baptized with the Holy Spirit.

The kids learned: That what happened to Peter can happen to anyone who believes in Jesus Christ.

Jesus said that God wants to give the Holy Spirit to us as a gift (Acts 1:4). This gift is for all, in all ages, who believe on Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord (Acts 2:38, 39; 10:34, 35, 44-48; 11:15-18).

We also shared with the kids what happened on the day of Pentecost when the disciples first received God the Father's gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts chapter 2).

Review these Scriptures with your family:

- There was the sound of a violent wind. (Acts 2:2)
- Tongues of fire rested on their heads (Acts 2:3).
- They spoke in other languages (Acts. 2:4; 10:44-46; 19:6).
- They praised God (Acts 2:11; 2:47; 10:46).
- They had overflowing joy (Acts 2:46).
- They had a deep burden and desire to testify about Jesus (Acts 1:8; 2:14-18; 3:31; 19:6).

By studying the rest of the book of Acts we learn that there is one baptism with the Holy Spirit, but many fillings. Ephesians 5:18 translated literally, *means "Be being filled with the Spirit."* This is to be our new way of life, a continuous experience.



A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 1, LESSON 30

Bible Lesson: Fruit of the Spirit

For the last couple of weeks we have been talking about the Holy Spirit. Today we are going to learn about the Fruit of the Spirit. Now, before we begin, I have a couple of questions for you. (Show an apple and an orange.) Does an apple grow on an orange tree? No. Does an orange grow on an apple tree? No. In fact, people know what kind a tree is by the fruit that it grows. So, if you saw cherries growing on a tree, what kind of tree would you think it was? Right! A cherry tree.

Well, guess what? We are like trees. When people see us, they know whether we are Christians or not by the fruit we grow. Jesus says in Matthew 7:16-20, "...by their fruit you will recognize them...Every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit...Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them." If you knew a kid who complained all the time, was always rude and impatient, and did whatever he wanted to do without respect for his parents or teachers, would you think he was a Christian? Probably not. But if you knew a kid who was always

joyful, kind, patient, and loving towards others, would you think he was a Christian? Probably yes.

I bet you kids are wondering what all this fruit talk means? Right? Well, it doesn't mean that we have to start sprouting leaves and growing grapes out our ears! I'm not talking about the fruit you eat, but I am speaking about Spiritual Fruit. The Bible mentions nine kinds of spiritual fruit in Galatians 5:22. It says, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." Let's say it together (repeat verse). These are the good fruit that we are supposed to grow so that people know we are Christians. If someone sees a Christian being rude and mean, then that person may not want to be a Christian. But if someone sees a Christian being kind and loving, then they just might want to become a Christian too! Christ is every single one of these fruit, and so, for people to know Christ, they need to see Christ in us. We need to show the

Game: Name that Fruit

In preparation for this game, make flashcards with descriptions of various fruits. Example: "This fruit is yellow, long, and skinny." You will need to choose four contestants to play this game. Have them come on the stage and sit in a row of chairs.

The object of the game is to get the most points by correctly guessing the fruit described. After you read the description, call on the first contestant who raises his/her hand to "name that fruit." Correct answers get a point. The one with the most points wins.

QUIZ QUESTIONS

Q: Why are we supposed to produce good fruit?

A: So that people know we are Christians.

Q: Where does the bible list all of the Fruit of the Spirit?

A: Galatians 5:22

Q: How many fruits of the Spirit are listed?

A: nine

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

We bring glory to God when we produce good fruit. (John 15:22)

MEMORY VERSE:

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



The Holy Spirit produces fruit in us.



Kittens at VBS

(Tommy's Journal Entry for August 12)

Object: Have a **toy cat** to hold up.

This has been one of the longest days of my life. We were all awakened by the loud meowing of a hungry cat. (In fact, several hungry cats.) Turns out somebody dropped off a mama cat and five kittens on our farm. Mom says people do that to farmers all the time.

Amy was the first one to find them and was feeding them milk by the time I got dressed. She was making over them, saying how cute they were and telling Mom she wanted to adopt them all. We have never had a cat. You'd expect us to at least have a barn cat to catch mice, but Aaron and I are allergic to cats and so our family has never had them around.

Dad is always the sensible one in our family about these things. He's the one who suggested we take the cats in a box with us to Vacation Bible School, which starts today, and see if we could find people to adopt them. That was a brilliant idea because we found good homes for all of them.

I said it was a long day. Time always goes slowly when you are waiting for something. I leave for summer camp in the morning. On one hand I am excited, but this is my first year to go to Middle School Camp and so I am also a little scared.

Thank-you God for helping me earn all my money. By working at the fair parking cars I not only earned my registration money, but I got asked me to come for blackberry harvest in late July.

I went and used my secret method to pick more blackberries than anyone else. I took an old refrigerator box and tore it in half. I'd put one half down on top of the blackberry vines and then climb way out where the best and biggest berries were. Then I'd take my second large piece of cardboard, shove it out in front of me and climb out even further. In two weeks I made all the rest of the \$150 I needed for camp. (And made myself sick eating blackberries.)

At our family prayer time we all gave thanks to God for helping us adopt out all those cats. Then, Mom reminded us to also give thanks that three of our friends who we invited to go with us to VBS accepted Christ as Savior today.

To top off all the praises, Dad said that Pastor Lovelace asked him to join our church's board of elders. Life sure goes better when a person lets the Holy Spirit lead them each day.

(Written by: Sammy Jamison)



Name that Fruit Game (Quiz Cards)

For this game you will need to make quiz cards. The following are examples you may use. (Feel free to invent your own if you want.)

Clue: This fruit is red and round.
Answer: Apple

Clue: This fruit is yellow, long, and skinny.
Answer: Banana

Clue: This fruit is brown and prickly with a straw hat.
Answer: Pineapple

Clue: This fruit is big and round. One of its types is named "Ruby Red."
Answer: Grapefruit

Clue: This fruit is shaped kind of like a heart and has a lot of seeds on the outside.
Answer: Strawberry

Clue: This fruit is shaped like a football and is really sour.
Answer: Lemon

Clue: This fruit is sweet, orange and hairy.
Answer: Peach

Clue: This fruit is little and round and is never alone.
Answer: Grape

Clue: This fruit is round and has the color of a basketball.
Answer: Orange

Clue: This fruit is hairy on the outside and green on the inside.
Answer: Kiwi

Clue: This fruit is red and round and grows on a vine.
Answer: Tomato

A Story to Read at Home: "Nine Gold Medals"

The athletes had come from all over the country
To run for the gold, for the silver and bronze
Many weeks and months of training
All coming down to these games

The spectators gathered around the old field
To cheer on all the young women and men
The final event of the day was approaching
Excitement grew high to begin

The blocks were all lined up for those who would use them
The hundred-yard dash was the race to be run
There were nine resolved athletes in back of the starting line
Poised for the sound of the gun

The signal was given, the pistol exploded
And so did the runners all charging ahead
But the smallest among them, he stumbled and staggered
And fell to the asphalt instead

He gave out a cry of frustration and anguish

His dreams and his efforts all dashed in the dirt
But as sure as I'm standing here telling this story
The same goes for what next occurred

The eight other runners pulled up on their heels
The ones who had trained for so long to compete
One by one they all turned around and went back to help him
And brought the young boy to his feet.

Then all the nine runners joined hands and continued
The hundred-yard dash now reduced to a walk
And a banner above that said "Special Olympics"
Could not have been more on the mark

That's how the race ended, with nine gold medals
They came to the finish line holding hands still
And a standing ovation and nine beaming faces
Said more than these words ever will

David Roth
(found in "Chicken Soup for the Kid's Soul")

Now read with your kids the Bible verse: Galatians 5:22.



A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 1, LESSON 31

Bible Lesson: Love, Joy, Peace

Review: Last week we talked about the fruit of the Spirit and this week we are going to learn about the first three mentioned in Galatians 5:22. **They are Love, Joy and Peace.**

Love: If you remember from last week, the reason for having Spiritual Fruit is so that we can show Christ to others. The Bible says in 1 John 4:11-12 that, "since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us." So we are God's witness of his love for the world when we show love to others. Now I'm not talking about the mushy movie kind of love. I'm talking about the love described in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (read verse).

This is the kind of love that we are to have for one another. Jesus even commands us to love God and our neighbors (Mark 12:30-31).

I don't know about you kids, but I don't always feel like loving people. But I have to choose to obey God and love people in spite of how I feel right then. So love is more than a feeling, it is a fruit that we must choose to let the Holy Spirit grow in us.

Joy: Like love, joy is also more than just a feeling. Sometimes people confuse joy with happiness; but unlike happiness, joy doesn't depend on whether things are going good in your life.

The Bible says in James 1:15 that you're to "consider it pure joy.. Whenever you face trials of many kinds, be-

cause you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance." So when we are going through hard times, we should rejoice because God is growing our faith. Growing the fruit of Joy requires that we trust God's plan for our future.

Peace: Similarly, for the Holy Spirit to grow the fruit of Peace in our lives, we must choose to trust in God. Things happen in our lives that we don't like and that we cannot control. It's easy to become afraid during these times, but if we choose to trust in God then the Holy Spirit will grow the fruit of Peace in us. According to Philippians 4:6-7, we are not to "be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your heart and minds in Christ Jesus." So if we choose to trust in God then He will grow the fruit of Peace in us. In order to grow these fruits, we must choose to allow the Holy Spirit to grow them in our lives.

Object Lesson: Phony? Phooey!

Use real and artificial fruit to begin a discussion with your class about the fruit of the Spirit. (*Refer to the supplement page for this lesson.*)

QUIZ QUESTIONS

Q: Is love just a feeling?

A: No, it requires a choice.

Q: Why should we have joy, when we go through hard times?

A: Because God is growing our faith.

Q: In order to have peace, what must we do?

A: Trust in God.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

The Fruit of Love, Joy, and Peace require a decision to allow the Holy Spirit to grow them in us.

MEMORY VERSE

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



Love, Joy and Peace are fruits of the Spirit.



Phony? Phooey!

Theme: Making choices

Scripture: Isaiah 55:1-3

Overview: Kids handle real and artificial fruit to see how they must separate what's real from what's phony.

Preparation: A piece of fruit for everyone; a piece of artificial fruit for half the people; a bowl; and a Bible. Set aside half of the real fruit, put the rest of the real fruit and all of the artificial fruit in a bowl.

Experience: Offer children each a piece of fruit from the bowl. Allow kids who have real fruit to eat, but have the rest of the group hold their phony fruit. Don't let kids with real fruit share their fruit.

Response: After a minute, ask kids who have phony fruit:

- *How would it feel to try to eat a piece of phony fruit?*
- *Could you tell just by looking that it wasn't real?*
- *What purpose does the phony fruit serve?*

Ask the rest of the group:

- *How did it feel to get real fruit while others got phony fruit?*
- *Did you want to share your fruit?*
- *Why or why not?*

Say: *A long time ago God wanted His people to know the difference between the real and the phony in life. He sent Isaiah to help them. (Read aloud Isaiah 55:1-3)*

Say: *People sometimes choose phony things over real things in life. (example: choosing to be rich to bring happiness)*

Ask: *What are some other phony things people sometimes choose instead of real things?*

Tell Kids: *Only God can help us choose the real over the phony in life. We are going to learn about some real fruit that God wants our lives to produce.*

Pray: *Ask God to help us choose what's real.*

Give out Real Fruit: *Give the kids who got artificial fruit some real fruit to eat.*

Food for Thought (*For Parents and Teachers*)

In 4X4 we are learning about the fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22. There is a vast difference between our Christian approach to moral principles and the approach of other religions. In the forward to their book, The Family Book of Christian Values, Stuart and Jill Briscoe say,

“...moral teaching, good as it is, can lead good people to self-righteousness. Christian teaching does the opposite. ‘By the law is the knowledge of sin,’ says the apostle Paul, and this knowledge leads us to repentance and forgiveness through Christ’s sacrifice. The uniqueness of Christianity is that when we look at moral teaching, we are confronted with our own failure—and in Christ we have somewhere to turn for help. When we as His forgiveness,

Christ Himself comes into our hearts to strengthen us ‘...with might by His Spirit in the inner man,’ thus enabling us to live out the moral principles He taught.”

Galatians 5:22 refers to these moral principles as the “fruit of the Spirit” because God’s Holy Spirit produces them in us.



A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 1, LESSON 32

Bible Lesson: Patience, Kindness, Goodness

Today we're going to learn about Patience, Kindness, and Goodness. Now, some people get confused and don't think patience is a fruit of the Spirit. Some people think that because they are not naturally patient, they will never be. Now it is true that some people seem to have been born with more patience than others. I'll be honest and say that I naturally do not have very much patience. But I know that I can become more patient, because patience is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, which grows in the lives of Christians. Often times, some of the biggest mistakes kids make is when they decide, "I just can't wait." Then they go ahead and do stuff that they are not ready for that could potentially ruin their lives. But God has a special plan for each and every one of your lives. If we allow the Holy Spirit to develop the fruit of patience in our lives, we'll be able to wait on God's perfect plan.

Kindness is more than just being nice. It is best described by the Golden Rule, which says that we must treat others like we would want them to treat us. Kindness starts in our hearts before it is an action, and only the Holy Spirit can make us truly kind. People can do acts

that seem kind when they are not truly being kind. If your friend gave you a piece of candy just because he wanted to bribe you to do something for him, is that kindness? No, kindness is selflessly considering the needs of others before your own. When we grow the fruit of Kindness in our lives, people will notice that we are different than the rest of the world. Through our actions of kindness, we can be a witness of Christ.

Many kids think that goodness is something they can put on and take off, like a hat. They think they can be good when they feel like it, but at other times they can be selfish. They'll put their good hat on for church and their bad hat on for school. But goodness is not something you do but something you are. Goodness is not just an act that we put on to impress others. It's who we are. Your parents don't tell you to act good they tell you to be good. So you cannot truly be good one day and not the next. The Holy Spirit is the one who makes you good, and His plan doesn't change. If you keep God in control of your life, He will help grow the fruit of goodness in you.

Game: Apple likes Banana

Have the kids sit down and form a circle with one person in the middle. Have every child decide which fruit that they want to be called. It starts out with a child saying his fruit name likes someone else's fruit name. Then the person named

stands up and says his fruit name likes someone else. The person in the middle tries to tag them while they're standing. If they are tagged, they come to the middle and the person previously in the middle sits down and the game is continued.

QUIZ QUESTIONS

Q: What does patience give us the ability to do?

A: Wait on God's perfect plan.

Q: What is kindness?

A: Kindness is treating others like we would want them to treat us.

Q: Is goodness something you do or who you are?

A: Goodness is about who you are.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

Patience, kindness, and goodness are who we are not just what we do.

MEMORY VERSE:

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



Patience, kindness, and goodness are fruits of the Spirit.



A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 1, LESSON 33

Bible Lesson: Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control

Today we are going to learn about Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-control. Faithfulness means being reliable, turning up on time, and finishing the job. It's doing something even when you don't feel like doing it. It means saying no to what you want and yes to what God wants. Our greatest example of faithfulness is Jesus. He was so faithful to the Father that He even died on the cross. Jesus made salvation available to everyone because He was faithful even in the most difficult situation. We also have a mission that God has called us to be faithful too. As Christians, we're to be Christ's witnesses. This can be really hard sometimes, especially when you don't feel like doing what's right. But if you will make up your mind to be faithful to God, the Holy Spirit will grow the fruit of Faithfulness in you.

It is our responsibility as Christians to be gentle with others, showing them tender loving care. Now gentleness is not weakness; it is not being wimpy or a chicken. Gentle people are kind and mild towards others, but at the same time they're not pushovers. Gen-

tleness means caring about others instead of being selfish. Like faithfulness, gentleness means saying no to what we want and yes to what God wants. Once again, the best example of gentleness is Jesus. The popular phrase "what would Jesus do" will help us become gentle because if Jesus wouldn't do it then it's not gentle. If we commit to following Jesus' example, the Holy Spirit will grow the fruit of Gentleness in us.

Many of you kids have been going to church for a long time and you know what is right but does that mean you always do it? No, why is that? It's because we're not "in control" enough to always follow God's way. We are to become like Christ, which means our decisions are to be based on God's desires instead of our own selfish desires. Self-control really means God-control. Self-control won't come easy, but in the end it's worth it. Self-control is saying no to what you want and yes to what God wants. If you commit to God's will then the Holy Spirit will grow the fruit of Self-control in you.

Game: Self-Control Tic-Tac-Toe

Draw a large tic-tac-toe grid on poster board (or use a dry erase board). Read the situations included in the "Supplement to Lesson 33" to the children. After each situation ask, "Did the child use self-control or not? If he did, draw a happy face anywhere on the grid.

If he didn't, draw a sad face." Play until three of the same kind of faces are in a row. Since there are more good situations, the happy faces should win most of the time. (See list of situations on the "Supplement to Lesson 31 page)

QUIZ QUESTIONS

Q: Is faithfulness doing just what you feel like doing or what God wants you to do?

A: It's doing what God wants.

Q: Is gentleness caring about others or yourself?

A: it's caring about others.

Q: Another word for self control is?

A: God-control.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-control mean saying no to our selfish desires and yes to God's will.

MEMORY VERSE:

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

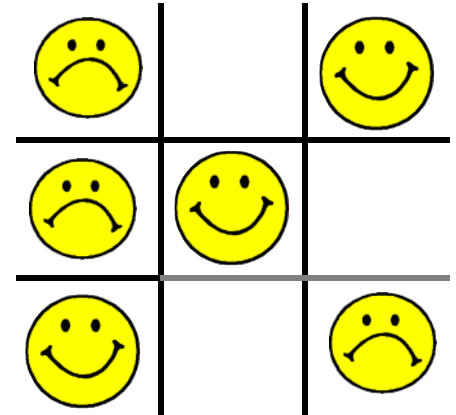


Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-control are fruits of the Spirit.



Self-Control Tic-Tac-Toe (*Statement List*)

1. Joe talks about himself all the time. He never asks his friends what they like to do. 😞
2. Jane would like to sleep longer, but she gets up when Mom calls. 😊
3. David watched two hours of TV. He's tempted to watch another program, but instead he play ball with a friend. 😊
4. Julia had four chocolate chip cookies for dessert. When her mother leaves the kitchen Julia takes another cookie. 😞
5. Billy found a cigarette and thought about smoking it. He threw the cigarette in the trash instead. He didn't want to start a terrible habit. 😊
6. Bridgette is kind to Jane at school, but behind her back she tells bad things about her. 😞
7. Tom can't wait to eat. He's tempted to butt into line and stand behind his best friend, but Tom goes to the end of the line instead. 😊
8. Bob, Jim and Crystal run in and out of the house, yelling and laughing real loud. Their mother is trying to clean. 😞
9. Charlie throws his clothes on the floor after he takes them off. 😞
10. Jared is tempted to run out the door and wait for the bus. But the bus won't come for ten minutes so he makes his bed instead. 😊
11. Jackie asks her mother to buy her a candy bar at the store. Jackie throws a big fit and starts pouting when her mom says, "no." 😞



Food for Thought (*For Parents and Teachers*)

In 4X4 we are learning about the fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22. There is a vast difference between our Christian approach to moral principles and the approach of other religions. In the forward to their book, The Family Book of Christian Values, Stuart and Jill Briscoe say,

“...moral teaching, good as it is, can lead good people to self-righteousness. Christian teaching does the opposite. *‘By the law is the knowledge of sin,’* says the apostle Paul, and this knowledge leads us to repentance and forgiveness through Christ’s sacrifice. The uniqueness of Christianity is that when we look at moral teaching, we are confronted with our own failure—and in Christ we have somewhere to turn for help. When we as His forgiveness,

Christ Himself comes into our hearts to strengthen us *‘...with might by His Spirit in the inner man,’* thus enabling us to live out the moral principles He taught.”

Galatians 5:22 refers to these moral principles as the “fruit of the Spirit” because God’s Holy Spirit produces them in us.



A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 1, LESSON 34

Bible Lesson: My Spiritual DNA

Do any of you know what DNA is? (*allow for answers*) DNA is a genetic code that determines everything from how big your nose is, to the color of your hair, and how tall you will get. It is written on every single cell in your body. This DNA determines what we look like on the outside. Your DNA is different from any other person in the world.

However, there is another type of DNA. This DNA doesn't say what you will look like. This DNA helps determine who you are on the inside. This is Spiritual DNA. Did you know that God designed you in a special way? (*Read Psalm 139:15-16*) God wove you together by giving you Spiritual DNA. **The gifts of the Holy Spirit are your Spiritual DNA.**

David's DNA

Just like us, king David had spiritual DNA that God put in him when he was just a kid. God had a special plan for David, and He prepared him for that plan.

Activity: Guess Who?

This is played similar to the board game *Guess Who?* with a little twist.

Pick two kids from the audience to be the contestants. Then, have each kid secretly pick out another kid from the audience. Each kid then asks the other a series of yes and no questions, trying to determine who the other kid secretly picked out.

For example. Our first contestant might start by saying, "Is your

As a kid, David was a shepherd for his family. While watching the sheep, he practiced with his sling in order to guard against any predators. He even killed a lion and a bear when they threatened his sheep. He also spent time with God. He worshiped him by singing songs of praise. God had given David the gifts to do all these things.

God used all of these to do awesome things through David. When a giant threatened God's people, David stood up for God and took the giant down with one hit from his sling. Eventually, David was appointed to be king of Israel. He became the shepherd of God's people. Also, David wrote most of the book of Psalms, the part of the Bible filled with songs of praise to God. God had given David the gifts, the spiritual DNA to reach his destiny. God has given all of us a destiny, and He has already put His gifts inside you to reach it.

person a girl?" If the answer is no, then they know to ask questions about boys in the class. Other good questions are, "Is he wearing glasses" or "Does she have sandals on?" The first person to determine who the other contest picked out is the winner.

Use this game to lead into talking about DNA and how we all look different on the outside.

QUIZ QUESTIONS

Q: What gifts did God give David to help him reach his destiny?

A: He was a shepherd, learned how to use a sling and was a musician.

Q: What is Spiritual DNA?

A: The gifts that God has put inside of me that helps me be who He wants me to be

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

God is the one that invented both physical and spiritual DNA.

MEMORY VERSE:

Having, then, gifts differing according to the grace given to us, let us use them.

~Romans 12:6a



**God has given
me spiritual
DNA**



A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 1, LESSON 35

Bible Lesson: Gifts of the Spirit *(continued)*

Last week we talked about how God has given us each one of us spiritual DNA. What do you remember from what we learned last week. *(allow for responses)*

This week, we are going to talk about the Spiritual DNA of someone that we all know, King David. We are going to see how God gave David spiritual gifts as a kid that helped him become the king of a whole country.

Does anyone know what David did when he was a kid? That's right, he was a shepherd. In David's day, that wasn't the coolest job to have. He didn't get to hang out with his friends, or play hot lava Philistine. He just got to hang out with sheep, while his brothers got to go off and fight in a war. That doesn't seem very fair, but God had a plan.

Do you know what David did when he was out in the field watching the sheep eat their food? One thing he would do was target practice with his

sling. He had to protect his sheep, so he would practice hitting trees and rocks. That way, if a lion or bear came, he could keep it from getting his sheep.

David also prayed his harp and became a very skilled musician. He wrote many songs while he was a shepherd. *(Quote the first part of Psalm 23)*

You may be thinking what the big deal is about all of this. So what if David was a shepherd, a good shot with a sling, and a good harp player. What does that have to do with spiritual DNA? I'll tell you what it has to do with spiritual DNA. When David got older, he had the ability to be the shepherd of God's people, the skill to be a great warrior, and the passion to be the world's best songwriter and worship leader. And all of that was in his spiritual DNA when he was just a kid.

Story: The Cow Party

(See the supplement for this lesson for the story.)

Read the story first. Then ask some questions to help your class get the point: "I will be who God wants me to be."

For example:

- Why was Bossie feeling sorry for

herself?

- Why did Ronnie hold a Cow Party?
- What gifts does God give people?
- What is one gift that you think He has given you?

QUIZ QUESTIONS

Q: What did David do when he was a kid?

A: He was a shepherd

Q: How did David spend his time as a shepherd?

A: Target practicing and playing the harp

Q: Why was it important that David did these things?

A: Because they helped him become who God wanted him to be.

MEMORY VERSE:

Having then, gifts differing according to the grace given to us, let us use them.

Romans 12:6a



I will be who God wants me to be.



The Cow Party

By Sammy Jamison

"A cow's life is as dull as dishwater," complained Bossie. "We have nothing to eat but grass and hay. We have nothing to do but give milk. We have no place to go except to the barn or pasture."

"Oh Bossie," said Ronnie the sheepdog, "You need to learn to count your blessings."

"Blessings!" snorted Bossie, and almost got excited. Then she remembered that she was being sad and said, "There is no blessing in being a cow. How many famous cows do you know?" Then with a raised tone in her voice she quickly added, "And don't you dare mention the cow that jumped over the moon. Oh, sure, a cow can go and jump over the moon and people will write poems about her. But if all she does is give milk for people's breakfast, she's a nobody!" Then she looked over at Ronnie with such a pitiful look in her eye that he almost felt sorry for her.

Then Ronnie got one of his bright ideas. "Bossie, I know just what we need. We need a party. Yes! A cow party!"

Bossie was so surprised by the idea that she couldn't say a word, not one word. That gave Ronnie just enough thinking time to hatch his plan; a plan that was going to change Bossie forever.

Finally Bossie protested, "But, you can't be serious, Ronnie. It's not a holiday, it's not a birthday, and besides, who in their right mind would come to a cow party? Haven't you heard a single word I have said? No one cares about a cow's life. A cow's life is boring."

But Ronnie paid her no more attention. When he got one of his bright ideas, nothing could stop him. He grabbed his cell phone and began to call all of the other animals to make party plans. He gave Bossie a wave as he disappeared around the barn. Bossie could hear him saying, "A cow party! Yes, at Bossie's place. We need decorations, and music, and ..." The news spread quickly and soon each of the animals was planning a costume or some special food to bring.

Bossie had never had so much attention. Now it seemed that everyone wanted to know her opinion on everything: "Bossie, how do you like my costume? Bossie, taste this, how do you like it? What music do cows listen to? Can you show me some cow dance steps?" She was amazed to see how much fun they thought it was to be a cow.

At the party, everyone had fun, even Bossie. She laughed and laughed as the other animals tried to imitate the way she walked or the way she talked. Ronnie entertained them with his cow jokes. The best event of the night was when they all danced in the cow conga line and Bossie was the leader. They gave her the prize for the best cow eyes and everyone asked her for her milk recipe. Thanks to Ronnie the Sheepdog and his bright idea, Bossie's attitude was changed forever. She would tell people, "It is such a blessing to be a cow."