



## Year 1—Quarter 3: God the Holy Spirit

### Fruit of the Spirit is Love

#### We are like tree branches:

Imagine you have a little apple tree in your backyard. If you want it to grow big and strong and give you yummy apples, you need to take care of it every day. You give it water, make sure it gets enough sun, and put it in good dirt. You can't just tell it to grow apples; it needs your help to do that.

Now, think of your heart like that little apple tree. To grow good things in your heart, like kindness, happiness, and peace, you need to be friends with Jesus. Talk to Him, listen to what He says, and learn about Him. That's like giving your tree the water, sun, and good dirt it needs. And just like you can't make the tree grow apples, you can't make these good things happen all by yourself. But when you're close to Jesus, the Holy Spirit helps you grow all these wonderful things in your heart, just like your tree grows apples.

#### The Fruit of the Spirit:

- Believers are like branches on God's tree. The Holy Spirit causes fruit to grow on those branches.

- Just like kids grow taller and smarter, believers grow in faith and maturity because of the Holy Spirit. And the Bible calls this the fruit of the Spirit.

**And guess what?** All these "fruits" grow from the same tree called LOVE! Love is like the tree trunk, and the other fruits grow from its beautiful branches. So, When Jesus is on the inside of us, His love, his grace, His goodness, come out of us into everything we do

#### Power Point

The fruit of the Spirit is love.

#### MEMORY VERSE

"...by their fruit you will recognize them...Every good tree bears good fruit...Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them"  
Matthew 7:16-20

### Story: Favorite Firetruck



Once in a Sunday School classroom at Grace Church, there was a little boy named Timmy who looked forward to playing with a special toy every time he visited Grace Church. It was a

bright red fire truck with shiny wheels that could spin faster than the wind. Timmy loved this fire truck more than any of the other toys in the class.

One Sunday morning, Timmy noticed his friend, Lily, looking sad as she sat alone at a little table. Her favorite doll was nowhere to be found, and she didn't want to play with any of the other toys. Timmy thought about how much joy his fire truck brought him and wondered if it could make Lily smile too.

With a big heart and a deep breath, Timmy walked over to Lily, holding out his treasured fire truck. "Would you like to play with my fire truck?" he asked.

Lily's eyes lit up. "Really? But it's your favorite," she said in surprise.

Timmy nodded and said, "Yes, it is. But seeing you happy is even better. We can share it because that's what friends do!"

And so, Timmy and Lily spent the rest of playtime racing the fire truck back and forth on the floor, their laughter echoing through the classroom. Timmy learned that love is not just about holding on to what you cherish but also about sharing it with someone you care about. And in that classroom that day, the fire truck wasn't just a toy; it was a symbol of friendship and love.

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### Story: 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 to come for blackberry harvest in late July.

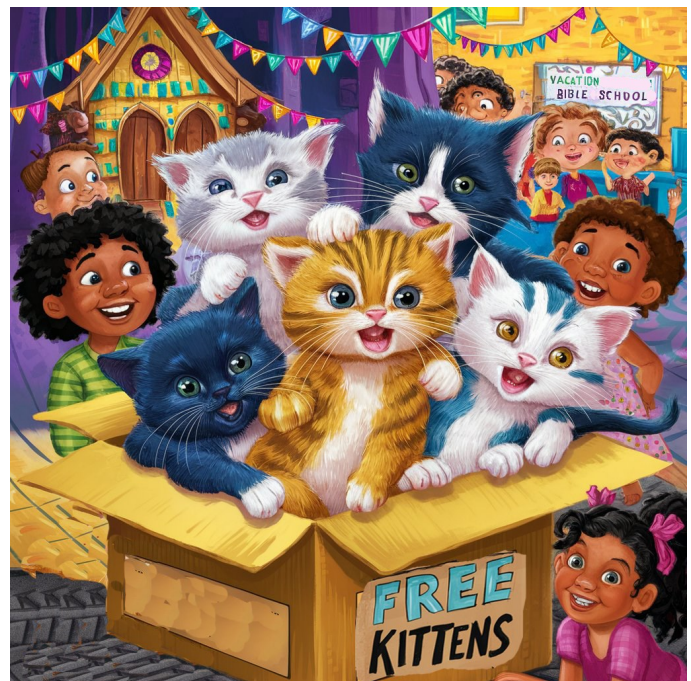
I went and used my secret method to pick more blackberries than anyone else. I took an old refrigerator box and tore it in half. I'd put one half down on top of the blackberry vines and then climbed way out where the best and biggest berries were. Then I'd take my second large piece of cardboard, shove 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.

*(Chapter 4 of a 4 chapter series)*

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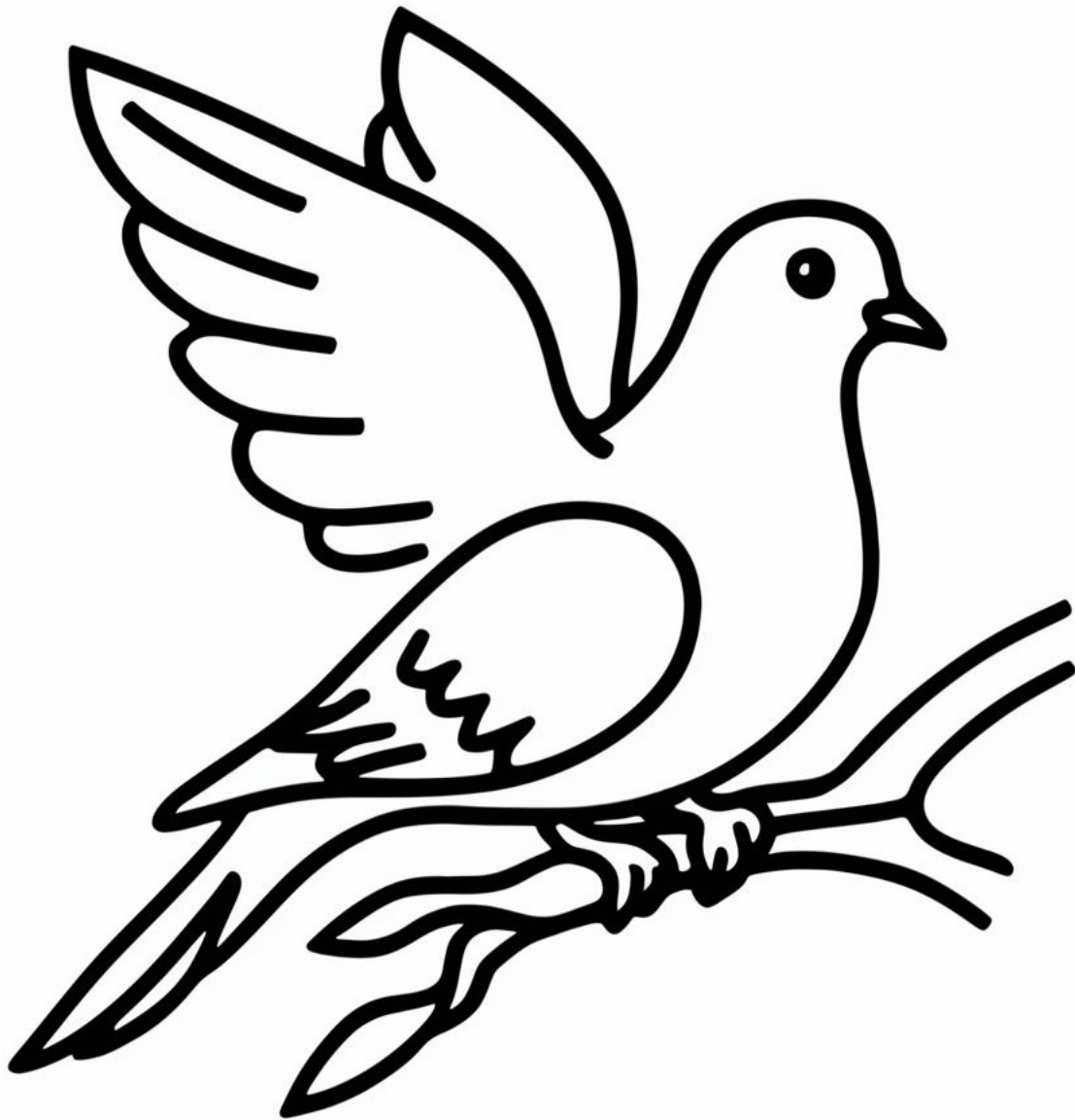


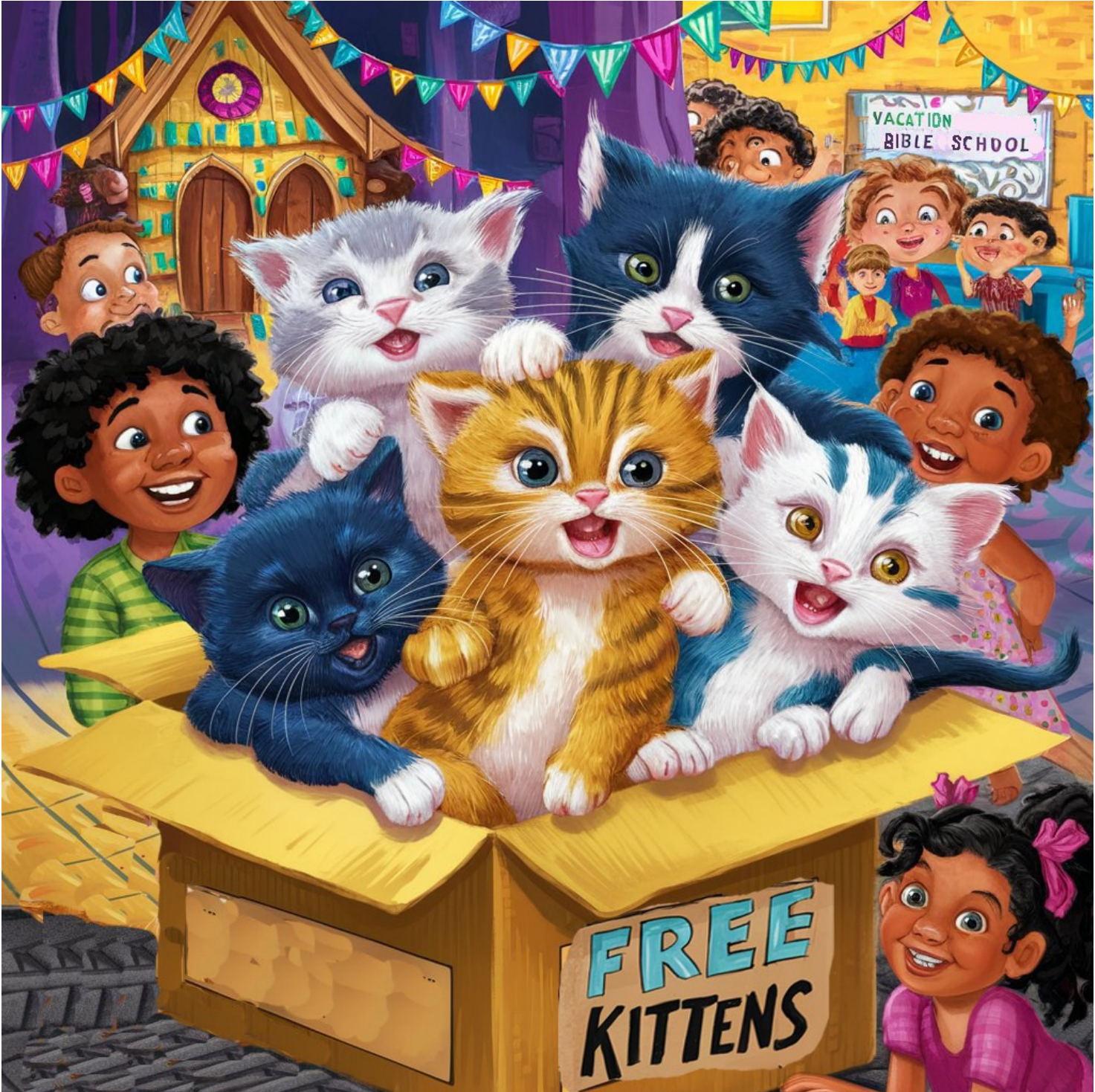
# FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

## COLORING PAGE

### LOVE

Doves teach us about unconditional love and harmony.





# Take-Home

## Summary

### Bible Passages:

Matthew 7:16-20; Galatians 5:22-23; 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

### Main Point:

The fruit of the Spirit is love.

### Discuss:

**Q:** Have you ever received a special gift or present? How did it make you feel?

**Q:** What does the Bible mean by “the fruit of the Spirit?”

**Q:** Who can name all nine fruit of the Spirit?

**Q:** Explain how love is not just a feeling, but also an action.

### A Gospel-Centered Approach:

- God is all the fruit rolled into one amazing Being.
- Jesus is all of God’s attributes displayed in a single human being.
- Kids will only be good when they fall in love with the good God Who loves them enough to die for them.

## Explore the Bible

• Read one or more of the Bible passages.

• Explain that the Fruit of the Spirit is a list of characteristics that God wants us to have as Christians. These characteristics are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

• Focus on the first fruit, which is love.

• Ask: Do you know why God made animals that don’t speak?

So they could bring loyalty and love into our lives by actions and not by words.

• Use examples of how Jesus showed love to others, such as healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and forgiving those who sinned against Him.

• Explain that as Christians, we are called to show love to others, just like Jesus did.

• Memorize Galatians 5:22-23

## Family Activity

**Create a “Love Chain”** by having the kids write down ways they can show love to others on strips of paper. Then, link the strips together to create a chain.

Have the kids share their strips with the family and explain why they chose that particular way to show love.



## Apply and Pray

**Review** the fruit of the Spirit and how love is the first fruit.

**Remind** the kids that showing love to others is God showing His love through us.

**Pray** together, asking God to help you show love to others and to help you to be more like Jesus.