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Year 1—Quarter 3: God the Holy Spirit

Jesus Introduces the Holy Spirit

Bible Passages: John 14:15-18; 15:26, 27: 16: 7-15

If your best friend told you they were moving away, how would that make you feel? (Let kids answer)

The bad news was: Jesus knew His close friends, the disciples, would be sad that He had to leave them and go back to Heaven. The good news was: He promised them that He would send the Holy Spirit to be with them forever. The Holy Spirit would help and comfort them.

So, even though Jesus had to leave them physically, the Holy Spirit would always be there to help

them and remind them of what Jesus taught.

Imagine you have a friend who is like a superhero. This friend is the Holy Spirit. Sometimes, when the Holy Spirit is with you, you might feel really warm and happy inside, or you might get goosebumps because you're so excited. It's like having a superpower that makes you feel brave when you're scared, believe in yourself when you're in doubt, and be kind when you're really mad.

Important Point to Remember:

The Holy Spirit is God and He is a Helper and a Friend Who stays with us.

Power Point

The Holy Spirit is a Helper and a Friend Who stays with us.

MEMORY VERSE:

“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever.” John 14:16

Object Lesson: The Wind

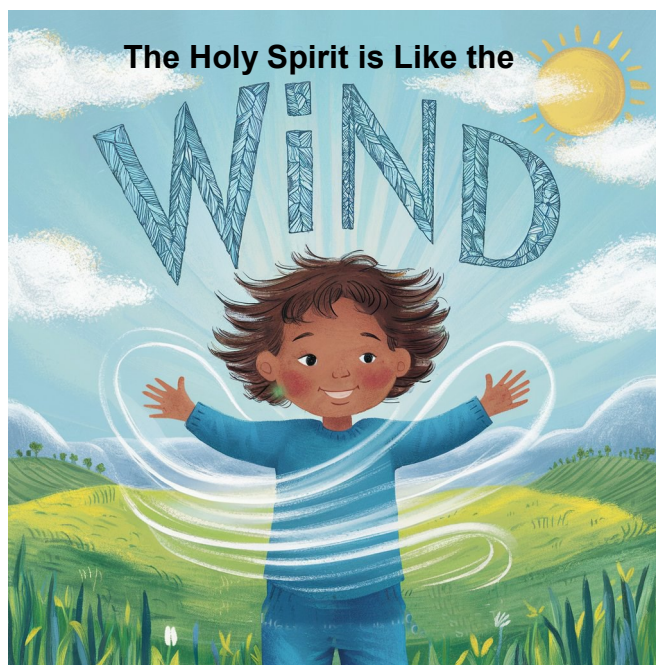
Nicodemus: In John chapter 3, Jesus had a conversation with Nicodemus, a Pharisee. He told him that the Holy Spirit is like the wind. Let's talk about some of the ways the Holy Spirit is like the wind:

We can't see the wind, but we can:

- See leaves swirling
- Feel water spraying
- Hear trees rustling

Similarly, we cannot see the Spirit, but we witness the effects of the Spirit's work:

- Reminding us of God's care
- Prompting us to show love
- Helping us in our time of need





Story: Rooster and a Wedding Ring

(Tommy's Journal Entry for June 6)

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."

(Chapter 1 of a 4 chapter series. Written by: Sammy Jamison)



Rooster and a Wedding Ring

Story Illustration by Sammy Jamison



Take-Home

Summary

Bible Passages:

John 14:15-18; 15:26,
27: 16: 7-15

Main Point:

The Holy Spirit is God and He is a Helper and a Friend Who stays with us.

Discuss:

Q: What was the bad news?

A: Jesus knew His close friends, the disciples, would be sad that He had to leave them and go back to Heaven.

Q: What was the good news?

A: He promised them that He would send the Holy Spirit to be with them forever.

The Role of the Holy Spirit in Kids Lives:

- To help them connect with Jesus.
- To help them see the fruit of the Spirit through the hands, heart, and habits of Jesus.
- To help them change their own hands, hearts, and habits to be more like Christ.

Explore the Bible

Read the Bible passages listed under Summary. Have your kids find the names Jesus uses for the Holy Spirit. Then look for all the action words that tell what the Holy Spirit will do



Family Activity

Plan to do some fun activities with your family to explore the wonders of wind. Such as:

1. Build and fly a kite
2. Use straws to blow paint across paper.
3. Teach about cloud types and go spot clouds outside.
4. Wind dance to fun music
5. Design pinwheels (find patterns online)
6. Make windchimes from recycled items

Apply and Pray

Discuss: how it might look if your family let the Holy Spirit be your Helper and Friend. How would it change the way you treated one another? What other things might He want to change?

Pray: Thank the Holy Spirit for being your Helper and Friend. Ask Him to help your family to honor Him.



Year 1—Quarter 3: God the Holy Spirit

The Day of Pentecost

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 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.

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 speaks 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.

What we learn from Peter’s Story: It shows that 1) God uses imperfect people for His purposes and His grace is available to all. 2) Relying on the Holy Spirit brings courage and strength. 3) It also shows us that obedience to the Holy Spirit’s leadings leads to extraordinary experiences.

Main Point: The Holy Spirit wants to be a part of our everyday living by helping us to live for God.

Power Point

The Holy Spirit wants to be a part of our everyday living by helping us to live for God.

MEMORY VERSE

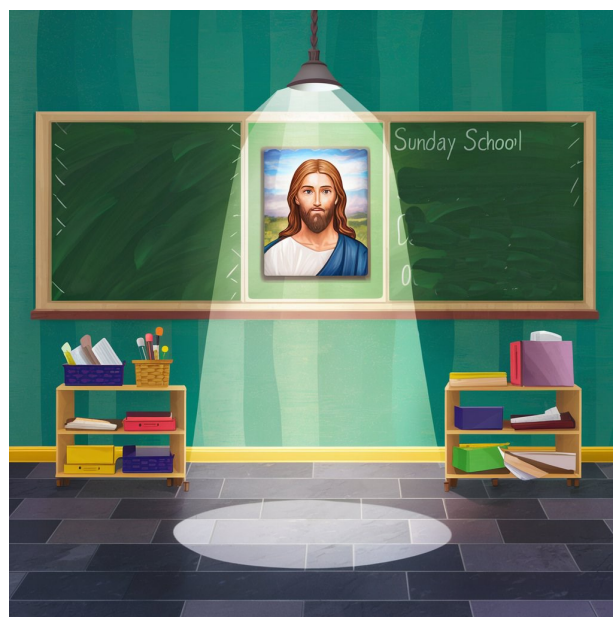
“...in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

OBJECT LESSON: SPOTLIGHT ON JESUS

Ahead of time: Hang up a picture of Jesus in the room and set up a spotlight that is pointed directly at the picture.

Discuss: When the students enter the room, speak to them about the Holy Spirit’s role in bringing people to Jesus. Have a volunteer turn off the lights and make sure the room is very dark. Have each student name something about the picture of Jesus that they like. They may mention that they can’t see the picture. Click on the spotlight and then have everyone name something about the picture they like.

Explain to them that the Holy Spirit is like the spotlight, pointing everyone to Jesus.



Year 1—Quarter 3: God the Holy Spirit

Story: Blue Ribbon

(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 still 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 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. (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.

Two summers ago 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 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 flood that washed the bridge out 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.

(Chapter 2 of a 4 chapter series)

Written by: Sammy Jamison



Take-Home

Summary

Bible Passage:

Acts 1:4, 5

Main Point:

The Holy Spirit wants to be a part of our everyday living by helping us to live for God.

Quiz:

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: Fire flames

The Role of the Holy Spirit in Kids Lives:

- To help them connect with Jesus.
- To help them see the fruit of the Spirit through the hands, heart, and habits of Jesus.
- To help them change their own hands, hearts, and habits to be more like Christ.

Explore the Bible

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

Wind — He is like the wind, powerful 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).

Family Activity

- **The Wind Game:** Use a fan or a blower to simulate the wind, and ask kids to close their eyes and feel the “wind” of the Holy Spirit guiding them.
- **The Still Small Voice:** Have kids sit in silence and listen for the “still small voice” of the Holy Spirit guiding them.
- **The Conscience Game:** Play a game where kids have to imagine making decisions and then reflect on whether they felt a sense of conviction or peace about their choices.

Apply and Pray

Have a few moments of silence to allow everyone to listen for the inner voice of the Holy Spirit. Ask kids to share if they felt like they heard Him speak to them. Close in a prayer of gratitude for the Holy Spirit as your Helper and Friend.



Year 1—Quarter 3: God the Holy Spirit

The Church is Born

Jesus had told His disciples, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the Earth.” (Acts 1:8 NKJV)

We learned in last week’s lesson that after Jesus went back to heaven, His followers received the Holy Spirit. This gave them God’s special power that helped them tell others about Jesus.

They started in Jerusalem, where they lived, and then went to nearby places like Judea and Samaria. Eventually, they traveled to faraway lands, sharing the good news with people everywhere. It’s like when you throw a stone into a pond, and the ripples spread out. The message of Jesus spread like those ripples, reaching the ends of the Earth!

Someone who God used in a big way to make those ripples spread was the Apostle Paul. Before he met Jesus, Paul did not like Chris-

tians. In fact, he tried to stop them from talking about Jesus. Then something amazing happened. Jesus appeared to Paul, and his life changed. He became a follower of Jesus and he started telling everyone about Him.

Now here’s where the Holy Spirit comes in: The Holy Spirit gave Paul special powers, like courage and wisdom. Paul travelled to faraway lands, to share the good news about Jesus.

Because of the Holy Spirit’s power, Paul could speak boldly and fearlessly. He told people about Jesus in cities, towns, and even on ships during stormy seas! Everywhere he went, the message of Jesus spread like ripples in a pond.

So, in a nutshell: The Holy Spirit helped Paul change from a grumpy guy to a joyful messenger. Paul’s travels and teachings helped the church grow and spread the good news about Jesus to the ends of the Earth!

Power Point

The Holy Spirit helps believers spread the Gospel to the ends of the Earth

MEMORY VERSE

Acts 1:8, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the Earth.” NKJV

GAME: TRUST MAZE

Set up chairs, tables and other items as obstacles in a maze pattern around the room. Blindfold a volunteer and have attempt the maze by listening to the voice of another person guiding him. Explain to the students that the Holy Spirit is a guide in our everyday lives. If we listen to what the Spirit tries to tell us, through God’s word we are less likely to stumble over life’s obstacles.



Year 1—Quarter 3: God the Holy Spirit

Story: The Dangers of Apples and Barn Roofs

(Tommy's Journal Entry for July 15)

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 feet 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 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.

(Chapter 3 of a 4 chapter series)

Written by: Sammy Jamison



Take-Home

Summary

Bible Passage:

Acts 1:8

Main Point:

The Holy Spirit helps believers spread the Gospel to the ends of the Earth.

Discuss:

Q: Name the three Persons of the Godhead.

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

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."

The Role of the Holy Spirit in Kids Lives:

- To help them connect with Jesus.
- To help them see the fruit of the Spirit through the hands, heart, and habits of Jesus.
- To help them change their own hands, hearts, and habits to be more like Christ.

Explore the Bible

Read the Bible story of Paul's conversion in **Acts 9:1-19**.

Say: The same Jesus who rose from the dead and transformed Paul wants to work in your life too. What could Jesus do through you if you surrendered as Paul did and give Him complete control of your life? (Let your kids answer)

Family Activity

Play a game of **fact or fiction** with your family:

1. Saul was traveling to Damascus to visit his sick grandmother. (*Fiction, he was traveling to Damascus to imprison believers.*)
2. Saul saw a light brighter than the sun and heard a voice speaking in the Greek language. (*Fiction, he heard the voice in Aramaic.*)
3. Jesus asked Saul why he was persecuting Him? (*Fact*)
4. Saul was blind for three days. (*Fact*)
5. God told Timothy to go to Damascus and restore Saul's sight. (*Fiction, Ananias*)
6. Ananias was obedient and went to Saul and his sight was restored. (*Fact*)
7. Saul preached the Good News boldly and everyone loved him. (*Fiction, some wanted to kill him*)
8. God only has work for some followers to do. (*Fiction, Believers are His workmanship created for good works.*)

Apply and Pray

Offer thanks for Jesus, and ask for joy in sharing the Gospel news with everyone: (Have kids repeat each line, if desired)

Dear God,
Thank you for your Word the Bible
Thank you for your church!
I'm glad I am part of your family
Help me to share your love
And tell others about Jesus
I love you, God! Thanks for loving me
In Jesus' name, amen



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.

Year 1—Quarter 3: God the Holy Spirit

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.

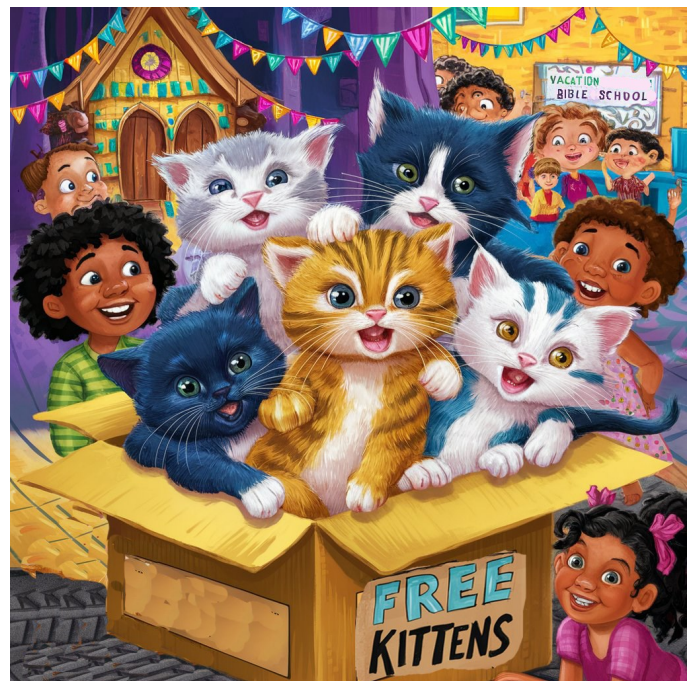
I went and used my secret method to pick more blackberries than anyone else. I took an old refrigerator box and tore it in half. I'd put one half down on top of the blackberry vines and then climbed way out where the best and biggest berries were. Then I'd take my second large piece of cardboard, shove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

Written by: Sammy Jamison

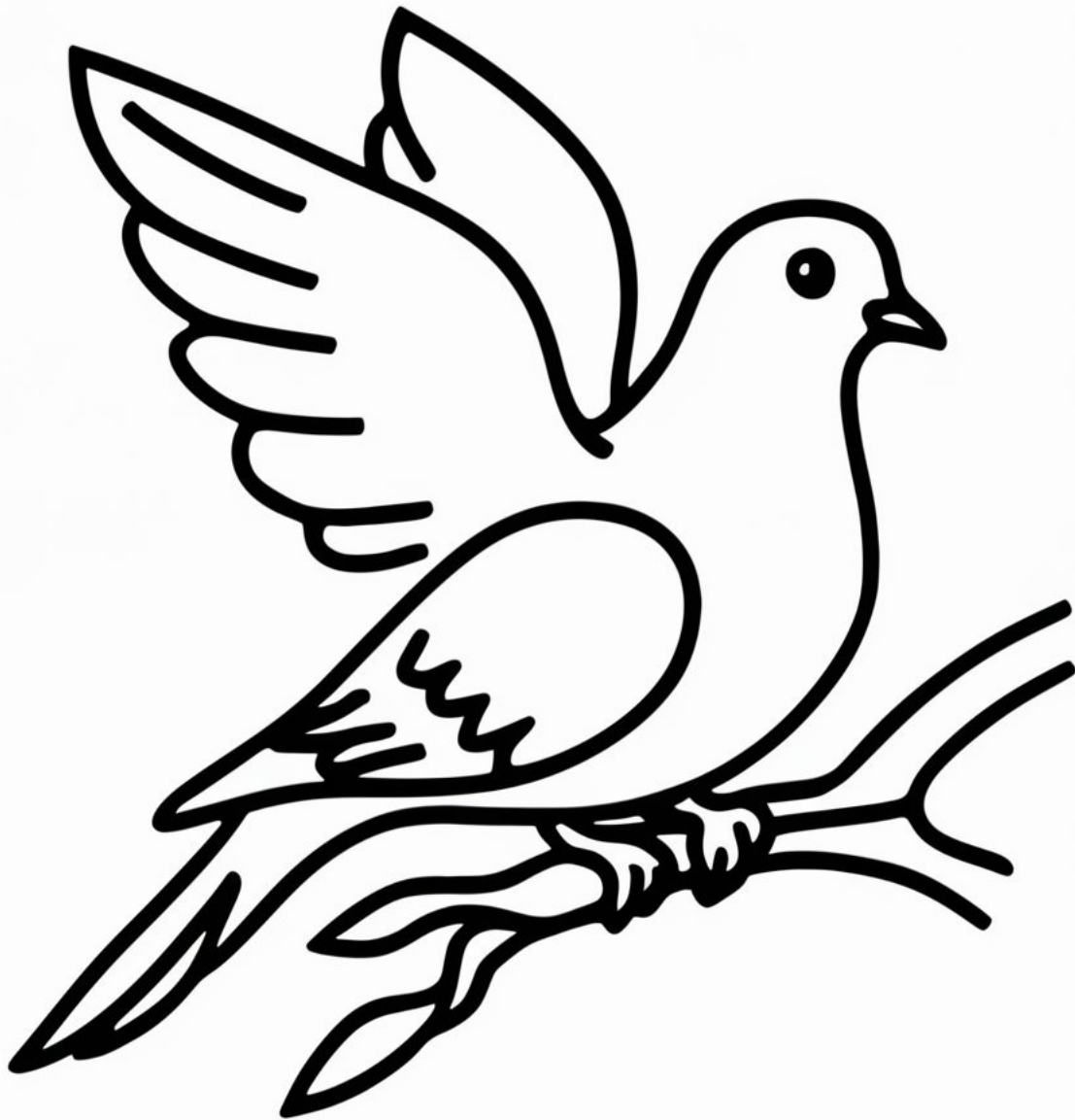


FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

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.



Year 1—Quarter 3: God the Holy Spirit

Joy

Hey there, super kids! Did you know that when we have the Holy Spirit in our hearts, we get a special gift called joy? It's like a superpower that makes us happy inside, even when things outside are not so great.

Let's open our adventure book to Galatians 5:22-23 and discover some amazing treasures. It says, "The Holy Spirit grows all sorts of good things in us, like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. And guess what? There's no rule saying we can't have lots of these!"

So, if joy is one of these awesome treasures, it means we can always find happiness in our hearts because the Holy Spirit is like a gardener, making sure the fruit of joy grows beautifully inside us.

Remember, when we choose to follow Jesus and trust Him, He gives us the Holy Spirit as a special friend who stays with us all the time. And this friend helps us grow all these wonderful fruits in our life's garden.

Special Guest:

Consider having an expectant or new mother come and talk to the class, describing the pain and difficulties experienced in pregnancy, but the joy she has at the same time, knowing that she is suffering for her baby and that it will not last forever. At the end of her short period of suffering, she will have a precious baby to hold in her arms and spend each day with.

The mother herself can draw the connection or you can after she shares her story. In a similar way, we can have joy when we go through suffering in our lives because we know who we are suffering for, Christ, and He is worth it! We also know that one day we will be with Him for eternity and never experience suffering again.

Power Point

The Holy Spirit within us helps us experience joy even in times of sorrow.

MEMORY VERSE

"Yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation."
Habakkuk 3:18 ESV

Treasure Hunt: Hooray!

Before Class: Hide wrapped snacks around your room for the kids to hunt for later.

As an introduction to today's lesson on joy, we are going to have a treasure hunt. The rule is: each time a child finds one of the treasures you have to shout HOORAY! (Let the hunt begin!)

After all of the treats have been found, explain the reason you had them shout. The Bible says that God and His angels shout for joy (HOORAY!) every time a person puts their faith in Jesus. Each fruit of the Spirit begins with God and the Holy Spirit grows these Godly qualities in us.

Dig Deeper

Turn to Proverbs chapter ten verse 28 (help them find the passage). Would anyone like to read this verse for us? "The hope of the righteous brings joy, but the expectation of the wicked brings will perish." If we are Christians, we have something the rest of the world does not: the hope of eternal life with God. After we die, we know we will live forever with God. He will wipe away every tear from our eyes and there will be no more sorrow. When we understand that we have this to look forward to, it gives us joy! We know that the hard times we experience on earth will not last forever because of Christ. Knowing this truth allows us to have joy even in the midst of sadness and sorrow.

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

COLORING PAGE

JOY

The cheerful behavior of dolphins reminds us of joy.



Take-Home

Summary

Bible Passages:

Habakkuk 3:18; Galatians 5:22-26; James 1:2

Main Point:

The Holy Spirit helps us experience joy even in times of sorrow.

Discuss:

Q: How is it possible to have joy in difficult times?

Q: What is the difference between joy and happiness?

A: Happiness cannot be present when someone is sad, but joy can always be present, even at the same time as sadness.

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

Ask: Where can we look to discover what joy truly is? (God's Word!). There are many verses that talk about joy in the Bible. Since His Word is our truth, it is the first place we should turn to

learn more about this fruit of the Spirit.

Read and discuss one or all of the Bible passages listed.

Family Activity

Give your family an object lesson to help them understand joy. Have a bottle of seltzer water and a magic marker. Say, if I gave you \$100 you would be happy. (Draw a smiley face on the bottle.) But if you lost that \$100 you wouldn't be happy any more. (Draw a sad face on the bottle) Joy comes from the inside. (Shake up the bottle.) When trouble comes, we can still have joy on the inside. (Open the bottle cap and let it spray out.)

Apply and Pray

Spend time in prayer together. Remember the specific situations your children are going through. Invite them to share if they haven't already. Praise God for the fruit of the Holy Spirit, the joy we are able to have because He lives within us.



Year 1—Quarter 3: God the Holy Spirit

Peace



Hey kids! Today we're going to talk about something really cool called **peace**. Imagine you're playing in the park, and everything is

calm and happy. That's a bit like peace. Some people think peace is when there are no fights or wars, feeling super relaxed like when you're chilling on the beach, or just being really quiet and still.

Everyone likes to feel peaceful, right? It's like taking a big break from worrying about homework or not having to argue with your brother or sister. But sometimes, the peace we find at the beach or when we're super quiet doesn't stay with us for a long time. It's like when you're playing hide and

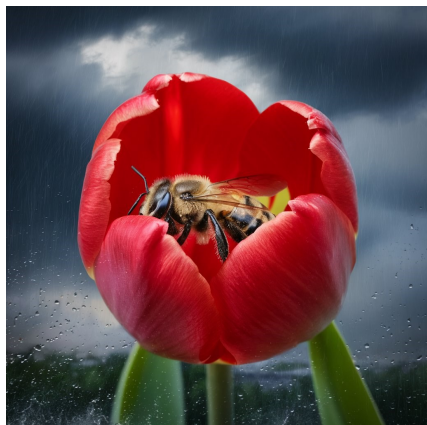
seek, and you find a great hiding spot, but eventually, you have to come out.

Now, here's a secret I want to share with you. There's a special kind of peace that comes from God. It's a super peace that's even better than the best day at the beach! It's like having a warm, cozy blanket around your heart that keeps you feeling safe and sound.

When the Holy Spirit gives you His fruit of peace, it's like having a superhero shield that blocks all the worries, stress, and scary things away. It's not just being quiet on the outside, but feeling super calm on the inside, like when you're snuggled up in bed listening to a bedtime story.

So, remember, even when things get a little crazy or you're feeling a bit scared, there's a peace that's a fruit of the Spirit, keeping your heart feeling happy and calm. And that's pretty awesome, isn't it?

Story: Beejay the Honeybee



Once upon a time, in a vibrant meadow, there buzzed a little bee named Beejay. Beejay loved to dance from flower to flower, collecting nectar under the sunny sky. But one day, dark clouds rolled in, and a storm began to brew.

As the wind howled and raindrops drummed, Beejay found herself caught in the chaos. She zipped and zoomed, looking for shelter, but the storm was too fast, too loud, too much. Then, she saw it—a bright red tulip, swaying gently despite the storm's rage. With a hopeful buzz, Beejay made her way to the tulip. She took a deep breath and slid down its smooth petal, like a slide at the playground. Inside, the tulip was warm and cozy, a perfect hideaway from the storm.

As Beejay nestled into the soft center of the tulip, she found something wonderful—peace. The storm raged on outside, but in her floral haven, Beejay

felt safe and calm. She learned that even in the wildest storm, peace could be found in the most unexpected places.

And so, Beejay waited out the storm, humming a happy bee-tune, grateful for the tulip's embrace. When the sun finally peeked through the clouds, Beejay emerged, ready to dance once again, with a new appreciation for the peace she had found.

Apply: Even when we have storms in life, God gives us the fruit of the Spirit of His peace to keep our hearts steady as we rely on Him.

Power Point

Peace comes from God, is made possible by Christ, and is a fruit of the Holy Spirit.

MEMORY VERSE

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let our hearts be troubled and do not be afraid"

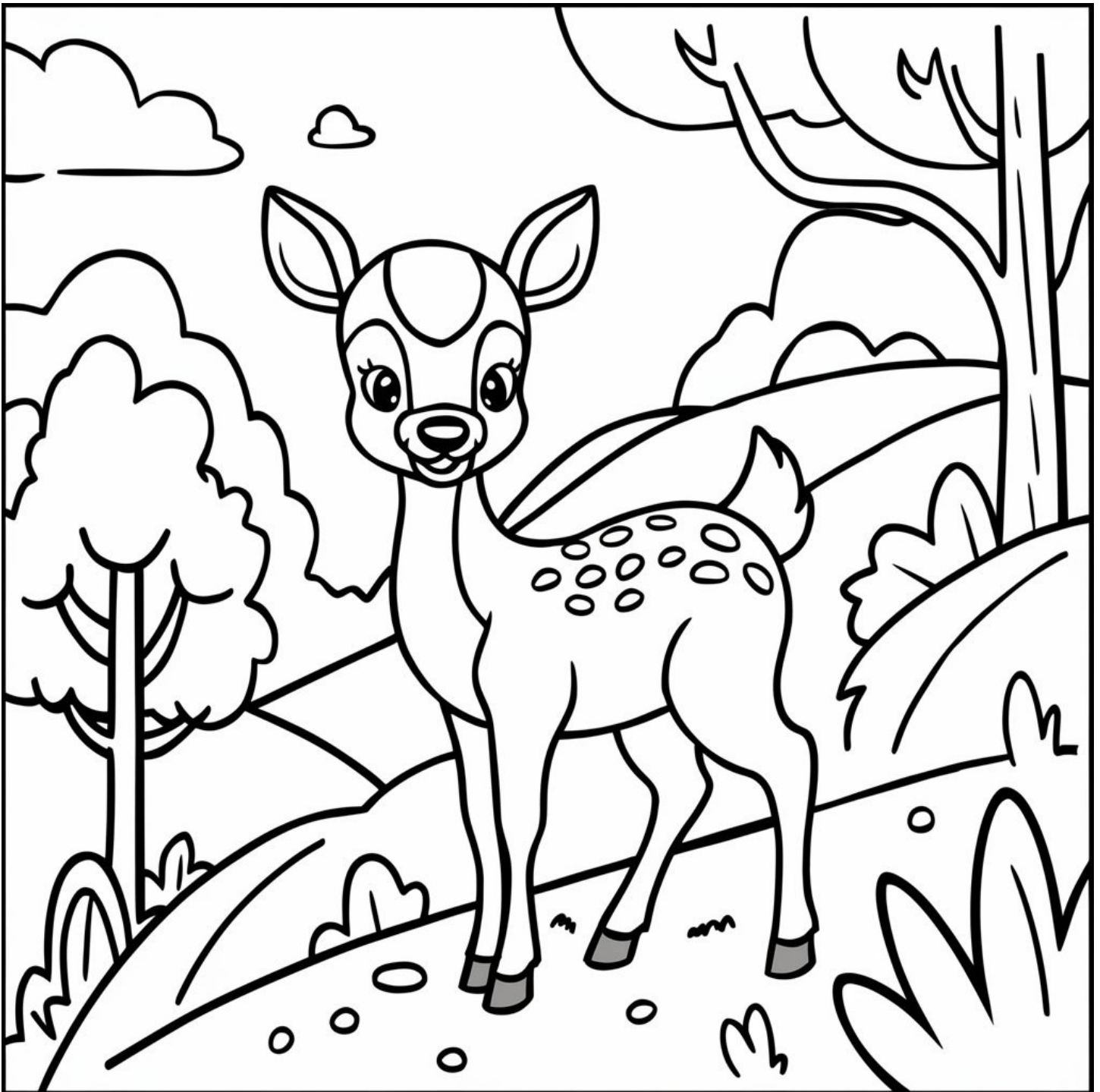


FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

COLORING PAGE

PEACE

A gentle deer reminds us of peace.



Take-Home

Summary

Bible Passage:

John 14:27

Main Point:

Peace comes from God, is made possible by Christ, and is a fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Discuss:

Q: Why should we have peace as Christians?

Q: How is biblical peace different from the peace the world offers?

A: It never ends, it is real, it comes from our God of peace, it is always available to us as we trust in Christ, it is expected of us as believers, etc. -

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 Romans 12:18.

We are commanded to live in peace with one another. What does the verse mean when it says "As far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." Romans 12:18?

(Doing everything in our power to live at peace with

the people around us. This could mean putting aside your own feelings and opinions for the sake of promoting peace.) Are you a peacemaker in our home? Why or why not? What are ways you can change?

Family Activity

Have your kids draw or write out situations in their own lives where they want to experience the peace of God. They could also draw two contrasting pictures: a picture of chaos versus a picture of stillness and peace that comes when we trust in God.

Apply and Pray

Spend time in prayer together. Remember the specific situations your children are going through. Invite them to share if they haven't already. Praise God for the fruit of the Holy Spirit, the peace we are able to have because He lives within us.



Year 1—Quarter 3: God the Holy Spirit

Patience



Every day, we might have to wait or deal with slow things. Some-

times it's little stuff, like waiting for a friend who's moving like a snail when you want to play fast. Or it can be big stuff, like waiting for God to make a sick family member feel better.

When we're good at waiting for the little things, it's like practice for the big waits. It's like if you can wait for your turn on the

swings, you can wait for your birthday to come around! And if someone is making it hard for us to wait, like they took the last cookie and we're really mad, we should remember how God waits for us. We've made mistakes and haven't always been nice, but God isn't mad at us. Instead, He's super patient and loves us a lot! So when we remember how patient God is with us, it can help us be patient with others, even when it's tough.

So, what did we learn? Being patient is like being a superhero of waiting, and it's important to do it just like God does for us!

Class Opening Activity

Have a few oranges to pass out to the class (or whatever fruit you would like, or another type of snack. You can shape this idea to fit your class). Take out a knife and slowly, slowly begin to slice up the oranges. Take your time! Lots of time! When you notice them becoming impatient...

ASK: Can anyone tell me what patience is? (Allow time for response and different ideas.) The dictionary tells us patience is the bearing of pain, misfortune, or annoyance without anger, irritation, or complaint. Bearing is like holding something very heavy. When you are going through something difficult, it can feel like

you are carrying something very heavy everywhere you go. So patience is going through something very hard, or just something very annoying, without getting angry or complaining.

ASK: What is the opposite of patience? (Impatience!) Did it make you irritated when I was taking so much time to pass out the orange slices to you? What are some things you go through each day that make you impatient? (Write their thoughts on the board.)

Power Point

Patience is a fruit of the Spirit available to all believers as they abide in Christ.

MEMORY VERSE

"But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life." 1 Timothy 1:16 (NIV).



Year 1—Quarter 3: God the Holy Spirit



Adventures of Moyo the Baby Elephant

Once, in the heart of the lush jungle, there lived a gentle mother elephant named Elara with her playful calf, Moyo. Moyo was a curious little elephant who loved adventures, but his curiosity often led him into mischief.

One sunny day, Moyo spotted a colorful butterfly and decided to follow it, wandering far from the herd. Elara, with her patient heart, followed her little one's tracks. She found Moyo tangled in vines, trying to reach the butterfly perched on a leaf.

With a loving nudge, Elara untangled Moyo, and the butterfly fluttered away. Moyo looked up at his mother with big, apologetic eyes. Elara let out a soft rumble, a gentle reminder that she was always there for him, no matter what.

The next day, Moyo accidentally splashed the entire herd with mud while playing by the river. The other elephants grumbled, but Elara just chuckled and joined in the fun, turning the mishap into a mud party.

Every day brought a new adventure and a little bit of trouble, but Elara's patience never wavered. She knew that with each misstep, Moyo was learning and growing. And in her wise, loving eyes, that was all that mattered.

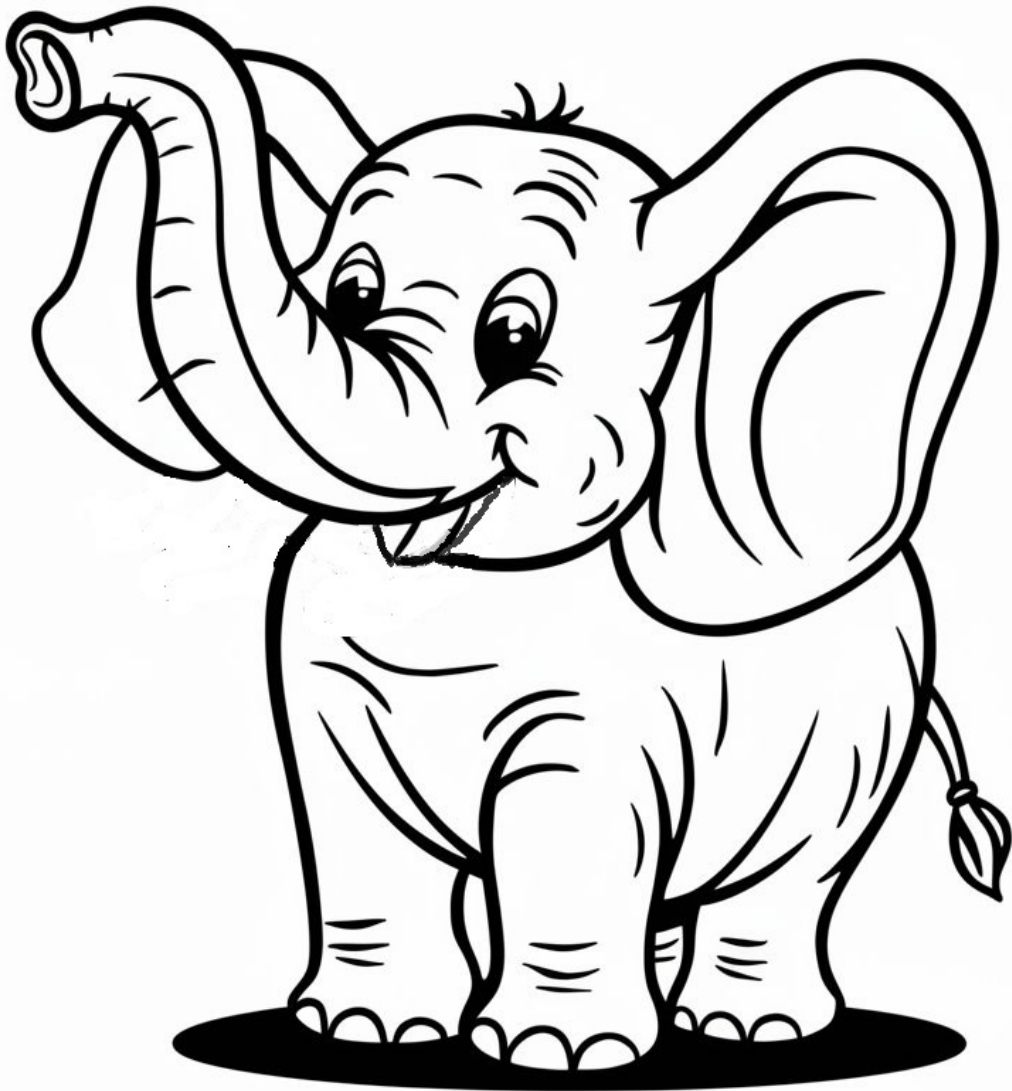
And so, under the watchful eye of his mother, Moyo thrived, surrounded by love, patience, and the occasional butterfly chase.



FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT COLORING PAGE

PATIENCE

Elephants are known for their patience.



Take-Home

Summary

Bible Passages:

1 Tim 1:16; Prov 19:11; Col 1:11; 2 Peter 3:15

Main Point:

Patience is a fruit of the Spirit available to all believers as they abide in Christ.

Discuss:

Q: Why is important to wait your turn?

Q: Can you think of a time when being patient helped you or someone else?

Q: How do you feel when you have to wait for something you really want?

Q: What are some ways we can practice being patient at school or at home?

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 the following Bible passages. After reading each passage, ask one child to tell you in their own words what that verse teaches us about patience.

- Proverbs 19:11
- Colossians 1:11
- 1 Timothy 1:16
- 2 Peter 3:15

Family Activity

Memorize together 1 Timothy 1:16, "But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life." (Use hand motions or write it on the board, erasing one word at a time until everyone is able to say it together without seeing it.)

Apply and Pray

Spend time in prayer together. Remember the specific situations your children are going through. Invite them to share their needs and praises. Praise God for the fruit of the Holy Spirit, the patience we are able to have because He lives within us.



Year 1—Quarter 3: God the Holy Spirit

Kindness

The Bible teaches us that being kind is like a special gift that grows inside us when we have the Holy Spirit. If we believe in Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes to live in our hearts, and helps us to be super kind to everyone!

Now, this doesn't mean we'll be kind every single second—sometimes we might forget. But the more we learn about God and how much He loves us, the more we start to act like Him. Being kind just becomes a part of who we are, like a superhero power that helps us to do good things!

Even when it's hard to be nice to someone, we can re-

member how nice God has been to us. We all make mistakes and do things that aren't very nice, which makes God sad. But instead of being mad at us, God shows us how kind He is by forgiving us and loving us no matter what.

So, when you feel like not being kind, think about how God could have been upset with us for our mistakes. But He wasn't! He forgave us and keeps being kind every day. Let's try to be as kind to others as God is to us. We can do this by talking to God, reading stories about Him, and trying our best to follow His example.

Power Point

Kindness is a fruit of the Spirit

MEMORY VERSE

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgive you.”
Ephesians 4:32 ESV

LESSON INTRODUCTION

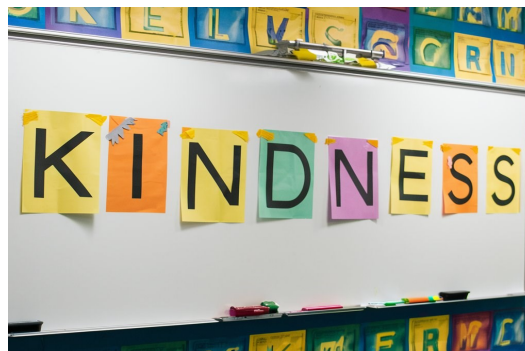
Prior to children arriving, write Galatians 5:22-23 on the board. Then hide each letter of KINDNESS around the room.

After all the children arrive, explain to them that there are eight letters hidden around the room that spell the fruit of the Spirit you will be learning about today.

Now have them search for the letters. After they have found all of the letters, see if they can discover which fruit it is on their own by looking at the verse on the board. Give them clues if they are unable to figure it out. Then

have them spell out KINDNESS by looking at the board and arranging the letters in the right order on the floor or tape them to the board underneath the verse.

Can anyone tell me what kindness is? (Allow them to respond.)



Year 1—Quarter 3: God the Holy Spirit



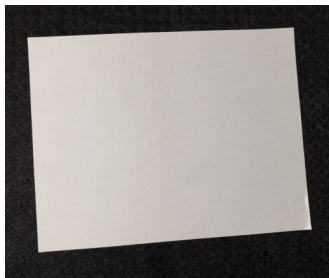
Craft: Kindness Necklace

This idea is based on Proverbs 3:3, "Never let loyalty and kindness leave you! Tie them around your neck as a reminder. Write them deep within your heart." (NLT)

Objects needed: White paper (8.5 X11), scissors, yarn, hole punch, markers

Fold and cut out hearts ahead of class for younger children. (See instructions below)

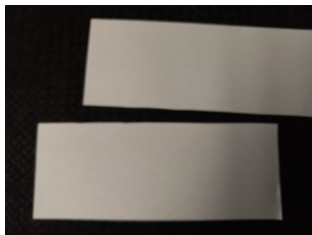
Write "Proverbs 3:3" and "KINDNESS" on the inside. Punch a hole and loop through a length of yarn. Tie a knot. Let children decorate them.



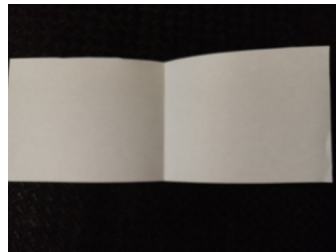
8.5X11 copier paper



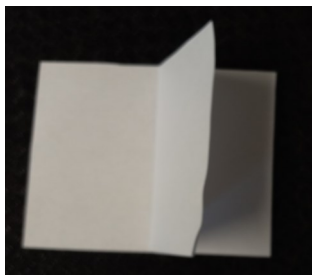
Cut in half (landscape)



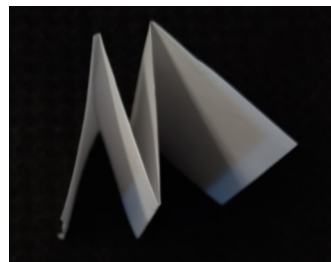
This gives you 2 strips



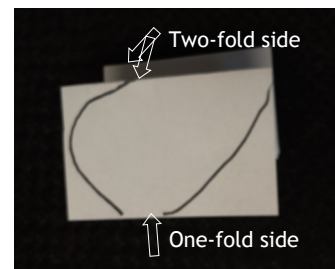
Fold the strip in half



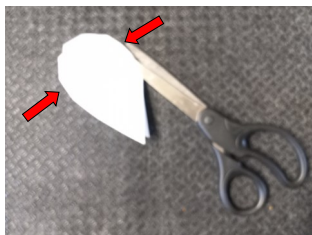
Fold one side in half



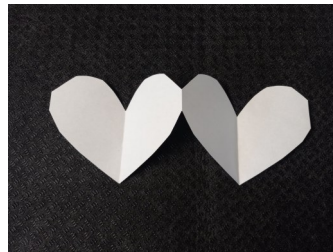
Fold remaining side in half



Draw a half heart shape



Cut the hearts out. Be careful not to cut the folded edges



Unfold the hearts and trim any ragged edges



Write "Prov. 3:3" and "KINDNESS" on them, hole punch and let kid's decorate them.

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT COLORING PAGE

KINDNESS

Pandas are nurturing and caring, especially of their young.



Take-Home

Summary

Bible Passages:

Galatians 5:22-23; Prov 3:3; Micah 6:8; Eph 4:32; Titus 3:3-5a

Main Point:

Kindness is a fruit of the Holy Spirit

Discuss:

Q: Why is it important for us to show kindness?

A: Kindness is a fruit of the Holy Spirit and as believers, we are called to reflect God's kindness to others.

Q: Why is it important to remember God's kindness toward us when we struggle to be kind to others?

A: God's kindness should motivate us to extend the same kindness to others.

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

Titus 3:4-5 says, "...but when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy..."

This verse helps us to discover one of the most important things about kindness – God is our example! He is a God of great kindness, and one of the main ways we see His kindness is through His forgiveness. Have the family draw a picture to help them remember where kindness comes from?

Family Activity

Challenge your family to come up with five kind things they can do this week! They can be things to do at home, at school, or at church. (As the children come up with real ideas they can do this week, write them down. Encourage them to think of things they can do in secret, so that only they and God know. This is the ultimate display of humble kindness, when we do not seek a reward for it.) You could make "Kindness Bags" out of lunch sacks or small gift bags and fill with cards or wrapped snacks to give away.

Apply and Pray

Spend time in prayer together. Remember the specific situations your children are going through. Invite them to share their needs and praises. Praise God for the fruit of the Holy Spirit, the kindness we are able to have because He lives within us.



Year 1—Quarter 3: God the Holy Spirit

Goodness

DO: Begin by reading together Galatians 5:22-23.

SAY: The Bible tells us in this passage that goodness is a Fruit of the Spirit. If we are saved, the Holy Spirit is living inside of us, and we can be people who overflow with goodness! This does not mean that we will be good and do good all the time. But as we come to know God more and more, we change! Goodness becomes part of who we are. With the Spirit living inside of us, He gives the power to do good!

If we are believers, God has promised His goodness to us. This means that whatever happens in our lives, however horri-

ble or bad it may seem, God ultimately intends it for our good. And because He is completely good, it is impossible for Him to do anything not good. When you see and go through terrible times, you have to learn to cling to this truth. Our God is good, all of the time, and the things we think are intended for our harm, He intends for our good.

Remember: goodness grows in us when we get closer to Jesus and understand what true Goodness is, not just by trying harder to be good.

Power Point

Goodness
grows in us
when we get
closer to Jesus

MEMORY VERSE

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up”

Object Lesson: Sand Bucket Goodness

Before Class: Have two sand buckets. Fill one with gross-looking trash. Fill the other with wrapped snacks and candies.

Explain: Here are two sand buckets that look the same. This first one represents what the world calls goodness. The second one represents God’s goodness.

Bucket #1: This kind of goodness does not come from a good heart. It is like being good just so others can see you do it and say, “Oh, what a good person!”

Dump out the trash from bucket #1. Say: see? Nothing but stinky trash is on the inside.

Bucket #2: This is God’s goodness. It comes from His holy character and blesses people just because it is the right thing.

Dump out the “goodness” from bucket #2. See! Now THAT’s goodness. And when the Holy Spirit grows the fruit of goodness in our lives, this God-kind of goodness is what is produced in us.

There is only one way a child (or adult) can be “good,” and that is to fall in love with the good God Who loves us enough to die for us.

Object Lesson: Gross Food

Have disgusting jelly beans (or a fruit the kids won’t like.) Give one to each child. Ask: Does this look good? Try it!

After they try the gross food,

SAY: It looked good on the outside but it was gross on the inside. Humans can be like that too. We can look really good on the outside when we’re actually really gross on the inside. Goodness isn’t just about what we do. It’s about who we are when no one is looking. God knows how easy it is for us to pretend to be good.

We can do all the right things, but if we do them while angry or disrespectful or whiny, it’s not God’s goodness. The world’s goodness and God’s goodness often look the same, but you have to look at the inside, at the heart, to know if it’s really coming from God or not.

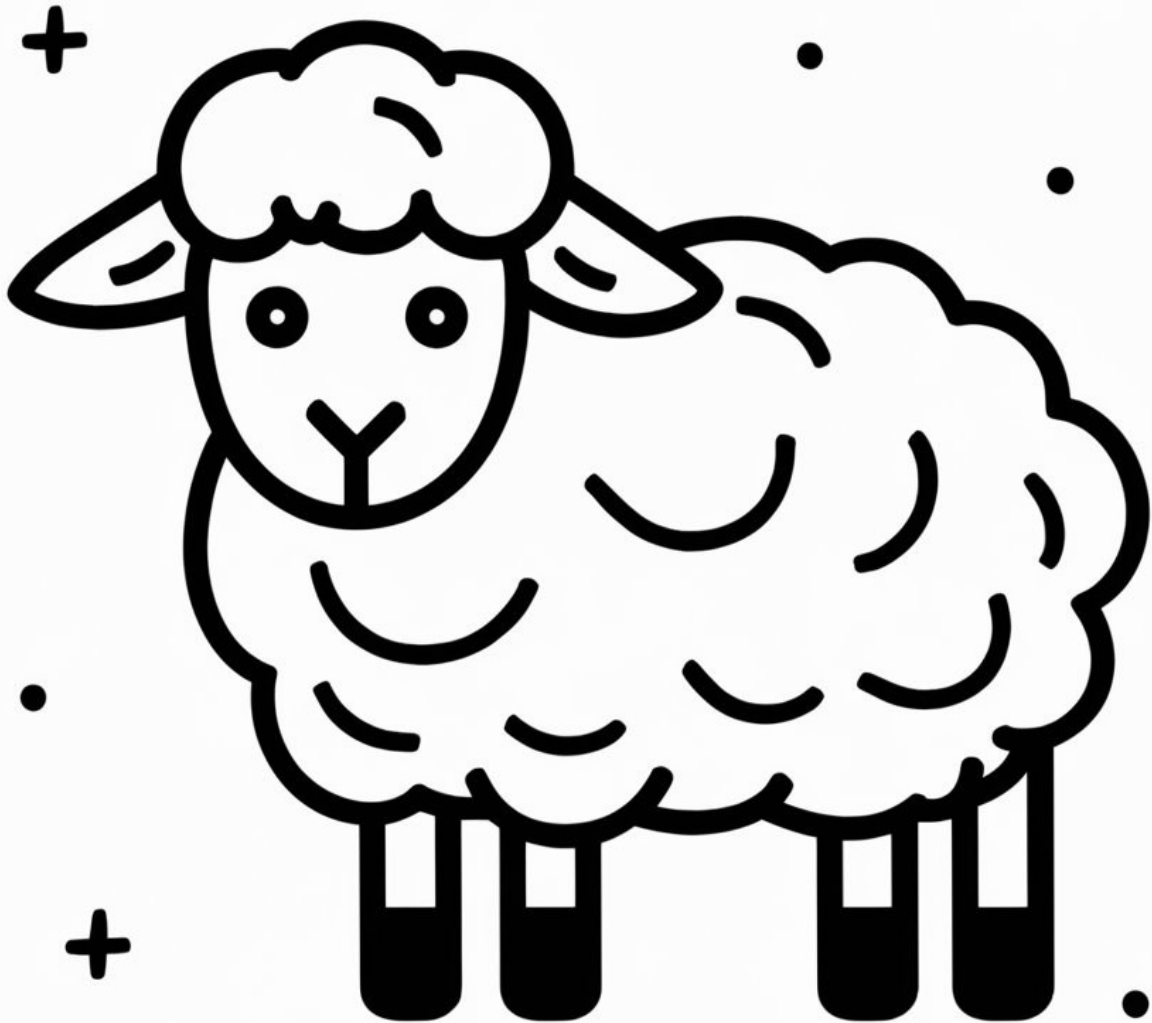
Let’s discover God’s true goodness today.

(Feel free to give kids an actual good-tasting fruit or jelly bean before continuing.)

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT COLORING PAGE

GOODNESS

Sheep are used in the Bible to represent purity and goodness.



Take-Home

Summary

Bible Passages:

Galatians 6:9; Ps. 25:7;
Zech. 9:16-17; Eph. 2:10

Main Point:

Goodness grows in us when we get closer to Jesus.

Discuss:

Q: What is the difference between goodness and kindness?

A: Goodness is an inner quality that comes from God's own goodness while kindness is goodness expressed in our actions toward others.

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

Have kids pretend to be wheat farmers. They can act out moving rocks, making rows, planting seeds, watering and weeding. As they pretend to toil, have them speak Galatians 6:9, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" out loud.

ASK: Is it always easy to be good? What can we learn from this verse?

Family Activity

- Invite kids to write Galatians 6:9 in fancy letters and post on their bedroom wall.
- Have children draw/paint a picture of some of the good gifts God has given them.

Apply and Pray

Teach your kids a breath prayer: As you breathe in, say "How great is the goodness" and as you breathe out, say "you have stored up for me."

Praise God for the fruit of the Holy Spirit, the goodness we are able to do because He lives within us.



Year 1—Quarter 3: God the Holy Spirit

Faithfulness

Hey there, kids! Today we're going to talk about something super cool called **faithfulness**, which is a special power-up we get from God!

So, imagine you have a superhero inside you, and that superhero is the **Holy Spirit**. When you believe in God, the Holy Spirit comes to live in your heart. And guess what? He brings along a backpack full of goodies, and one of those goodies is faithfulness!

Now, faithfulness is a shiny, golden fruit. It's not something we can eat, but it's something we can show to others. It means being a good friend, keeping promises, and sticking by someone no matter what.

Since we aren't perfect, some-

times we might forget to be faithful. But that's okay! Because the more we hang out with God, read the Bible, and talk to Him, the more our faithfulness fruit grows and becomes a big part of who we are. It's like getting stronger and leveling up in a video game!

God is like the biggest waterfall of faithfulness; it just keeps flowing and never stops! So, how can we be like God and level up our faithfulness? We can pray, sing songs to Him, learn His words in the Bible, and do what He says is right. It's like showing up to play on God's team every day!

Remember, kids, with God's fruit of the Spirit inside us, we can be super faithful friends, just like Him!

Power Point

God is faithful even when we are faithless and He can make faithfulness a part of who we are

MEMORY VERSE

1 Samuel 12:24, "Only fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you." (ESV)

LESSON INTRODUCTION: They should make nice Straight lines this time.

Have kids stand on the opposite site of the room from you. Ask them to walk slowly toward you, in as straight a line as possible. While they walk toward you, move around a lot so they can't walk in a straight line.

ASK: Can you walk in a straight line when aiming for me?

Have kids go back to their side. This time, have them choose a stationary object on your side to walk toward.

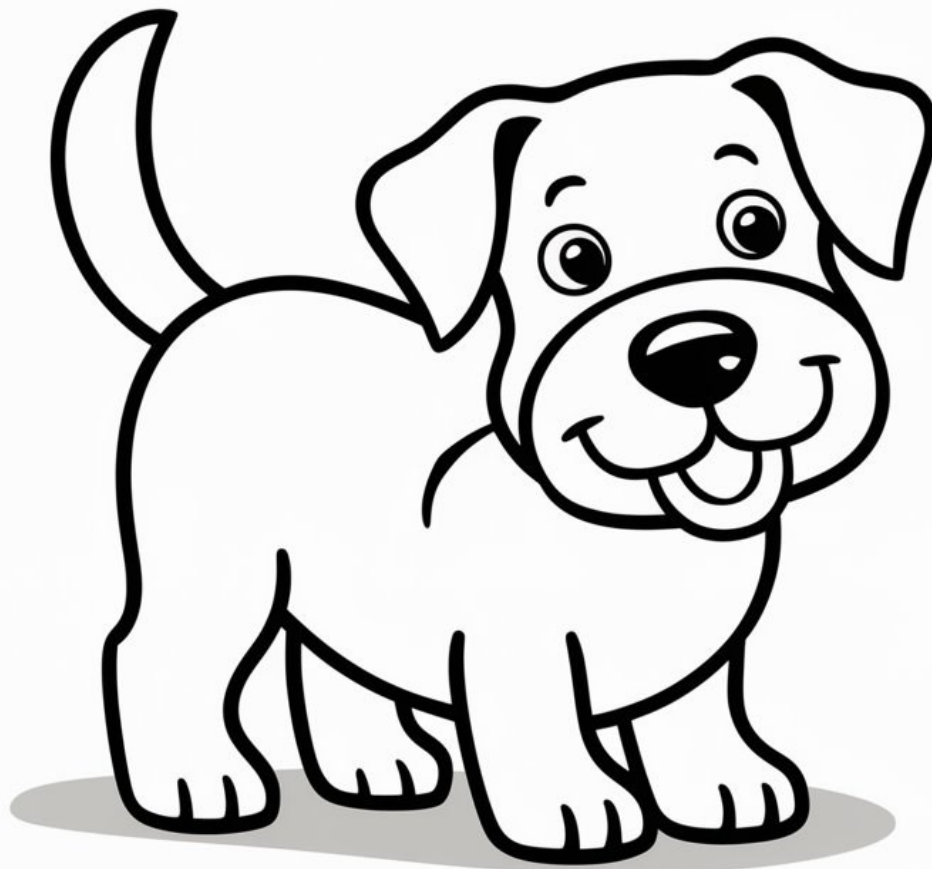
ASK: Can you walk in a straight line when aiming for something that doesn't move?

SAY: Jesus is like that stationary object - faithful and unchanging no matter what. When we keep our spiritual eyes on our faithful Jesus, we can become faithful as well.

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT COLORING PAGE

FAITHFULNESS

Dogs are loyal and faithful.



Take-Home

Summary

Bible Passages:

1 Sam. 12:24; Ps. 86:15;
Ps. 100:5 Rom. 3:3-4

Main Point:

God is faithful even when we are faithless and He can make faithfulness a part of who we are.

Discuss:

Q: What does it mean to be faithful? How is faithfulness different from loyalty?

Q: How does God demonstrate faithfulness in the Bible?

Q: How can we cultivate faithfulness in our own lives? What steps can we take to grow in faithfulness?

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: "Psalm 37:3 says, 'Trust in the Lord and do good things. Live in the land and be a good friend to faithfulness.'"

Say: "The Bible teaches us that being faithful is a big part of who we are when we follow Jesus. What does this part of the Bible teach us about being faithful? What do you think it means to 'be a good friend' to faithfulness? (Let's think about this for a little bit.)"

Explain: When you become friends with someone, you need to spend time with them and work on making your friendship stronger, just like taking care of a plant to help it grow. We should work on being faithful ourselves. This means we should always try to be loyal and true to our family, our friends, and to God. It also means asking God to help us be more faithful, learning about faithfulness from the Bible, and getting to know God better because He is the best example of someone who is always faithful.

Family Activity

Play a game of hide and seek. Afterward, ask: can you ever hide from God? Will God ever hide from you?

Have your kids make up a song about God's faithfulness.

Apply and Pray

What are some ways we can be a good friend to faithfulness?

Teach your kids a breath prayer: As you breathe in, say "When I am faithless" and as you breathe out, say "you remain faithful."



Year 1—Quarter 3: God the Holy Spirit

Gentleness

Hey kids! Imagine you're holding a tiny, cute baby chick. You'd be super careful, right? Because baby chicks are soft and delicate, just like babies. If you have a little brother or sister, you know we have to be extra gentle with them. We don't play rough because we don't want to hurt them. We use soft touches and kind words.

Now, let's play a guessing game! What special thing do you think we're learning about today? If you said **gentleness**, you're right! Being gentle isn't just for babies; it's for everything we do and say. It's like a superpower God gives us to be kind and caring in every way.

Story: A Fable

Aesop's Fable, "The Wind and the Sun" tells us: Once upon a time, the Wind and the Sun were arguing about who was stronger. They saw a man walking with a cozy coat and decided to have a challenge. The Wind said, "I bet I can make that man take off his coat!" So, he blew and blew with all his might. But the man just wrapped his coat tighter around him because it was so cold.

Then it was the Sun's turn. He didn't blow or fuss; he just shone gently and warmly. As the Sun got brighter and warmer, the man felt hot. He took off his cap, wiped his forehead, and finally took off

Remember, we don't become gentle by just trying really hard; we grow gentler by getting to know Jesus better. He's the gentlest friend we could ever have!

Sometimes people think being gentle means you're not strong, but that's not true. Being gentle is like a big, strong lion who decides to be friends with a little lamb. That's real strength! Can you think of times when Jesus was like that gentle lion? He showed us how to be strong and gentle at the same time.



his coat to enjoy the nice weather.

The story shows us that being gentle and kind, like the Sun, can be better than being rough and tough, like the Wind. It teaches us that sometimes, a warm smile can do more than a cold wind!

Power Point

We don't become gentle by just trying hard; we grow gentler by getting to know Jesus better

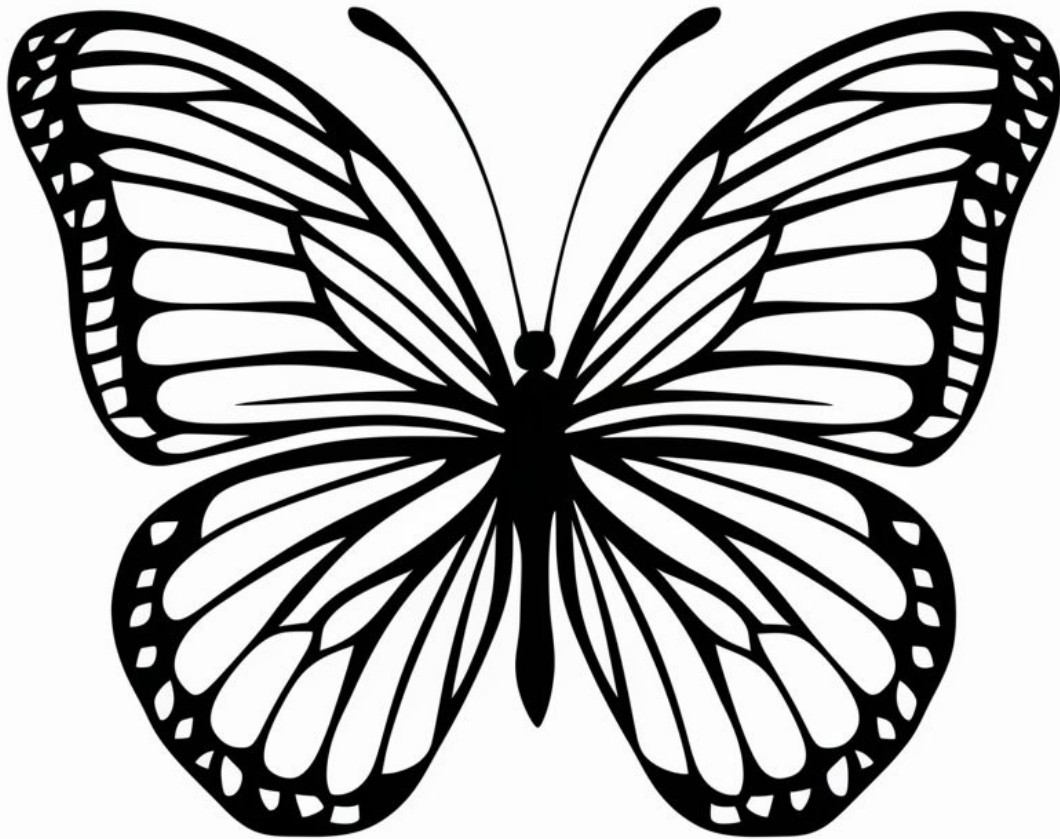
MEMORY VERSE

Proverbs 15:4, "A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit." (ESV)

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT COLORING PAGE

GENTLENESS

Butterflies teach us about gentleness and the beauty of change.



Take-Home

Summary

Bible Passages:

Phil. 4:5; Prov. 15:4;
Matt. 11:28-29; Gal. 6:1

Main Point:

We don't become gentle by just trying really hard; we grow gentler by getting to know Jesus better.

Discuss:

Q: What does it mean to be gentle?

Q: Why is important to be gentle with babies?

Q: How does Jesus model gentleness for us?

Q: How can we grow the fruit of gentleness in our hearts?

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 Matthew 5:39-41

Explain: We often think of gentleness as being weakness, but gentleness is actually best shown when someone very powerful keeps their power under control, like a lion choosing to love a lamb.

Ask: Can you think of some examples of Jesus showing gentleness in the Bible?

Family Activity

Have your kids draw a picture of a powerful person/ animal being super gentle with someone who is weak (for example, a wolf caring for a hamster). Then, have them write Philippians 4:5 at the bottom of the page.

Have your kids act out a skit two times. First time, show a situation they handle without gentleness. Second time,

Apply and Pray

Have a time of silence

Ask the following questions rhetorically: Is gentleness apart of who you are right now? Do your words show gentleness or are they harsh and mean? Do you show gentleness with your actions? Are you a protector, a listener, a comforter to your friends and your family? Let's ask God together to grow the fruit of gentleness in our hearts this week.

Pray together. During your prayer, thank God for His gentle way with us and for Christ, for it is only through Him that we can be changed and produce the Fruit of the Spirit.



Year 1—Quarter 3: God the Holy Spirit

Self-Control

Self-control is being the boss of your own feelings, what you do, and what you think. It means doing the right thing, even when it's tough or you don't feel like it. It's like being nice to someone who wasn't nice to you, or cleaning your room as soon as your mom asks, without any fuss. And it's about waiting calmly for something you really want, because you know that waiting is better than getting it right away.

Remember the marshmallow game we played? Some friends ate their marshmallow quickly, but self-control is waiting for

two treats later, even though it's hard!

And who's the best at self-control? That's right, Jesus! He never did anything wrong, and even when He was tempted, He didn't give in. He's like our superhero for self-control. In the Bible, in Matthew 4:1-11, Jesus shows us how to have self-control when He says 'no' to temptations three times.

The more we learn about Jesus, the more we can be like Him and have self-control with His help!

Power Point

Self-control is modeled perfectly in Christ, is made possible through Him, and is a fruit of the Holy Spirit.

MEMORY VERSE

Proverbs 25:28, "A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls." ESV

INTRODUCTION: ACTIVITY

DO: Set out a tray of marshmallows or another yummy snack after all your children have arrived. When they ask about it,

SAY: Each of you can have a marshmallow right now if you want it...but...if you wait until the end of class, you can have two marshmallows! I am going to put the tray down over here. If you decide to eat the one marshmallow now, please grab one soon. At the end of class, I will pass out two marshmallows to everyone who decides

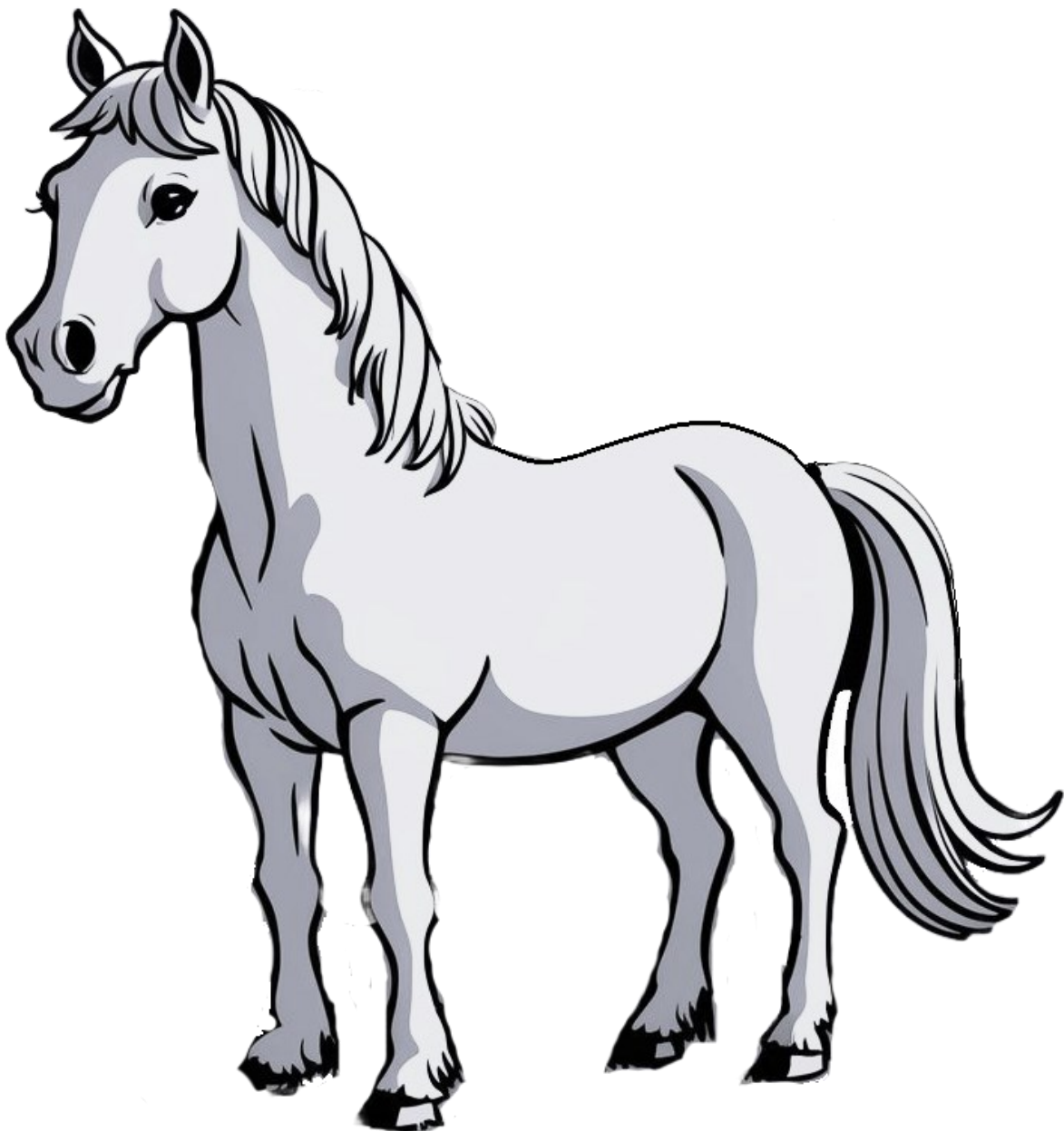
to wait. (Allow them to think for a few moments and then put the



FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT COLORING PAGE

SELF-CONTROL

A tamed horse exhibits self-control and strength.



Take-Home

Summary

Bible Passage:

Mark 7:21-23; Prov. 25:28; Matt. 4:1-11

Main Point:

Self-control is modeled perfectly in Christ, is made possible through Him, and is a fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Discuss:

Q: What is self-control and why is it important?

Q: How can we display self-control in our actions, thoughts, and feelings?

Q: How did Jesus demonstrate self-control when He was tempted by Satan?

Q: How does the Holy Spirit help us in developing self-control?

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

Have your kids look up and read Mark 7:21-22.

Ask them: What type of mind-junk do you struggle with?

Lead them in a breath prayer: As you breathe in, say "You have not given me a spirit of fear" and as you breathe out, say "but of power, of love, and of self-control."

Family Activity

DO: Instruct your children to build a small city out of blocks. The city needs a wall around it to protect it from enemies. As they start, read Proverbs 25:28, "A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls."

ASK: What would happen if enemies came to this city and knocked the walls down? (They could get in-the people would be unprotected from another attack.)

Apply and Pray

Praise God for the Fruit of the Holy Spirit, the self-control we are able to have because He lives within us. It is only through Christ, who lived a perfect life, that we are able to have self-control and the other Fruit of the Spirit. He has redeemed us, and though we will never be perfect, we can become more and more like Him as we follow Him during our lives on earth.

Spend time in prayer together. Remember the specific situations your children are going through.