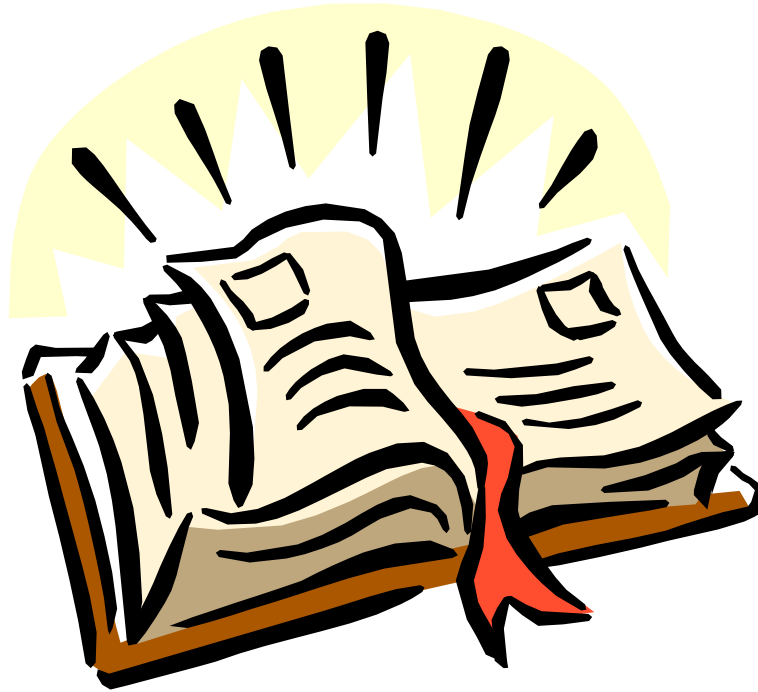


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF: _____

LESSON TITLE: The Fruit of the Spirit



THEME: God desires to produce in us the fruit of His Spirit!

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 5:22-26

Dear Parents...

Welcome to Bible Time for Kids! This is a series of daily devotions for children and their families. Our purpose is to supplement our Sunday morning curriculum and give you an opportunity to encourage your children to develop a daily devotional life. We hope you and your family will be blessed as you study God's Word together.

This week we learned about The Fruit of the Spirit. The theme was "God desires to produce in us the fruit of His Spirit." The Bible tells us that the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Wow! What wonderful things to have coming out of our lives.

In our devotions this week we will look closer at the fruit of the Spirit, how we can have the fruit of the Spirit coming out of our lives and what a fruitful life looks like. We will learn that the Holy Spirit is the one who produces this kind of life in us. Not us trying to be something that we are not.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Galatians 5:22-26**. The following five devotions are based on either the scripture and/or the theme for Sunday's lesson. As a starting point it would be good for you to review these verses with your children.

These devotions are designed to help you reinforce Sunday's lesson throughout the week with your children, provide some more ideas for the application of God's Word in your children's lives and provide a tool to help in family devotions.

Obviously children at various age levels will respond to the devotional in different ways. You may want to add your own ideas to these to make them more age appropriate.

May the Lord bless you as you study His Word together!

Day One

Gotta Be Attached!

Text: John 15:4 – “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.”

Also read John 15:1-11

Joel, Haylee, Jimmy and Sarah were all good friends. They have all lived in the same neighborhood for years and would get together almost every day for some new adventure. Well, summertime was here and the gang was a bit bored. One day they were all sitting under a tree in Haylee's front yard when Joel piped up and said, “Hey! Let's don't just sit around. Let's make some money this summer so we can buy some tickets to the water slide park.” “Sounds great, but how are a bunch of kids going to make money?” Haylee replied.

“Well, I have that all covered”, Joel said. “My grandpa has a lot of land with a bunch of fruit trees. He told my family that we could have as much fruit as we want. I thought we would just go out to his ranch, get a bunch of fruit, and set up a fruit stand right here near the road. Then we wait for the customers to come to us and buy up all of our fruit!” “What a great way to get waterslide park tickets!” Jimmy said. “Maybe my mom can take us all to your grandpa's house tomorrow,” Sarah said.

The next day all four children piled into Sarah's mom's car and headed to Joel's grandpa's ranch. When they got there, Joel's grandpa was glad to help out. “Sure, you guys can pick as much fruit as you like. But stay away from the fruit that has fallen on the ground, that fruit is rotten.” “But wouldn't it be easier just to pick up the fruit on the ground?” Sarah asked. “Well, I suppose, but when the fruit is no longer attached to the tree it goes bad,” grandpa replied. “The best fruit is the fruit that is still attached to the tree.”

“It's kind of like what Jesus told His disciples one day, it's in the book of John. In order for us to bear fruit we have to remain attached to Jesus. Jesus said that we are like branches; the fruit that we produce are things like love, joy, peace, etc. The only way these things can be produced in our lives is by remaining attached to Him. He is kind of like the trunk of the tree. If we remove ourselves from Him, our fruit will go bad, like the fruit that falls to the ground. Well, enjoy picking the fruit and hope you all make enough to go to the waterslides.” Everyone grabbed their buckets and went to pick fruit.

Continued on Day Two...

- How can we produce spiritual fruit in our lives?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Abide: To remain or stay in; to live in.

Day Two

The Fruit of Love

Text: Galatians 5:22a - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love..."

Also read 1 Corinthians 13:1-8

Continued from Day One... Joel had always acted like the "unofficial" leader of the group. Even though most of the time it was only in his mind. He immediately looked at the task at hand and began to bark out orders. "OK, Jimmy you need to get that ladder near the barn and go to that tree. Sarah, you need to get 10 buckets near the house and come back over here. Haylee, you need to go inside and ask grandma if she would let you make a nice pitcher of lemonade for us when we are all done. There, does everyone know their assignments?"

Everyone started to head into their directions when Haylee stopped and said, "Hey, wait a minute, what are you going to do?" "Well, I'm the supervisor. I need to count the fruit in the buckets as they arrive under this tree where I'll be sitting." "Oh, well make sure you don't strain a muscle in your finger while you are counting!" Haylee replied. "Oh yeah? It's not easy being the leader; I have a lot of responsibility you know." Tempers were beginning to rise and Haylee raised her voice and said, "Who made you the leader? I quit!" Haylee stormed off and sat down in a lawn chair in front of grandpa's house. Joel thought to himself, "Now who is going to make the lemonade?" He looked over at Jimmy and Sarah who had watched this whole scene. "What are you guys looking at? Do you want to quit too?" Joel said sharply. Jimmy replied, "Maybe we will if that's how you're going to be."

Grandpa realized this entire business venture was in danger of blowing up not to mention some friendships. Grandpa asked grandma to make some lemonade while he went out to talk to the children. He asked them all to gather around. "I want to tell you about a very special kind of fruit. It is the fruit of love. You see, love is the fruit of the Spirit. Now Joel, you like being the leader. Let me tell you about a great leader in the Bible. His name is the Apostle Paul. He did a lot of great things in his life for the Lord. But he said that all of those things would be completely worthless if it wasn't for one thing...LOVE." "I guess I wasn't very loving when I told everyone what to do." Joel said. "Please forgive me everyone". "We forgive you," they replied. Grandpa just smiled and asked, "Don't we have some fruit to pick?" All the children began to work at picking fruit, but this time they were doing it together. **Continued on Day Three...**

- What was Joel missing when he began to give orders to the other children?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Love: The fruit of the Spirit.

Day Three

The Fruit of L-o-n-gsuffering

Text: Galatians 5:22 - "But the fruit of the Spirit is...longsuffering..."

Also read Ephesians 4:1-3

Continued from Day Two... The friends were now finally ready to start selling their fruit. They had a table set up in front of Haylee's house. They figured this would be the best spot since most of the cars in the neighborhood go right by her house. They decorated the table and displayed their fresh fruit. They made up signs to let everyone know that they had a fruit stand. Then they pulled up four lawn chairs and waited for the customers to come.

Jimmy began to daydream and shared with the other kids how he could not wait to make enough money to buy the waterslide tickets. He could already imagine going down the new "Big Blaster", the latest, greatest waterslide at the park. All of the children began to talk about their favorite part of the park and to plan out their great day. Then an hour passed by, then another hour, and then another hour. It was getting close to dinnertime.

"Where's all the customers?" Jimmy asked. "Maybe they just aren't interested in buying fruit today", Sarah replied. "I think we just need to be patient", Haylee shared. "Last Sunday at church our lesson was about longsuffering, which means being patient. We learned that when things don't go the way that we plan that we need to trust in the Lord, not get upset." "Well, how **long** does this **suffering** have to go on?" Jimmy asked. "I don't know," Haylee replied. "Maybe we should pray and ask the Lord if He even wants us to go to the waterslides and if He is OK with it then everything will work out."

Haylee prayed a short prayer to ask the Lord what He would like for them to do. She then asked Him to help them to have patience. Just after the prayer a lady stopped her car and backed up. "Maybe this is a customer?" Joel exclaimed. She walked up to the stand, looked at the fruit and looked like she was thinking. All eight eyes were glued to the lady as she began to speak. "I'll take two buckets full of fruit." "Wow, really?" was the first thing out of Jimmy's mouth. Haylee jabbed him with her elbow and said, "Thank you, we'll be glad to get that ready for you." After the lady left Jimmy went to Haylee and said, "I guess I should be a little more patient next time." Haylee just smiled and said, "I think the Lord wants us all to be more longsuffering." **Continued on Day Four...**

- Have you had a difficult time when you had to be longsuffering? Tell about it.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Longsuffering: patiently waiting or accepting things; enduring things that are sometimes difficult.

Day Four

The Fruit of Self-Control

Text: Galatians 5:22 – “But the fruit of the Spirit is...self-control...”

Also read Daniel 1:1-21 (Daniel is an example of self-control)

Continued from Day Three... Now the gang had their very first sale of fruit. And what a sale it was! Two whole buckets of fruit! They were now half way to their goal of buying their waterslide park tickets. But not more than five minutes had passed when all of a sudden, from out of nowhere came that familiar song; it was the neighborhood ice cream truck. Sarah's jaw almost fell to the ground. Joel's eyes bugged out. Haylee and Jimmy could almost taste the ice cream already. It had been such a long, hot and tiring day and the ice cream seemed to be calling out their names.

“Oh, what I wouldn't give for a double fudgesicle”, Joel said. “And think of the drumsticks and ice cream sundaes,” Sarah added. “Let's count our money again”. The kids furiously counted the money. “Still the same amount”, Jimmy said. “Let's just take a few dollars and buy an ice cream, it won't hurt much,” Haylee shared. Jimmy was already about to jump up and flag down the ice cream truck driver when Joel started to say something.

“You know, we should really wait and not buy an ice cream. Think about how much work we had to do to go out to grandpa's house and pick the fruit. Then we had to wait all day for a sale and now if we spend money on ice cream there is no way we can sell enough fruit to make the money we need to go to the waterslide park”. The other three children thought for a moment. The ice cream truck drove right in front of their stand. Visions of ice cream faded into the distance.

“I guess you're right Joel, we did work hard to get what we have. We need to save our money for the waterslide park tickets.” Just then Jimmy's dad walked over to the stand. “How are all of you doing?” “Okay, now that the ice cream truck left”, Haylee replied. “How much fruit do you have left?” Jimmy's dad asked. The children showed him what was left in the buckets. “I'll tell you what. I'll buy the rest of this fruit from you. There is a new family coming to our church who is needing some extra groceries right now, I know that this fruit would be a blessing to them.” **Continued on Day Five...**

- What did the gang learn about self-control in our story today.
- What are some areas that you need to have self-control in?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Self-control: Staying in charge of my thoughts, my feelings, and my actions rather than letting them rule me.

Day Five

Fruit is for Others

Text: John 15:16 - "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain..."

Also read James 2:14-16

Continued from day Four... "Thank you Mr. Johnson", Joel said. The children have now sold all of their fruit and have enough money to buy four tickets to the waterslide park. But they just weren't as excited as they thought they would be. "You know, I met the family that my dad was talking about at church last Sunday. Their dad just lost his job and they have three children. Also, their new baby was real sick and had to go to the hospital. I really feel bad for them." "What should we do?" Haylee asked. "Maybe we need to pray about that." The children bowed their heads and prayed for the Lord to help the family and if they could do anything for them.

"I'm wondering if maybe we need to help out that family also", Joel said. "I think you are right", Sarah said. "All those in favor of giving our fruit stand money to this family raise your hand." There was silence for a moment, but one by one all four hands went up into the air. "It's settled then, we'll help this family by giving them our fruit stand money." They gave the money to Jimmy to give to his father to take with him when he dropped off the fruit.

The next day Jimmy ran over to Haylee's house. Joel and Sarah were already there. Jimmy was jumping up and down and screaming like a crazy person. "What's with Jimmy?" Haylee asked. "I don't know but he has something in his hand", Sarah said. Jimmy went up to the other kids, out of breath and said, "Hey, you won't believe this. Last night my mom was listening to a Christian radio station and they had this contest to call in. She called in and won four tickets to the waterslide park next Saturday." "No way!" the others shouted together. So the following Saturday they all went together to the waterslide park.

They had learned a lot with their little fruit stand, but most of all they learned a little bit more about the fruit of the Spirit. The Lord wants to have His fruit come out of our hearts and lives. All we need to do is to allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives and His fruit will naturally grow. It begins by asking Jesus into your life. The Holy Spirit will then live in your heart and help you to grow the fruit of the Spirit.

- Is the fruit that the Lord grows in our lives for us or for others?

Kid's Prayer Time



This week as you pray, ask the Lord to grow His fruit in your life.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"If we live in the
Spirit, let us also
walk in the Spirit."

Third Grade and Above

"If we live in the
Spirit, let us also
walk in the Spirit."

Galatians 5:25