

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Luke 6:43-45; John 15:5, 8; Matthew 13:3-8; Ephesians 5:9; Ph. 1:11; Galatians 5:19-21

Lesson Objective: Students should understand that Christians should bear good fruit, while sinners bear the destructive fruit of sin.

Materials: Paper/Poster board, pencils, markers, pictures of fruit trees

Memory Verse: "Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God" (Philippians 1:11).

Lesson Summary

(If possible, begin by showing pictures of fruit trees and by asking students what kind of tree each is and how they know.) You knew the type of tree I showed you because you recognized its fruit. The Bible tells us that we are like those fruit trees. Jesus spoke to us in Luke about how good trees have good fruit and bad trees have bad fruit. He was speaking of us! As sinners, Galatians 5:19-21 describes the kind of bad fruit we will produce. We are all born into sin and this means we will have the traits or fruits of a sinner. We can lie, hate, steal, and even destroy things because we have sin in our hearts. What a sad story this would be if this were our only choice! However, because of Jesus, we have another choice. When we ask Jesus to forgive us for our sins, believing He is God's son, and ask Him to come into our hearts, then we are saved and become Christians. This means our life or tree is completely changed. The Bible tells us in John 15:5 that we become part of God's vine. Through Christ, we then are able to bear different fruit. This fruit is good and righteous. Our memory verse states we are "filled with fruits of righteousness by Jesus and to the praise and glory of God." You see, this good fruit is not something we can produce by ourselves. Remember, we are born producing bad fruit; but Jesus gives us new life, and through Him we can produce good fruit that brings glory and praise to God. As Christians, we should always want to produce that good fruit so that God will be glorified! Just as fruit trees are known by the fruit they produce, we will be known by the spiritual fruit we produce. Let's ask God to help us bear good fruit!

Bible Point:
Bear
Good Fruit.



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Have students place their arm and hand on the construction paper or poster board, and trace it to make a tree.
2. Allow students to decorate and create "fruit" for their tree with labels such as love, kindness, peace, and so on.
3. Display these in the classroom for the entirety of the unit.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. How do we know what kind of fruit tree is shown in the picture?
2. How will people know we are Christians?
3. Can you give examples of good fruit and bad fruit?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Ephesians 5:9-11; John 14:15-17; 1 John 3:24; 1 John 4:13; John 14:26; John 15:26

Lesson Objective: Students will understand God's Spirit produces fruit that is good, right, and true.

Materials: Drinking straws, card stock or construction paper, glue, large mirror

Memory Verse: "Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit" (1 John 4:13).

Lesson Summary

Jesus tells us in the Bible that we are to bear good fruit, but we cannot do this in ourselves. So how do we bear good fruit? (Allow students time to respond.) God's Spirit is what allows us to bear good fruit. The Bible tells us His spirit is the one who lets us know we are sinners in need of a Savior. The Holy Spirit is real, and his job is to show us Christ and to teach us to be like him. We know that God is good, right, and true. Therefore, God's Spirit (The Holy Ghost) is good, right, and true. (Bring out the mirror.) Let's look at this mirror. When you look in a mirror, what do you see? Yes, you see a reflection of yourself. We are supposed to allow the Holy Spirit to change us to look more like Christ, but not in our hair color, eyes, or physical traits. We should look more like Christ in how we act, what we say, and the way we treat others. The Holy Spirit wants to live inside each of us to help us become more like Christ. He will change our reflection to look more like Jesus. Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments (John 14:15). Jesus then went on to explain how the Spirit of truth or God's Spirit was sent so that we can be empowered to serve God and keep His commandments. It is God's Spirit working in us that allows us to bear good fruit. Without His Spirit, there would be no way for us to experience new life in Christ. God's plan was to send His Spirit to be our teacher, our helper, and our guide. It is through the Spirit, that we experience conviction, and then the change after we are saved. His spirit continues to help us become trees that bear good fruit known as the Fruit of the Spirit.

Bible Point:
God's Spirit



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. On card stock or construction paper, write names given for the Holy Spirit: Teacher, Spirit of Truth, Comforter, Helper, etc.
2. Cut pieces of **drinking straws for students to glue above the names, then hang them in the classroom to remind them of the work of God's Spirit. **If drinking straws are not available, you could use things in nature: sticks, small pebbles, etc. to glue above the words.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why is God's Spirit so important?
2. Can we bear good fruit without God's Spirit? Why or Why not?
3. How do we know or recognize God's Spirit?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Galatians 5:16-24

Lesson Objective: Students will learn the fruit of the Spirit and its importance in the lives of believers.

Materials: bowls, fruit (ripe, good), fruit (rotten, overly ripe), knife

Memory Verse: "But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" (Galatians 5:22-23).

Lesson Summary

How many of you like to eat fruit? (Show students the good fruit.) Why do people like fruit so much? (Allow students to respond.) Not only is fruit sweet to eat, but it is also good for you. Paul knew this when he wrote to a group of people called the Galatians. He began to describe the fruit of the Spirit as being love, joy, peace, longsuffering (patience), gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance (self-control). He said there is no law against these things because they are good, much like the fruit we enjoy eating. As Christians, it is important that we allow the Holy Spirit to produce these spiritual fruits in our lives in order to point others toward Christ. These good fruits will help us to win others to Christ. Paul knew these fruits or characteristics were crucial in the life of Christians. As we allow the Holy Spirit to teach and help us, we will reflect more of the fruit of the Spirit within our lives. These fruits transform us into the image of Christ. Now let's look at this other fruit (i.e. the rotten and over-ripened fruit). What do you notice about this fruit? We are going to make a fruit salad out of this fruit. This is still fruit, but it is not good fruit. We learned in our first lesson that sin has its own fruit. It is important to remember the fruit of sin is the opposite of the fruit of the Spirit. As you can see, this is not good fruit, and no one wants to eat it. The world has plenty of this bad fruit: hate, envying, murders, and many others (Galatians 5:19-21). We, as Christians, are commanded to show the world God's love. We can only do that when we allow the Holy Spirit to produce the good fruits in each of us.

Bible Point:
The Fruit
of the
Spirit



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Have two bowls set up. In the first bowl, cut up pieces of a variety of ripe, good fruit. In the second bowl cut up overly ripe or rotten fruit.
2. Ask students which fruit salad they want to eat. Why?

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What are the fruit of the Spirit?
2. How do we bear this kind of fruit?
3. What is the purpose of the fruit of the Spirit?

Lesson: Love

Lesson Text: John 13:34-35; Galatians 5:13-14;

1 John 4:7-8

April 22, 2018

Writer: Kara Spicer

Teacher Preparation

Readings: John 13:34-35; Galatians 5:13-14; 1 John 4:7-8; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; John 3:16

Lesson Objective: Students will understand love is the greatest of God's commandments.

Materials: fishing line or yarn, small stick or tree limb, heart shaped cut-outs, scissors, markers, hole punch

Memory Verse: "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35).

Lesson Summary

What is love? We are commanded to love each other that the world will know we are Jesus' disciples. However, Jesus said even more about love. He not only commanded we love our brothers and sisters, but also to love our enemies (Matthew 5:44). The entire Bible is full of examples and commandments regarding love. In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul told the church at Corinth that if we don't have love, other spiritual gifts mean nothing! Love was the reason God sent Jesus to die for us on the cross (John 3:16). Love is an important part of the fruit of the Spirit. If we want to be known as one of Jesus' disciples, then we must have love and show it to others. How do we show love? If we want people to know we love them, not only do we tell them, but we must also show them. Loving others means putting their needs first. If we want to show love to kids at school, we cannot be selfish. We must think of others first. We also show love by being kind, not only to our friends but also to those that may not be kind to us. We can only do this by allowing the Holy Spirit to teach and help us. Showing love will help win souls to Christ!



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Give each student a tree limb or stick and tie several pieces of fishing line or yarn on each limb.
2. Distribute heart-shaped cutouts and ask students to write examples of showing love on each one (Note: give each student several cutouts).
3. Punch a hole in each cutout and tie to the stick with fishing line or yarn. This creates a "Love Mobile" to hang in the classroom for decoration.

Bible Point:
Love

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What is love?
2. Who does Jesus tell us we should love?
3. Why is love such an important fruit?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Psalm 100; Psalm 16:11; 1 John 1:1-4; Psalm 5:11; Job 33:26

Lesson Objective: Students will learn that the joy of the Lord should be evident in the life of the Christian.

Materials: Bubbles or balloons, pictures of people smiling (could be personal or those found on the internet or in magazines)

Memory Verse: "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore" (Psalm 16:11).

Lesson Summary

Begin the lesson by either blowing bubbles or hitting balloons with the children. Have students describe how bubbles or balloons make them feel. Explain that JOY is much like happiness, but it does not depend on our circumstances. Explain that joy is from the Lord. We can experience joy, even when our life might have challenges. Relate the story of Job and how he lost everything. Then share the Scripture from Job 33:26. Explain that Job's joy came from his relationship with God, not his stuff. Describe some of the hard times David faced and then share some of the Scriptures on joy. Psalm 100 tells us to "serve the Lord with gladness." If we are Christians, we should find joy in knowing that we are saved, and serving the Lord should bring us happiness. Our lives on Earth are only temporary, but we who are saved will live with Jesus someday in heaven. This should give us joy. Joy makes us different from the world, and as part of the fruit of the Spirit, it allows Christians to witness to the world. Many people in this world are sad and hopeless. When they see us face hard times, but still have joy, they begin to want what we have. The Holy Spirit can help us have joy like Job and David. Even though these men faced hard times, they knew the God they served and trusted Him to take care of their circumstances. Jesus is our Joy!

Bible Point:
Joy in
the Lord.



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Show the pictures of people smiling and discuss why students think they are happy.
2. Talk about the difference between things that make us happy and the Joy of the Lord.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Can we have joy when we are facing hard times?
2. Where does joy come from?
3. Why do sinners need to see that Christians have joy?