

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 23, 2018





SERIES OVERVIEW

Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to strengthen, encourage, and help us. When we listen to the Holy Spirit, we start developing a specific set of character qualities the Bible calls the "Fruit of the Spirit." The Bible calls it fruit because it shows up when we are growing in our faith.

WEEKLY MAIN POINTS

Week 1: God gave me the Holy Spirit.

Week 2: The Holy Spirit helps me grow love, joy, and peace. Week 3: The Holy Spirit helps me grow patience, kindness, and goodness.

WEEK 4: THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS ME GROW FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS, AND SELF-CONTROL.

WEEKLY BIBLE STORIES

Week 1: Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit • John 14:15-17, 25-27

WEEKS 2-4: THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT • GALATIANS 5:22-23

SERIES MEMORY VERSE

"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." Galatians 5:22-23, NLT

KID CONNECT

KID CONNECT is a time to welcome kids to eGroup with a fun activity to help them feel comfortable and guide them in connecting with the eGroup Leader and each other. **KID CONNECT ENDS WHEN THE WORSHIP EXPERIENCE BEGINS.**

MAIN POINT

The Holy Spirit helps me grow faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

BIBLE STORY

The Fruit of the Spirit Galatians 5:22-23

MEMORY VERSE

"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and selfcontrol." Galatians 5:22-23, NLT

APPLES TO APPLES

WHAT YOU NEED: Motion check-in sheet (1), Big Picture Apples to Apples (1 game set)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Start by introducing yourself and welcoming kids to your eGroup. As kids come in, write their names and tag numbers on the Motion check-in sheet.
- Ask them about their week and interests. Use the following questions to generate discussion:
 - What's something cool that happened this week?
 - Have you _____ (seen/eaten/listened to/read) any good _____ (movies/TV shows/food/music/books) lately?
 - What are you looking forward to next week?

Once you have five to six kids begin playing Big Picture Apples to Apples!

- Shuffle a stack of Red Apple cards together and place them face down in the center of the eGroup. Shuffle the Green Apple cards and place them face down beside the Red Apple cards.
- Explain that the goal of the game is to collect the most Green Apple cards by making the best pairs.
- Choose a player to be the first judge. The judge will deal five Red Apple cards face-down to each player (including him/herself). Players may look at their own cards but should not show them to anyone else.
- The judge will take a Green Apple card from the top of the stack, choose one of the words, read it aloud, then place the card face up in the center of the eGroup.
 - eGroup Leader Tip: Be prepared to help younger readers read the words on the card.
- All players (except the judge) should choose the Red Apple card from their hand that goes best with the word on the Green Apple card and place their card face down in front of themselves.
- Once all players have placed a card in front of themselves, the judge will count to three. On three, all players will turn over the cards they selected.
- Each player can have 10-15 seconds to "make their case" to the judge. Players should explain why their card is the best pairing for the word on the Green Apple card. Their goal is to convince the judge to choose their card as the best pair!
- The judge will select the Red Apple card he/she thinks is best described by the Green Apple card. The Green Apple card will be awarded to the player who played that Red Apple card.
- Discard all Red Apple cards from the round. The player to the left of the judge becomes the new judge. Continue play as long as time permits. The player with the most Green Apple cards wins!

GROUP CONNECT

In the **GROUP CONNECT** activity, kids will get to know each other and review the Motion rules. **After this activity, GO TO LARGE GROUP.**

MAIN POINT

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BIBLE STORY

The Fruit of the Spirit Galatians 5:22-23

MEMORY VERSE

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FRUIT BASKET QUESTIONS

WHAT YOU NEED: painter's tape (1 roll)

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Welcome to eGroup! My name is ______ and I'm your eGroup leader! As an eGroup we will hang out together during Motion, hear stories from the Bible, learn what it means to live for Jesus, and play games! Before we go any farther, let's get to know each other a little better."

WHAT YOU DO:

- Choose one kid to be "It" and stand in the center of the eGroup space.
- Give each of the other kids a small (two to three inches) piece of painter's tape, then tell them to spread out around the eGroup space. Once they each have a spot, tell kids to mark their spot by placing their piece of painter's tape on the floor.
- Explain "It" will say a characteristic or description that would apply to one or more kids in the group. For example, "It" might say, "anyone who has read a Harry Potter book," or, "anyone who owns a pair of red shoes."
- Any kids who meet that description have to leave their spot and find a new open spot before all the spots are taken, because "It" will also try to claim one of the open spots.
- "It" can also call out, "Fruit Basket!" and every kid must find a new spot.
- Whoever is left without a spot becomes "It." He/she will call out a new characteristic or description and try to claim a spot when the other kids move.
- Repeat as long as time allows, leaving time to go over the Motion rules before heading to Large Group.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Before we head to Large Group, let's review our three Motion rules:

- 1. **Jump in!** What can you do to help yourself stay engaged in the Motion experience? (*participate in discussions, games, and activities; worship enthusiastically; have a great attitude*)
- 2. **Listen up!** How can you show respect to others? (*listen to and follow leaders' directions, stay quiet when others are talking*)
- 3. ACT out! ACT stands for Accept others, Choose kindness, and Take responsibility. How can your actions help others have a great experience?" (intentionally include everyone, use kind words, keeping my hands to myself, owning my actions)

YOU CONNECT

In the **APPLICATION**

activity, kids will apply the main point to their personal lives.

MAIN POINT

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BIBLE STORY

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MEMORY VERSE

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FRUIT RACE

WHAT YOU NEED: game boards (20), game pieces (20), game cards (20), dice (1)

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Today we're learning about the fruits of patience, kindness, and goodness. Before we play our game, let's make sure we all know what each of these are. FAITHFULNESS is doing what you say you will do. GENTLENESS is treating others with care. SELF-CONTROL is having control over how you respond. Now that we all know what these fruits are, let's play 'Fruit Race' and look at some ways we can help these fruits grow in our personal lives!"

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a game board and a game piece. Tell kids to put their game piece on "Start."
- Shuffle the game cards well.
- Explain kids will try to be first to get to the finish line on their game boards.
 - Each time a 2, 4, or 6 is rolled, every kid will move their game piece that many spaces along their personal game board.
 - Each time a 1, 3, or 5 is rolled, the eGroup Leader will read a card aloud and encourage kids to follow the instructions.
 - If a kid moves their game piece and lands on a green space, the kid can move forward one additional space.
 - If a kid moves their game piece and lands on a red space, the kid must move backward one space.
 - If a kid moves their game piece and lands on a banana space, the kid has slipped on a banana peel and must slide back three spaces.
 - If a kid moves their game piece and lands on a space connected to a bridge, the kid must cross the bridge.
- The first kid to reach the finish line wins!

WHAT YOU SAY:

"When we allow the Holy Spirit to help us show faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control in our daily lives, it completely changes the way we interact with others. People will see the Holy Spirit working in us and want to spend more time with us when we are faithful to do what we'll say we will do, treat others with care, and show control in our responses!"

YOU CONNECT

DISCUSS how the main point applies to kids' personal lives and spend time in **PRAYER** with your eGroup.

MAIN POINT

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DISCUSSION AND PRAYER

WHAT YOU NEED: no supplies

WHAT YOU SAY:

- "In your own words, what does it mean to show faithfulness? Gentleness? Self-control?"
- "Who is someone in your life who does a great job showing faithfulness in their daily life? Gentleness? Self-control?"
- "Which of these is hardest for you to show consistently? Why? How can you learn to show this fruit more consistently?"
- "We've spent the whole month learning how the Holy Spirit helps us produce good fruit in our lives. Check out this verse:

'No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thorn brushes, or grapes from briers. A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.' (Luke 6:43-45)

This verse tells us that when we work hard to plant the right things in our hearts, we're inviting the Holy Spirit in to help us grow His fruits. What are some ways we can plant the right things in our hearts?" (reading our Bibles, coming to church and learning about Jesus, praying every day, choosing good friends, etc.)

SUGGESTED PRAYER:

"God, thank You for giving us the Holy Spirit to help us become more like You. Teach us to listen to Your Holy Spirit more closely so we can show faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control every day. We want to produce all of the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. We love You! In Jesus' name, amen."

BIBLE CONNECT

In the **BIBLE STORY**

activity, kids will interact with the Bible story they heard in Large Group. **After this activity, GO TO LARGE GROUP.**

MAIN POINT

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BUZZ STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: buzzers (4), story sheet

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct kids to turn to Galatians 5:22 in their Bibles. (NOTE: This may take time, but it helps kids learn skills for reading the Bible on their own. If needed, encourage kids to use the table of contents in their Bible, and then decide if the book is in the Old or New Testament.)
- Review Galatians 5:22-23 with kids. Remind kids that the Holy Spirit can help us grow these fruits in our lives when we choose to listen to Him.
- Divide kids into four teams.
- Seat one kid from each team in a small circle in the center of the eGroup space. Put a buzzer in front of each of these kids, then tell the rest of their teams to sit in a line behind those kids.
- Explain that kids will listen to three short summaries of Bible stories that show each of the fruits of the Spirit we learned about today.
- After each story, teams will race to answer questions about the story. The first kid to hit their buzzer after you read the question and say, "Go," will have a chance to answer. If the kid answers correctly, his/her team will earn one or two points (as directed on the story sheet). The team with the most points at the end will win!
- Read the Bible story summary for "Faithfulness" from the story sheet.
- Ask the kids the first question from the "Faithfulness" portion of the story sheet. Allow the first kid who hits their buzzer to answer. If he/she answers correctly, give that team a point. If not, share the correct answer with the group.
- Repeat for the remaining "Faithfulness" questions, then repeat the entire process for the "Gentleness" and "Self-Control" portions.