Younger Preschool June 7

Bible Teaching: Fruit of the Spirit

Bible Passage: Galatians 5:13–26

Summary:

God sent Paul on missionary journeys. As Paul traveled, he told people about Jesus and started churches. He wrote letters to those churches, which now form part of the New Testament. Paul wrote to the Galatians and told them to live by the Spirit, not by the flesh. He shared with them that the fruit of the Spirit working in their lives was love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. We can only truly live like God wants us to by letting the Holy Spirit help us.

Today's Brite Idea is: The Holy Spirit helps us live like Jesus.

Monthly Memory Verse: (Hebrews 13:21)

May God equip you with everything good.

Monthly Big Question: Who can we ask for help? We can ask God!

Leader Training

Preschool Perspectives: Friend Drama

Last week Monique and Latisha were best friends. This week Latisha won't even sit by Monique. The drama is real, and it can quickly escalate within your group. What can you do to turn friend drama into discipleship moments?

- **Don't let it dominate the group.** If a disagreement between friends disrupts the group, have a volunteer take them to the side to discuss and try to work it out biblically.
- **Don't act like it is not a big deal, but don't add to the drama.** Kids' arguments may be over silly things, but they are incredibly important to the kids involved. On the flip side, sometimes adults make things worse by not letting kids just work it out and move on.
- **Don't take sides.** Your role isn't to be the judge. Your role is to help them think through how to handle the situation biblically. Discuss Matthew 5 and 18 and the importance of going to the person and talking out the issues. Help preschoolers forgive one another and learn how to move forward even if they don't want to be close friends anymore.

Navigating a Broken World: Manifesting

In a 2022 survey, nearly one third of American adults indicated that they believe in "manifesting" or the law of attraction.* According to gotquestions.com, manifesting can be defined as "the practice of bringing something into reality through focused thoughts, beliefs, and visualizations." This practice has been made very popular for younger generations through social media, especially TikTok. Kids in your group may believe if they focus on something enough or journal about something in a certain way or think about something at certain times of the day, what they want will happen. In today's lesson, kids will learn that we can grow to be like Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. He changes us and directs our lives. If you hear comments from kids that may refer to manifesting, point them back towards the One who truly shapes our reality and controls our future.

*For more resources on this topic, check out: britecurriculum.com/resources

Preschool Glossary:

Faithfulness: loyalty; doing what you say you're going to do
Fruit of the Spirit: the part of God that lives in people who believe in Jesus

Younger Preschool

Small Group Roadmap

Belong (10 minutes)

Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

What's in the Basket?

Supplies: Basket, printable page, scissors (prep)

Bible Teaching (15 minutes)

Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:13–26)

Supplies: Bible, Bible story cards

Believe (10 minutes)

Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

Memory Verse Instrumental

Supplies: Music player, Memory Verse Song, musical instruments (1 per kid)

Become (10 minutes)

Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

The Thumbprint Tree

Supplies: Take-Home page, coloring supplies, cardstock (1 per kid), washable ink pads, baby wipes, stickers (4 per kid)

What's in the Basket?

Belong Activity

Supplies: Basket, printable page, scissors (prep)

Prep: Print the printable page and cut out. Place all the fruits in the basket before kids arrive. Set the basket in the center of your space.

Activity Intro: Welcome everyone! My name is _____. Can you each tell us your name? *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*

Instructions:

1. **Say:** Have you ever seen a fruit basket? I brought one with me, but this one is extra special! These fruits don't go in your tummy, they go in your heart.
2. *Hold up the basket and invite kids to gather in a circle.*
3. *Invite one kid at a time to reach in, pick a fruit picture and repeat after you the word on the label.*
4. *Take time to explain each fruit of the Spirit, giving different examples practical to kids, e.g.,* **"***This one says patience. Patience helps me to wait my turn."*
5. **Ask:** Which fruit of the Spirit did you like best?

Activity Wrap-Up: When we follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit helps us grow good things in our hearts, just like these fruits!

Bible Teaching

Supplies: Bible, Bible story cards

Prep: Print the Bible story cards double-sided.

Fruit of the Spirit
(Galatians 5:13–26)

Say: Today's true story from the Bible comes from the book of Galatians. Paul shared the good news about Jesus with many people. He also started churches. He would write letters to these churches to help them. Can you pretend to write? These letters are in the Bible! Today we will learn about one of them. It is called Galatians.

Say: Paul wrote this letter to teach the people to live God's way. Sometimes we make bad choices. We get mad. We do mean things. Or we do things we know are wrong.

Say: But Paul taught that the Holy Spirit helps us. He helps us grow in the **fruit of the Spirit**. Do you like fruit? Me too! But these are not fruits you eat; instead, these fruits grow in us when we love Jesus.

Say: When God comes into our lives, we should see **fruit of the Spirit.** There are nine of them! Let's count to nine! 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9. The first one is love. Can you give yourself a big hug? The Holy Spirit helps us love like Jesus. The second one is joy. Let's say that together! "Joy!" Joy is a happy feeling we have in our heart. The third one is peace. Place your hand over your heart. Peace is feeling calm and safe because God loves us.

Say: The next one is patience. Let's point to our wrist like we're pointing to a watch. Patience often means we have to wait. We can learn to wait even when it's hard. Then there is kindness. Can you show me your biggest smile? The Holy Spirit helps us use kind words and be nice to others. Next is goodness. Goodness is doing what is right.

Say: Another one is **faithfulness**. This means keeping your promises, just like Jesus does. Next is gentleness. Can you softly pat your arm? The Holy Spirit helps us be soft and kind with our words and hands. The last one is self-control. This helps us stop and make good choices, even when we don't want to. Put your hands up like a stop sign?

Say: Those are all good things to have in our lives! They come from the Holy Spirit. Jesus is the perfect example. He showed us how to live like God wants us to.

Wrap-Up:

Big Question: Who can we ask for help? We can ask God!

Memory Verse: (Hebrews 13:21)

Watch the Memory Verse Video and practice the motions with the kids.

- May God equip *(roll hands around one another)*
- you with *(point out)*
- everything good. *(extend arms out)*
- Hebrews 13:21*(open hands like opening a book)*

He: The Holy Spirit helps us live like Jesus.
We: We can live like Jesus.
Me: I can live Jesus.

Memory Verse Instrumental

Believe Activity

Supplies: Music player, Memory Verse Song, musical instruments (1 per kid)

Prep: None

Activity Intro: The Bible teaches us true stories about God. The Holy Spirit helps us to live like Jesus.

Instructions:

1. *Pass out a musical instrument to each kid.*
2. **Say:** Look at your instrument. Can you make noise with it? Let's try together!
3. *Model how to use the instruments as needed.*
4. **Say:** We will listen to our Memory Verse Song. Let's play our musical instrumentals along to the song!
5. *Start the Memory Verse Song and lead kids in playing their instruments.*
6. *Repeat the song as the kids' attention allows.*

Activity Wrap-Up: You did such a great job playing your instruments and listening to our verse! Let's remember: God gives us everything we need to love, help, share and follow Jesus every day.

The Thumbprint Tree

Become Activity

Supplies: Take-Home page, coloring supplies, cardstock (1 per kid), washable ink pads, baby wipes, stickers (4 per kid)

Prep: Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Set out ink pads, wipes and coloring supplies. Create a sample to show.

Instructions:

1. **Say:** Today we're making a special tree, a fruit of the Spirit thumbprint tree!
2. *Give each kid a piece of paper and trace their hand to make the tree.*
3. **Say:** We'll use our thumbs to stamp fruit on the tree, and as we do, we'll learn how the Holy Spirit helps us grow good things in our hearts.
4. *Show the sample or your own thumbprints on the tree outline*.
5. *Press kids' thumb into ink and help kids stamp it on the tree.*
6. **Say:** This thumbprint is for love. The Holy Spirit helps us love like Jesus!
7. *As each kid adds more prints, guide them through each fruit, saying "The Holy Spirit helps me to have (name a fruit of the Spirit) like Jesus."*
8. *Fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control.*
9. *Let kids finish decorating their trees with coloring supplies or stickers.*
10. *Write each kid's name on their craft and set aside for parent pick up.*

Discussion Questions:

- Can we eat the fruit of the Spirit?
- Who helps us grow this fruit?
- When have you shown the fruit of the Spirit?
- Who always showed the fruit of the Spirit?

Pray Together: Dear Jesus, thank You for always showing the fruit of the Spirit perfectly. You are so good! Amen!

Activity Wrap-Up: Give each kid a Take-Home page. With remaining time, kids can play in centers or color the Take-Home page.

Centers

Set up 3–4 centers around the room for kids to explore and learn as they play. While kids explore the centers, leaders can work with individuals or small groups to make the craft. Set up each center in a separate part of the room, making sure all kids are visible at all times. Show the whole group what is in each center and give simple instructions on what kids should do in each center.

- **Dramatic Play:** Provide dress-up clothes and encourage kids to dress up like Paul and tell others how we can be more like Jesus using the fruit of the Spirit.
- **Craft:** Provide coloring supplies, paper, envelopes and fake stamps for kids to make letters to tell others the fruit of the Spirit.
- **Sensory:** Provide modeling dough for kids to make fruit.

Bonus Bible Script

Preschoolers learn best through repetition. Use the script below to review the story at any opportunity. You could review the story while kids play in centers, while they work on their craft, during snack time or while waiting for parents.

Say: God sent Paul to share about Jesus in many different places. As Paul traveled, he told people about Jesus and started churches. He wrote letters to those churches, which are in the Bible. Paul wrote to the Galatians and told them how to live for God. He shared how the fruit of the Spirit working in their lives was love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. The Holy Spirit can help us live for God.

Who can we ask for help? We can ask God!