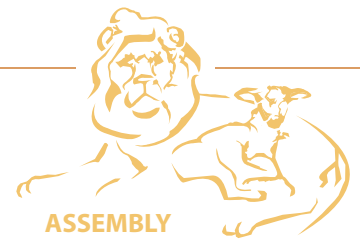


## THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GALATIANS 5:22-26



*The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.*

## LESSON IDEAS

### A PATIENT EXAMPLE

#### Supplies

- M&M™ candy
- tablecloth

Before class, place the tablecloth on the floor. Keep the children from sitting on the tablecloth when they enter the room.

Paul tells us that the fruit of the Spirit is demonstrated in our lives as the result of crucifying our passions and desires for sinful things, see Galatians 5:24. This little exercise shows the children just what that might look like.

First, go through the list of the fruit of the Spirit. Explain to them what each means and ask the children to repeat the meanings to you.

Then take a handful of M&M™ candies. (Be sensitive to any children in that class who are unable to eat candy.) Tell the class that on the count of three you are going to toss the M&M's™ on the table cloth that you had placed on the floor and they can get them. Tell them to wait to eat them until they are all picked up.

While the children scramble for the candy, take notice to see if any of the fruits of the Spirit are missing. Perhaps someone will jump before you say go, or eat before you say eat, or perhaps someone will muscle out another person in an unkind way.

When the exercise is done, help them to see how their desire for the M&M™ candies won out over their desire to live by the fruit of the Spirit. Explain to them that it is only by God's Spirit that we can consistently live in the good of the fruit of the Spirit.

## THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GALATIANS 5:22-26

### REMEMBERING THE FRUIT

Divide your class up into nine groups. (You might only have one person per group.) Each person is assigned a fruit of the Spirit. Read the passage and tell the class that when you get to the fruit of the Spirit section they should call out their assigned fruit in order. Use this exercise to help the children remember all the fruit of the Spirit listed. See if anyone in the class can remember all nine of those listed.

## WHERE IS the Gospel?

*Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.*

Notice that Paul doesn't call the fruit of the Spirit the fruit of the good man. The truth is that apart from Christ none of us are good and the only way we can demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit is if we have been changed by the Gospel of Christ. That is why Paul says in verse 24 "those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its sinful passions and desires."

The Gospel is the doorway to Christ, and Christ is the only help to the believer. Apart from the sacrificial death of Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit, all our efforts fall short and we would be at best imitating the good works of the Pharisees for our own benefit. The Spirit of God is the one that changes our desires from sinful to righteous.

