

Adventures with GOD!

THE GIFT OF THE FULLNESS OF GOD IN OUR LIVES (C.3.WINTER.6)

Biblical Reference	Galatians 5:16-26
Key Verse	Galatians 5:22
Key Concept	The fruit of the Spirit in my life let's me experience the abundant life that Jesus promised.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Name and define the fruit of the Spirit 2. Draw a picture that represents how this fruit is seen in their relationships with others 3. Say how they will express joy, kindness and patience in the next week

Life Application

Part of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives is to produce what the Bible calls the "fruit of the Spirit." This fruit is a result of our lives in God and is expressed in our relationships with others. Through this lesson the children will define some of the fruit that the Spirit produces, and they will think about how God is developing it in their lives.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Introduction	Fruit, plates, juice	10 minutes
Activity	See instructions	10 minutes
Bible Exploration	Bible, illustrations	10 minutes
Craft	See instructions	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

Adventures with GOD!

INSTRUCTIONS

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter, take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets, and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials at CovChurch.org/children/adventures-with-god.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle, and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them, palms up, as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer.)

Bible Reading: Explain that as we read the Bible, we do that first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched, palms up, to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read Galatians 5:16-26 two times, and ask children to respond.

Question Examples: What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you through the passage?

Introduction: Bring a variety of fruits to class and put on a platter on a table in the room. Ask them what their favorite fruit is. Now describe your favorite fruit to the children, and have them guess which fruit is your favorite. Then invite them to choose a piece of fruit to eat.

Activity: Make a giant "word find" ahead of class that can be on the wall. (There are websites that can help you generate this type of word find.) Have children find the "fruit of the Spirit" that are hidden in the word find. If there is extra time, let them work on the activity found on page 7.

Adventures with GOD!

Bible Exploration: In the Galatians passage, Paul makes a contrast between how people live when the Spirit is not a part of their lives and when the Holy Spirit lives in them. Ask the children to make a list showing the contrast – life without the Spirit/life with the Spirit. Then ask them to come up with one word that describes each of the lists. Dialogue with them, asking them to define how the fruit is produced in our lives. Is it something we produce or is it something God produces? Ask them to come up with examples of how they've experienced the fruit of the Spirit or seen it the lives of other believers. Ask them how they can be aware of the fruit of joy, or kindness, or patience in their lives this upcoming week. It's important to remind them that we don't produce the fruit. Rather, it's a natural process that happens in us when we live life with God. But we have to be connected to God.

During the next two weeks, children will work on a fruit of the Spirit booklet. See page 6. Work on a couple pages this week, and finish the booklet next week.

Craft: Children can make an ornament using the illustration of the grapes on page 5. Have them color, glue on cardstock and cut out. Provide a hole puncher and yarn so they can hang the ornament.

Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G=God's Word: What is the story? (Give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

R=Relationships: Is there anything in today's Bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the Bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others. Give children a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

O=Outward Action: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week.

W=Worship: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? What would you like to say to God?

Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. The candle reminds us that



Adventures with GOD!

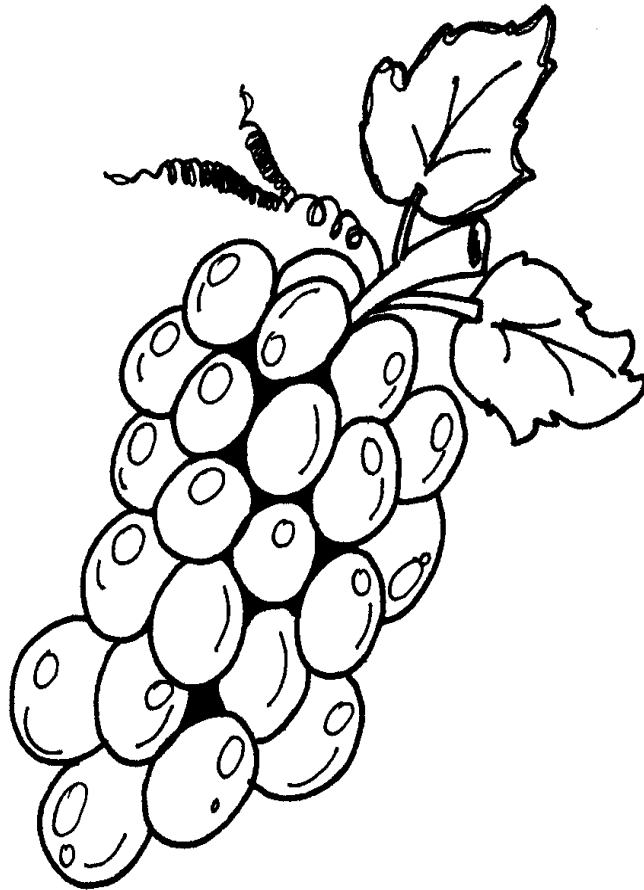
God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

Adventures with GOD!

ILLUSTRATION

For ornament



ACTIVITY

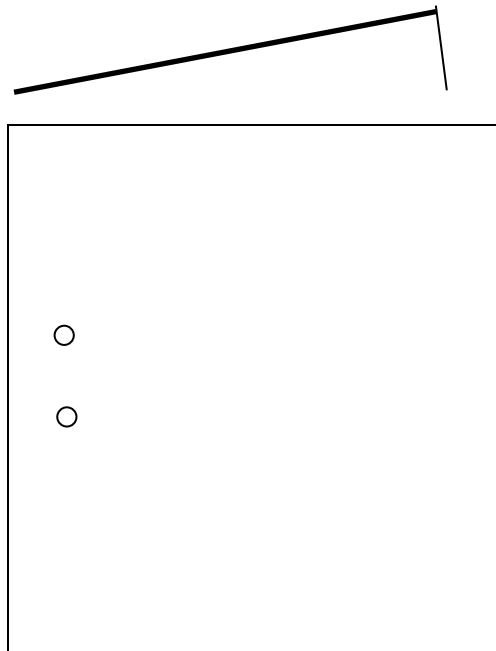
The fruit of the Spirit

Materials: White paper, yarn, crayons, hole punch

Instructions:

Adventures with GOD!

Take 4 white sheets of paper and fold them in half to make a little booklet. Punch two holes in the folded side of the paper and loop the yarn through the holes to hold the booklet together. Write the Key Verse on the cover. On the inside, write the names of the fruit of the Spirit – each on a separate page. Children may want to illustrate each page. Have them explain in their own words the fruit that's listed and how they will practice it in their lives.



ACTIVITY 2

Adventures with GOD!

After memorizing the Key Verse, color the tree, write your name in the trunk and write the names of the fruit of the Spirit in the tree.

