

Adventures with GOD!

THE GIFT OF THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT (C.3.WINTER.7)

Biblical Reference	Galatians 5:16-26
Key Verse	Galatians 5:22
Key Concept	The fruit of the Spirit is a gift of God in my life.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the fruit of the Spirit as it is described in the Bible 2. Comment on how they see the fruit of the Spirit developing in their own lives 3. Say the Key Verse by memory

Life Application

The fruit of the Spirit is a gift that enriches our lives. Just as a delicious and nutritious fruit does our body good, so the fruit of the Spirit produces growth in our lives. The children will continue to explore the ways that the fruit of the Spirit is developed in their lives. They will talk about the ways that they want to see the fruit of the Spirit lived out 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		5 minutes
Bible Exploration	Bible, illustrations, booklets, markers, scissors	10 minutes
Game	Balloons, pens, markers, paper	10 minutes
Craft	Ornaments	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: Review some of the definitions of the fruit of the Spirit that children worked on last week. Have them share the work they did in their booklets. This week, if possible, bring a fruit salad in a transparent bowl or Tupperware so that the children can see the fruit and juices mixed together. Invite them to take a taste. When we think about the fruit of the Spirit we can imagine a fruit salad, where the fruits are mixed together and complement each other and taste delicious. Love, for example, does not act alone. It acts in relationship with kindness, patience, etc. We can't just choose the fruit of the Spirit that we like. They are all in relationship with one another.



Adventures with GOD!

Bible Exploration: Last week as a group you talked about some of the fruit of the Spirit. Today you will talk about the other elements that make up the fruit of the Spirit (kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control).

Take out an orange to use as an illustration. Ask children if they know how long it takes a fruit tree to produce fruit. Sometimes it takes years. And many times the first crop produces fruit that are small. The fruit trees need time to produce good fruit. It is the same in the Christian life. We need time for the Spirit to develop this fruit in our lives.

Then give them time to finish up their booklets, naming the fruit of the Spirit, defining it in their own words and how they want to see it expressed in their lives.

Game: Play charades. Have children (in pairs or groups) act out one of the fruit of the Spirit for the rest of the group. The person who guesses correctly can be the next to act out their fruit of the Spirit.

Craft: Have children color/decorate the apple on page 5. Encourage them to write the Key Verse somewhere on the apple or page.

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!

