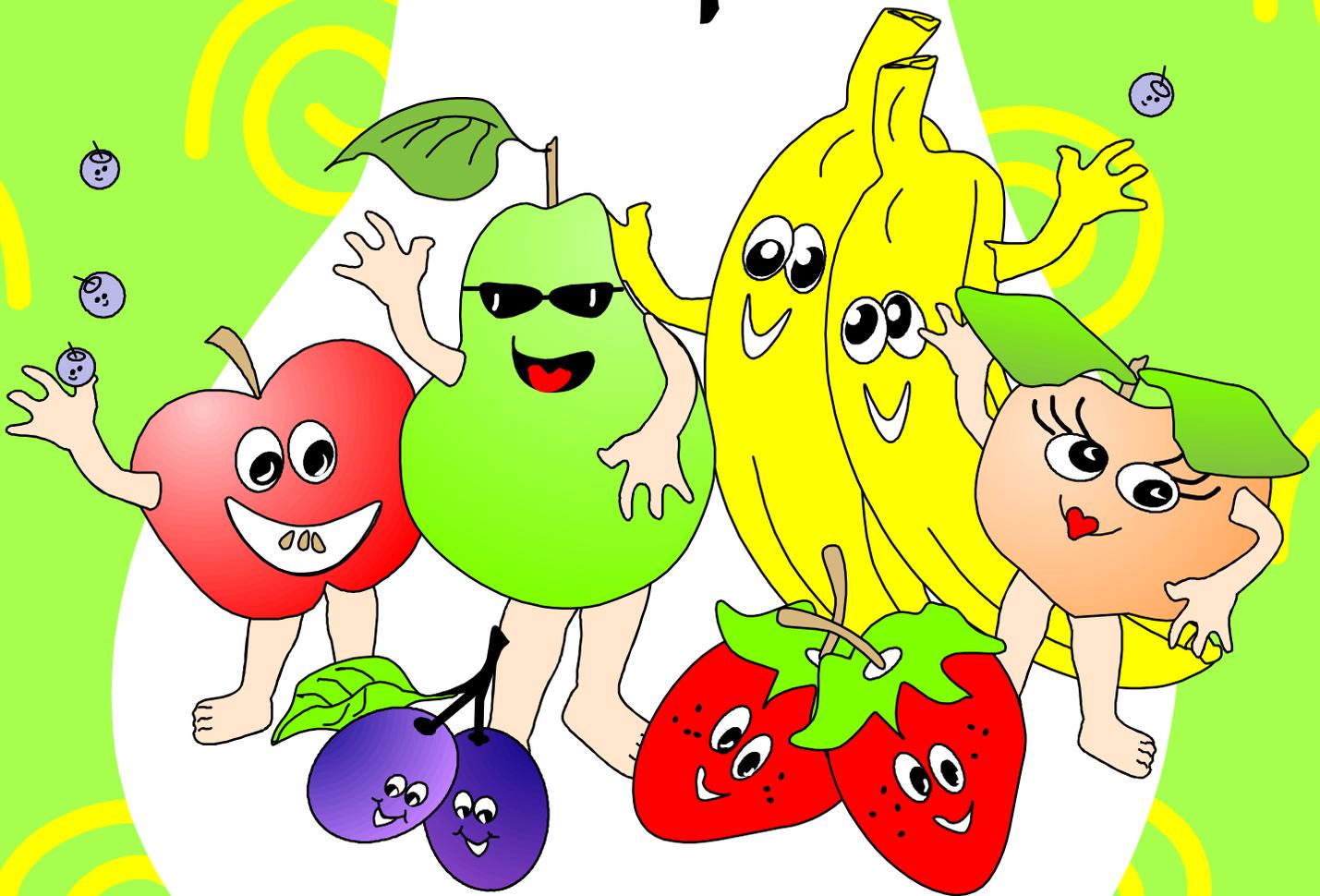


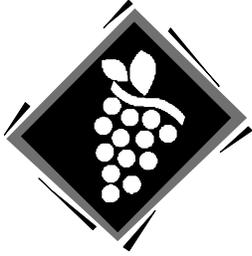
# The Fruit of the Spirit

**BONUS!**  
Includes Fruit  
of the Spirit  
Bingo!



**Jesus Growing In You And Through You!**

*An 18 Week Hands-on Bible Series*



## Teacher Introduction

When Adam and Eve sinned, not only was their intimate relationship with God destroyed, but God's plan for humankind to be fruitful and multiply, and subdue the earth and rule over it, was postponed, but not thwarted.

When God destroyed the earth in the great flood, he again made a similar command to Noah: to be fruitful and multiply (Genesis 8:15-17). The command to be fruitful and multiply was given to Abraham too, when God made an everlasting covenant with him. Throughout time, God's plan for the earth to be subdued, and God's people to be fruitful, has steadfastly moved forward, climaxing in Jesus, the Christ, who brings all creation under his feet (1 Corinthians 15:25, 27; Ephesians 1:22; Hebrews 2:8).

When Jesus ascended into heaven, his final command to his followers was, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, *(because I have subdued it)* go and make disciples of all nations *(be fruitful and multiply)*, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

When Jesus cursed the fig tree, because it had no fruit, it was a warning that a life without fruit is cursed (Matthew 21:19). In Galatians 5:22-23, Paul paints a word-picture of a fruit-filled life: "...The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law." These Christian virtues are produced by the indwelling Holy Spirit; not by observing the law and moral self-discipline. These Christ-like characteristics cannot be squeezed out or forced to occur; in fact they flow naturally from a life that keeps in step with the Holy Spirit, yielding to Him and his prompting (Galatians 5:25).

The Bible refers to the FRUIT of the Spirit, singular, and not fruits, plural. In other words, when you have the Holy Spirit dwelling within you, you have the capacity for all of Jesus' inner virtues. It is also important to note that the Fruit of the Spirit is different from the Gifts of the Spirit \*. The Fruit of the Spirit refers to the inner virtues of being a Christian, while the Gifts of the Spirit are those inner virtues put into action. For example, the inner Spirit-fruit virtue of KINDNESS, could be expressed by the Spirit Gift of *contributing to the needs of others* (Romans 12:8). Or the inner virtue of FAITHFULNESS could be expressed through the Spirit Gift of teaching (Romans 12:7).

## The Fruit of the Spirit – Jesus Growing In You and Through You

It is the goal of this series to help children understand how the inner “Fruit of the Spirit”, is received and cultivated, and hopefully to obey Jesus’ final command to be fruitful and multiply, making disciples for God’s eternal Kingdom!

Each lesson in this series is accompanied with a craft, game, memory verse and song-time suggestions. If you use both the craft and game for each session, it will take nine, two-hour sessions to complete this series. However, if you split each lesson into two sessions (recommended), whereby you present the lesson, memory verse, craft and songs in the first session and the game with lesson review, memory recitation and songs in the next session, it will take eighteen, one-hour sessions to complete this series. At the back of the book are the patterns and lesson overviews.

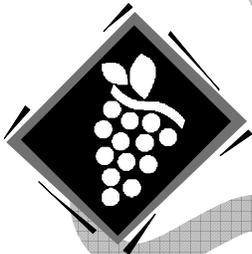
God bless you in your ministry to children!

Sarah A. Keith <><

\* For a complete Bible series on the Gifts of the Spirit, check out “Spirit Gifts” in the Bible-4-Life Curriculum section at: [SundaySchoolNetwork.com](http://SundaySchoolNetwork.com).

### Song Time Suggestions

**Available with purchase**



### Classroom Introduction

Begin by showing a tangerine or cluster of grapes to the class. Allow children to discuss how the fruit became fruit. *(A farmer planted a seed in good soil and proper lighting. It was watered, fed fertilizer and probably sprayed for bugs. The tree grew and was pruned. After several years the tree flowered, and the fruit began to grow. Finally the fruit ripened and was picked. This process takes years before the fruit is ready to be picked and eaten.)* Ask, “Who did all the work?” *(the farmer)* Did the tree have to work at producing its fruit? *(No, it naturally occurs when it is cared for properly.)*

## The Fruit of the Spirit – Jesus Growing In You and Through You

The Bible talks about Spiritual Fruit. In the same way that a tangerine naturally grows from a tangerine tree when it is properly cared for, Spiritual Fruit naturally grows and occurs in a person's life when he or she is a believer and follows and obeys Jesus more and more. The spiritual fruit the Bible talks about is: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Today we're going to sing a song to help us remember the Fruit of the Spirit. This will also help us to memorize our theme Bible verse.

### **SING: The Fruit of the Spirit**

Peel the tangerine and separate the sections. Point out that the fruit has different sections, but it is one fruit. In the same way, the Fruit of the Spirit has many parts, but all the parts show us what a follower of Jesus should look like on the inside. In fact, the Fruit of the Spirit is what Jesus *is* like! (Separate the sections, and as you do, have children call out the Fruit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. When a child calls out a fruit name, hand him or her a piece of tangerine.)



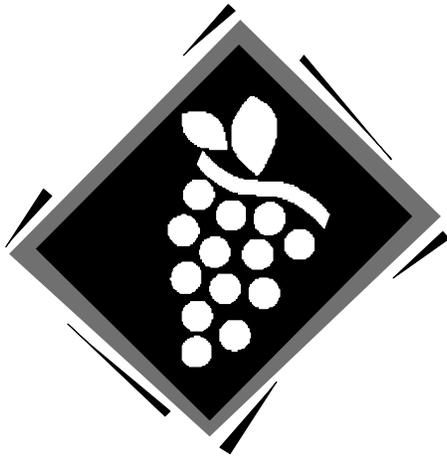
Enrichment Idea

**Available with purchase**

### **Theme Memory Verse**

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." Galatians 5:22-23

Fruit trees don't force their fruit to grow. In the same way, we don't make our Spirit-fruit grow either; this is the job of the Holy Spirit when he lives in our lives and we learn to follow and obey him more and more. Over the next several weeks we will discuss our part in allowing the Holy Spirit to work in our lives so his Fruit will grow in and through us. In our first lesson, we will learn about LOVE.



## Lesson One: LOVE

**Song Time Suggestions:** “Beloved (1 John 4:7-8)”; “Behold What Manner Of Love”; “For God So Loved The World”.

What do you love? (Discuss) We say we love all kinds of things. We love candy, ice-cream, toys, cars. We love our pets. We love our parents and friends. And we love God. When we say we love these different things, or people or God, do we mean we love them in the same way? (Discuss)

What *is* LOVE? (Discuss and define.) Love is an unselfish loyalty and concern for others; to adore and cherish with heartfelt devotion and dedication.

There are three different kinds of love the Bible refers to. There is the kind of love you have for a friend. There's the kind of love that a husband or wife has for one another. And there's the kind of love God has for us. God's love is unconditional. Do you know what I mean by “unconditional”? This means that God loves us “with no strings attached”. Even though we sin and disappoint him by doing wrong, he still loves us. We can't earn God's love or do just the right things to make him love us.

Most parents have a similar love for their children. They love their children even when they do wrong and say hateful things, but even a parent's love doesn't match the perfect love God has for us. The Bible tells us that God *is* love and that we can have and show God-like love to others too.

**Read John 15:1-5 from a child-friendly Bible.**

## The Fruit of the Spirit – Jesus Growing In You and Through You



Enrichment Idea

### Draw It

You will need a long sheet of butcher paper and markers. Have children line up side by side along both sides of the paper. Each child draws a section of a vine on their part of the paper, along with branches with different kinds of fruit growing on them. (You may want to hang the banner in the room during the series.)

Have children look at the drawing and say, “This picture reminds us of what Jesus said, ‘I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.’ “The key to having God’s fruit grow in our lives is by first trusting Jesus, then following his example day by day. How do we do this? (Discuss)

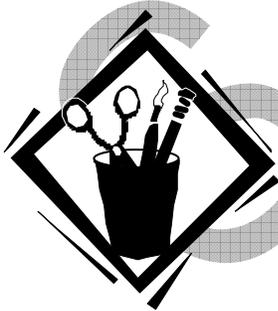
When you trust Jesus to be your Savior and Forever Friend, then God’s Spirit begins to control your life and you are able to love, because Jesus loved you first. In fact, love, the Bible tells us, is the greatest and most important gift to have. If you haven’t yet asked Jesus to be your Savior and Forever Friend, then today can be the beginning for God’s spiritual fruit growing in you!

**Memory Verse:** “We love because he first loved us.” 1John 4:19

(See Memory Verse and Challenge Cards in the patterns section at the back of the book.)

**Review theme memory verse.**

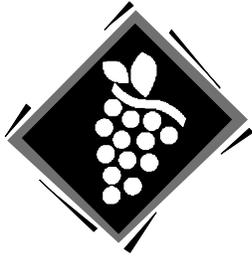
**Pray:** “Dear Jesus, thank you for loving us even though we sin against you. Thank you for taking the punishment we deserve for doing wrong things. Please be our Savior and Forever Friend and help us to love others like you love us. Amen.”



### Craft: Fruit of the Spirit Spinner

(Directions in the patterns section at the back of the book.)

**Available with purchase**



**Review** (used when dividing your lesson into two sessions)

**Song Time Suggestions**

**Available with purchase**

**Discussion Questions:**

**Available with purchase**



**Game: Fruit Baskets**

**Available with purchase**

**Review theme memory verse.**