

Be Like Jesus

Week 1

BIG IDEA

God Helps Us Be Like Jesus

BIBLE

Fruit of the Spirit (Galations 5)

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Paul shares the spiritual fruit that develop in us as we follow God, transforming us to look more like Jesus.

WELCOME

MUSIC | Worship Playlist

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *During free time, use one of our Spotify playlists to play background music while kids play OR stream the main worship service on your classroom TV to participate in the worship happening in the Auditorium.*

PLAY | Free Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tables will be set with games and activities for kids to play until the lesson begins.*
 - *This is a great opportunity to get to know some kids and work on building relationships.*
 - *Have kids go to the bathroom prior to class beginning*
 - *At the end of Free Time, play the Countdown Video and have kids work together to clean up toys/activities and then join you for the lesson - either on risers or on the floor.*

MEMORY VERSE | Prizes

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *During free time, kids may say their memory verse from the past week to*

any leader in the room. Place a dot sticker on their name tag to signify that they've said the verse. Give a memory verse prize **AT PICK UP** to any kids with dot stickers.

WELCOME QUESTION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *This question will be written on the board as a conversation starter during free time.*
 - **What is a fruit that grows on a tree or vine?**

INTRO

TALK

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play the Countdown Video to signify time to clean up. Gather kids on the floor or on the risers. It's always fun to have everyone count down the last 10 seconds together!*
- **Welcome to church today, friends! I am so glad to be here with all of you.**
 - *This is a great opportunity to let kids know what the time together will look like! Walk them through the schedule and go over the class rules.*
- **I have a question for you: What is a fruit that grows on a tree or vine?** *Ask if they have any stories about picking fresh fruit. Offer a few seconds to think about it, then instruct them to do a "turn and talk" with someone sitting next to them where they say, "Good morning!", give each other a high five, and then discuss their answer. Choose a few groups to share their answer with the group.*
 - *To get everyone engaged and ready to listen, especially younger kids, consider doing this exercise together after the turn and talk.*
 - *Making lemonade (Reach up to a pretend tree and pick a lemon with each hand. Squeeze the lemons hard to get all the juice out. Throw the lemons down, relaxing your hands. Repeat til you have enough for a glass of lemonade. After your final squeeze and throw, shake out hands to relax.)*
- **Freshly picked fruit is the best! If the tree or vine the fruit grows on is healthy and connected to the roots, it will produce a lot of delicious fruit.**
- **If it gets cut down or dies, it won't produce delicious fruit.**
- **Today we are going to learn about how we can produce a different kind of fruit when we are connected to God.**
- **We're going to get curious and learn about how we can have fruit on the inside of us!**

DECLARATION

- **Before we get started, I have an important reminder for everyone here. Let's say this together by repeating after me!**

- **Thank you, God, that You are good!** (Kids repeat)
- **You made me on purpose, for a purpose.** (Kids repeat)
- **And I am Your kid!** (Kids repeat)
- **You know me, love me, and lead me.** (Kids repeat)
- **You make me more like Jesus.** (Kids repeat)
- **Your Holy Spirit fills me and changes me.** (Kids repeat)
- **My life can tell of Your wonder!** (Kids repeat)

WHAT? What are we talking about today

PRAYER

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words:*
 - **God, thank You for each kid here today. I ask You to help us to focus on You right now. Thanks for giving us Your Word to teach us more about You and how we can become more like You. May Your Holy Spirit open our hearts and minds to hear from You now. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

BIBLE STORY VIDEO

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play the Fruit of the Spirit God's Big Story Video.*
 - *NOTE: This short video will teach the Bible Story and give you a jumping off point for the rest of the teaching. If you split into smaller group for the re-telling of the Bible Story, watch the video together as a large group before doing so.*

BIBLE STORY | Galatians 5 (The Fruit of the Spirit)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Ahead of time, invite another leader to do the indicated actions during the rhymed story. They will need to follow along in the script. Encourage kids to stand up during the story and copy the leader's actions and words as they listen.*
- *Beforehand, write Paul on one adhesive nametag and Saul on the other.*
- *Open a Bible to Galatians 5. **Today's story comes from the book of Galatians, which is in the second half of the Bible near the back.***
 - *FOR OLDER KIDS: Give each child a Bible and help them find [Galatians 5](#).*
- **Today's story begins with a guy named Saul** *Put the Saul nametag on shirt.*
- **Saul didn't like God's people at all.** *Put hands on hips and makes an angry face.*
- **Saul hurt God's people and disliked who they loved.** *Shake your fist.*
- **If only Saul knew God called His people Beloved.** *Place hands over heart.*
- **And then something happened! It all changed quite quick!** *Quietly clap to the cadence of the words, "quite quick"*

- **A voice out of heaven just made something click.** *Clap to "something click"*
- **Saul heard from Jesus. His life turned around.** *Stop clapping and put the Paul nametag on shirt, so it covers the Saul nametag.*
- **Now he was Paul, and he was making up ground.** *Run in place.*
- **He told people of Jesus and started churches galore.** *Make a steeple above head.*
- **He even wrote letters to share God's love from shore to shore.** *Pretend to write.*
- **Paul wanted them to know Jesus and be more like Him.** *Place hands over heart.*
- **But the people thought it couldn't be so easy to get in.** *Shake head disapprovingly.*
- **There were rules to obey and laws to uphold.** *Point a finger at the kids.*
- **The Church of Galatia wasn't quite sold.** *Shake head disapprovingly.*
- **They thought following Jesus meant keeping the rules.** *Again, point finger at the kids*
- **But to be like Jesus, God gives us cool tools!** *Give a silent cheer.*
- **The Holy Spirit will help us with the things we do wrong.** *Point a finger at yourself*
- **The Spirit teaches and guides us and keeps our faith strong.** *Flex muscles*
- **There's this thing called our flesh; it's the wrong that we do.** *Again, point a finger at self.*
- **Sin—it separates God from me and from you.** *Stretch arms out wide on both sides*
- **Being selfish and jealous is part of our flesh.** *Shrink lower to the floor.*
- **Hatred, pride, and evil show us our mess.** *Shrink even lower to the floor.*
- **But Paul kept on going and described a new way.** *Rise a bit from the floor.*
- **To be more like Jesus in all we do and say.** *Rise more from the floor until standing upright.*
- **So, let's shout them out loud.** *Clap hands to the cadence of the words, "out loud"*
- **All the things Paul described.** *Continue to clap their hands to the beat.*
- **They're the fruits of the Spirit.** *They continue clapping.*
- **And they're nothing to hide!** *They continue clapping.*
- *Shout each word, punching an arm up in the air as they repeat each word:*
- **LOVE.** *They repeat the word love.*
- **JOY.** *They repeat the word joy.*
- **PEACE.** *They repeat the word peace.*
- **PATIENCE.** *They repeat the word patience.*
- **KINDNESS.** *They repeat the word kindness.*
- **GOODNESS.** *They repeat the word goodness.*
- **FAITHFULNESS.** *They repeat the word faithfulness.*
- **GENTLENESS.** *They repeat the word gentleness.*
- **SELF-CONTROL.** *They repeat the word self-control.*
- **Let's say them again and shout them even louder this time!**
- **LOVE.** *They repeat the word love.*
- **JOY.** *They repeat the word joy.*
- **PEACE.** *They repeat the word peace.*
- **PATIENCE.** *They repeat the word patience.*
- **KINDNESS.** *They repeat the word kindness.*
- **GOODNESS.** *They repeat the word goodness.*
- **FAITHFULNESS.** *They repeat the word faithfulness.*
- **GENTLENESS.** *They repeat the word gentleness.*
- **SELF-CONTROL.** *They repeat the word self-control.*
- **With the Spirit inside us and guiding our way ...** *Place hands over heart.*
- **We can trust Him to help us in what we do and say.** *Nod head up and down.*
- **It won't take long for others to see.** *Make binoculars with fists and hold them to eyes.*
- **God helps us to be like Jesus. It's who I want to be!** *Point to self.*

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

BIG IDEA | God Helps Us Be Like Jesus

- **Great job following along! That was a fun way to learn God's word.**
- **We're learning that when we follow God our lives can have fruit. Is it the kind of fruit you can eat?**
- **No, it's a different kind of fruit. It's the fruit of the Spirit! Can you name some of the fruits of the Spirit?**
- **Those are the things we see in Jesus' life. God wants us to be more and more like Jesus, but it can be hard to be patient and kind and good and gentle, right?**
- **That's why God gave us a helper! When we choose to follow Him, He gives us the Holy Spirit to live in us and help us become like Jesus. That's our Big Idea today!**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show the Big Idea slide on the screen or the poster on the white board while you have kids repeat after you.
- **Let's say the Big Idea together: God Helps Us Be Like Jesus**
- **The Spirit produces amazing fruits, or traits, in us!**

MEMORY VERSE | Galatians 5:22-23a (ISV)

- **I'm so excited because our new memory verse is all about the Fruit of the Spirit! We heard this verse today in our Bible Story!**
- **We're going to work together all month long to memorize these words.**
- **Here's what it says:**
 - **"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." Galatians 5:22-23a**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the verse to the kids, then encourage them to stand and repeat after you with the following motions:
 - **The the fruit of the Spirit is** (Draw a large S in the air)
 - **love,** (Pat your hands on your heart)
 - **joy,** (Put your arms up as if celebrating)
 - **peace,** (Hold up two fingers in "peace sign")
 - **patience,** (Point to a pretend watch on your wrist)
 - **kindness,** (Pretend to give someone a hug)
 - **goodness,** (Make two thumbs up)
 - **faithfulness,** (Make two fists and start with the one fist on top of the other, then switch to stack the bottom fist on top, then switch again, as if stacking bricks)
 - **gentleness,** (pretend to gently rock a baby)
 - **and self-control** (Point to self with both thumbs)
 - **Galatians 5:22-23a** (clap hands together, then open like a book)
- **Nice work, friends! When we memorize God's word, we let it live in our hearts and remind us of who God is and who we are.**
- **Now, we're going to have a chance to talk with our friends in small groups about everything we learned today and ask any questions you might have.**

DISCUSSION | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *If you haven't already, split kids into smaller groups, ideally by grade. Use the following questions to help reinforce the lesson.*
 - *NOTE: Invite kids to share any questions they might have. Some kids have an easier time listening if their hands are busy. You may choose to pass out coloring sheets and allow kids to color as you discuss. You might also consider having kids lead the discussion by asking the following questions.*
- **Are the fruits of the Spirit the kind that we can eat? If not, what are they?**
- **How many fruits that were listed can you name? Which fruit of the Spirit stood out to you the most? Why?**
- **In God's big story, Paul writes about our flesh. He doesn't mean the skin on our bodies. What does he mean? (Sin, the wrong we do)**
- **What are some ways we can follow the Holy Spirit as He helps us overcome our flesh (which is sin, the wrong we do) and become more like Jesus?**
- **Can you describe someone you know who follows Jesus closely? What are some godly traits (fruit of the Spirit) that you see in this person? How do you think this person became a person who is loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle, and self-controlled?**
- **It's amazing to see how God works in His kids to make them more like Jesus! Let's take some time to think about what fruit of the Spirit we want more of in our own lives and then ask God to help produce it in us!**

PRAYER

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Invite kids to share one fruit of the Spirit that they would like God to grow more of in their lives. For example, they might struggle to be patient with a younger sibling and want God to produce more patience in them. Consider sharing a spiritual fruit you want more of as well. Then take turns praying for each person, inviting God to grow His fruit in each kid as they follow the Holy Spirit. Kids may also want to share more general prayers and praises. Take time to pray for each one.*

CLOSING

EXTRA TIME ACTIVITY | Actions to Follow

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play in small groups OR Gather kids together on the floor or benches to explain the game. Have kids sit in a circle and invite them to copy your movements. Start with both hands out and palms down and make up simple motions for kids to copy. End with your hands facing each other as if you are going to clap. Start to clap, but before your hands touch, stop. Repeat slowly and quickly several times, ending with the clap. You can make other motions and either have kids do them all at once together or in a chain, following you around the room. Allow kids to take turns as leader.*
- **When we have the fruit of the Spirit in our life, it means we will think and act more like Jesus. Let's play a game where we pay attention to and follow actions.**

- **After the first round, say: You all did a great job following the actions! It can be tricky to follow someone and do what they do. God doesn't ask us to be like Jesus all on our own. He gives us His Holy Spirit to help us. Let's play again with a new leader!**