



# Paul Describes Living by God's Spirit

Romans 8:9-17

Third- and fourth-graders are beginning to exert their independence. They bristle at being treated like "little kids." Use this lesson to encourage kids that they can live in the Spirit, just as adult Christians can. Use the Key Verse to inspire kids because the fruit of the Spirit can apply to them, too!



### ► Bible Point

When we live by God's Spirit, God changes us.

### Key Verse

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


### Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will thank God for giving them the Holy Spirit.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Follow the Leader</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play a game about being led by others, and talk about whom to follow in their lives.	3-foot length of rope for every 10 kids	
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>In the Spirit</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Study Romans 8:9-11, and discuss what it means to belong to God and live in the Spirit.	Bibles, paper, pencils	
	<b>Adopted by God</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Put on silent plays that depict an orphan's life before and after adoption, and talk about what it means to be children of God.	Bibles	

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Fruit of the Spirit</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Read Galatians 5:22-23, and make mobile reminders of the fruit of the Spirit.	Bibles, white paper, colored construction paper, pens, pencils, hole punches, 3 feet of string per child, 1 wire hanger per child, Bible Truth Sleuth, scissors	Tear out the Lesson 12 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

**Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.







### Follow the Leader Supplies

3-foot length of rope for  
every 10 kids

## 1 GETTING STARTED

### Follow the Leader

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Say: **Let's start today with a game about leading—and following!**

Have up to 10 children hold on to a length of rope. Tell the person holding one end of the rope to lead the others holding onto the rope around the room, winding back and forth. Explain that the kids holding onto the rope behind the leader must follow wherever the leader takes them.

Give the starting signal, and let the leader weave around the room for a minute or so. Call time and let kids switch positions and play again, so the leader becomes a follower. Then let any kids who haven't had a turn yet repeat the process. (If you have time, play several rounds.)

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Have kids form pairs to answer the following questions. After each question, invite partners to share their answers with the rest of the class.

Ask:

- **What were you feeling or thinking as you were being led around the room?**
- **How is that like being led by others in real life?**
- **How do you decide who to follow in your life?**
- **When is it hard for you to know who to follow?**

Say: **There are a lot of people trying to get us to follow them in life, right? They can be people at school, parents, kids in the neighborhood, and even advertisers on TV or in magazines. It's important to know who to follow. Today's lesson should help!**

**In our activity, you had to follow the leader because I told you to hold on to the rope.**

Ask:

- **What would have happened if you had let go of the rope?**

Say: **Today's lesson is all about living in God's Spirit. When we live by God's Spirit, it's like letting go of the rope in our activity. Then we're free to do what God wants us to do instead of being led around by others. Today's lesson will help us learn to let go of being led by anyone other than God. ► WHEN WE LIVE BY GOD'S SPIRIT, GOD CHANGES US. Let's find out more!**



## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

### In the Spirit

#### What You'll Do

Have kids form groups of four, and make sure each group has at least one Bible. Also give each group paper and a pencil. Open your Bible to Romans 8:9-17, and show kids the passage.

Say: **Today's Bible passage is Romans 8:9-17. Turn to that passage right now in your group.** Help kids find the passage, if necessary. **In your group, read the passage together. You can choose one person to read it aloud, or you can take turns reading verses. You decide.**

Give groups several minutes to read the passage. Then encourage group members to come up with one or two sentences that explain what they think the passage is saying. Have each group choose someone to record the sentences and another person to read them to the class.

Walk around the room to offer assistance as needed, but resist the urge to explain the passage to kids at this time. After a few minutes, call time. Let each group's representative read its sentences to the rest of the class. Thank kids for their work, and encourage them by recognizing their good efforts.

Say: **This isn't a particularly easy passage to understand, is it? But let's break it down a little. Let's look at verses 9 through 11 first. Basically, these verses say that if you belong to Christ, God's Spirit lives in you. And if God's Spirit lives in you, you can be dead to sin.**

#### Talk With Kids

Have kids answer these questions in their groups. After each question, let volunteers share their answers with the class, and thank kids for their participation.

Ask:

- How do you know if you belong to Christ?
- What does it mean to be dead to sin?

Say: **We don't want to make this passage more difficult than it needs to be. If you believe that Jesus is God's Son and that he died for your sins so you can be with him in heaven, then you belong to Christ. And if you belong to Christ, you have God's Spirit inside you. God promised to send the Holy Spirit when we believe. It's that simple.**

**But having God's Spirit doesn't mean that we'll always obey the Spirit.**



#### In the Spirit Supplies

Bibles  
paper  
pencils





### Adopted by God Supplies

Bibles

Ask:

- **What are some ways we do wrong and sin?**

Say: **We all still choose to sin, don't we? We all still choose to go our own way sometimes instead of doing what the Spirit prompts us to do. When that happens, we can repent and ask for forgiveness and start over again.**

So from this part of the passage, we know that if we believe in Jesus, we have God's Spirit living in us. The next part of the passage tells us why we should want to follow God's Spirit.

## Adopted by God

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **To understand this part of the passage, let's put on a play. Don't worry—you don't have to learn any lines. You'll all play the same part.**

Explain that for the beginning of the play, each child should pretend that he or she is an orphan in olden times. Say that orphans were often homeless and hungry, with no coats in the cold weather and no one to take care of them. They often had to beg for what little food people would throw their way.

Explain that when you give the signal, kids should mill around the room, pantomiming the actions of an orphan. Kids might pretend to shiver, to be hungry, to be sick, or to beg. Give the signal, and let kids playact for a minute or two.

After a minute or two, call time and have kids form pairs to answer the following questions. Let partners share their answers with the rest of the class.

Ask:

- **What three words would you use to best describe the life of our orphan?**
- **What do you think an orphan would want or need most in life?**
- **How could the orphan get what he or she most wants or needs?**

Say: **An orphan during the time of our play would probably feel scared and alone, perhaps hungry and tired and sick. Probably more than any one thing, an orphan would want to belong to someone—to be taken care of, don't you think? And the only way for that to happen would be for someone to adopt the orphan. Let's imagine what that would be like.**

Have kids playact what it would be like to be adopted by someone rich and powerful. Kids might skip around the room, pretend to be full, or pretend to sleep peacefully. Give kids the signal, and let them playact for a minute or two.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.





Ask:

- What do you think the best part of being adopted would be for the orphan?
- What emotions do you think the orphan might feel if he or she were adopted?

Say: **Whether you knew it or not, the plays you just put on explain the second part of today's Bible passage. I'll show you what I mean.** Have kids return to their original groups of four, and direct them back to verses 12 through 17. **In these verses, the Bible says that when we have God's Spirit, we are children of God. We can call God "Father." We are heirs of God. It's as if we had been orphans before but now have been adopted by the richest, most powerful father in the world. And that father wants to give us everything he has. That's what it means to be children of God. That's pretty amazing, isn't it?**



### 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

## Fruit of the Spirit

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **The Bible goes on to tell us specific good things we can have if we have God's Spirit in us. We can read all about it in today's Key Verse: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23).**

Have kids turn to Galatians 5:22-23 and read the passage in their groups. As kids are reading, distribute white paper, colored construction paper, pens, pencils, and this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages to each group.

Say: **On your Bible Truth Sleuth page, you'll see the fruit of the Spirit you just read about. Of course, the Bible doesn't mean that the benefits of the Spirit are pieces of fruit. But it's a fun, visual way to remember them.**

**Think of times you need each fruit of the Spirit. Then think of how you could let God's Spirit help you in those situations. For example, on the fruit that says "patience," you might say that you need patience when your little brother is bugging you. Then you might say that instead of yelling at your brother, you could let God's Spirit lead you to be kind and pay attention to him. Summarize the situation in one sentence, and write the sentence on your fruit. Do the same thing on each fruit of the Spirit.**

When kids have finished writing, let them share what they wrote with the members of their groups. Let volunteers share their answers with the rest of the class.

### Fruit of the Spirit Supplies

- Bibles
- white paper
- colored construction paper
- pens
- pencils
- hole punches
- 3 feet of string per child
- 1 wire hanger per child
- Bible Truth Sleuth
- scissors

### Fruit of the Spirit Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 12 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.





### Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth

Then encourage kids to make mobile reminders to help them during the week. Let kids use white paper to trace each fruit shape and then use the shapes to cut the pieces of fruit from colored construction paper. Have kids write the name of the fruit of the Spirit on each shape along with a one-word reminder of the situation they wrote about.

Set out hole punches, wire coat hangers, and string for kids to use in making their mobiles. Show kids how to attach the fruit shapes to the hangers using varying lengths of string. Encourage kids to hang their mobiles at home to remind them that God's Spirit will help them live lives that please God.

## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's each choose a Daily Challenge for the week to help us remember that ► WHEN WE LIVE BY GOD'S SPIRIT, GOD CHANGES US.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Turn on a fan in your bedroom, and thank God for giving you the Holy Spirit to change you.**
- **Retell today's Bible story to your friends at school, and explain that when we live by God's Spirit, God changes us.**
- **Read a Bible story with a family member, and then thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to help you understand his Word.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

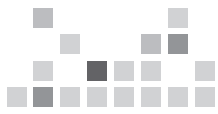
Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.**

Say: **► WHEN WE LIVE BY GOD'S SPIRIT, GOD CHANGES US. Let's live by God's Spirit by following through on our Daily Challenges this week.**







## Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about living by the Spirit. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).

Close with a circle prayer, asking God to help each child exhibit the fruit of the Spirit during the coming week. Go around the circle during the prayer, letting each child in turn hold up his or her mobile and say the fruit of the Spirit with which he or she most needs help. (Make sure to name your problem fruit, too!)



