



Paul Describes Living by God's Spirit

Romans 8:9-17

First- and second-graders are continuing to learn right from wrong. They understand that some behaviors and attitudes are not acceptable. Usually this age sees the cause-and-effect relationship of those behaviors and attitudes: If I don't clean my room, I'll get in trouble. Use this lesson, instead, to help children understand the root of spiritual living: because we love and follow Jesus, our lives reflect his love.



► 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 sending the Holy Spirit.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Fitting Spiritually <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn that living by God's Spirit brings changes.	several items of adult, child, and baby clothing; masking tape	Clear an area, and mark boundaries with masking tape for a relay race. Place clothes of various sizes (from baby to adult) at one end of the room behind a boundary line.
2 Bible Exploration	No Guesswork <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Guess where there is treasure, and discuss how in Romans 8:16-17 the Spirit shows without a doubt that we are God's treasured children.	Bible, pennies	
	Sweet Spirit <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Make fruit salad to show that the fruit of the Spirit has many "flavors" but is one blended way of life.	3-ounce cup, plastic spoon, and knife per child; paper plates; large bowl; 1 cup strawberry halves; 1 cup sliced peaches; ½ cup sliced bananas; 12-ounce fruit yogurt; large spoon	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Spirited Fruit <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Using their fruit pictures, name acts of love, patience, kindness, and so on that they can do to show how to live in the Spirit.	Bibles, My Bible Fun, fruit-scented markers	Tear out the Lesson 12 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Fun	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





Fitting Spiritually Supplies

several items of adult,
child, and baby
clothing
masking tape

Fitting Spiritually Easy Prep

Clear an area, and
mark boundaries with
masking tape for a relay
race. Place clothes of
various sizes (from baby
to adult) at one end
of the room behind a
boundary line.

1 GETTING STARTED

Fitting Spiritually

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Gather everyone together. Then line up the children in one line as a relay team, and have them see how long it takes for the whole class to put on all the clothes, one item per trip for each child. Tell kids to put on each item of clothing somehow, even if they are too big or too small. After you finish, sit in a circle for discussion.

Ask:

- **What made this relay hard?**
- **Why didn't you want to try on the baby clothes?**

Say: **Some clothes, like the baby clothes, will never really fit again. Other clothes may be too big, but since we are still growing, we might wear them someday. Because we are growing, we don't stay the same and we can't always wear the same size clothes.**

When we accept God's love, we don't stay the same; we become new people. We start to grow and learn how to be more like God. God's Spirit shows us how to live by teaching us to follow God.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What are some things we no longer do now because we are bigger?**
- **Why don't we stay the same?**
- **Why does God not want us to stay the same?**

Say: **God wants to help us grow. He sends the Spirit to help us in life. In our story, we're going to learn that ► WHEN WE LIVE BY GOD'S SPIRIT, GOD CHANGES US.**





2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

No Guesswork

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Gather enough pennies so each child will have one by the end of the lesson, and then have kids sit in a circle around you. Have each child take a turn guessing in which hand you are hiding a penny. Show the child if he or she is correct. If the child is correct, give up the penny; if not, continue to the next child.

Ask:

- How did you feel when you found out if you were correct or not?
- Why was guessing where the treasure was hard to do?
- What kind of treasure is God offering to us?
- How do we get that treasure?

Open your Bible to Romans 8:16-17, and read it aloud.

Have the kids who got a penny each find a child who did not receive one. Then give a penny to each child who doesn't already have one. Have pairs answer the next two questions.

Ask:

- Those of you who just received a penny from me, how do you feel now?
- Think about the treasure I just gave you for free. How is that like receiving God's treasure?

Say: **God's Spirit speaks to us and for us. Not only does the Spirit lead us to follow God but the Spirit teaches us, too.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why do we need God's Spirit?
- What do you think God's Spirit wants us to do to show we are God's children?
- What do you think happens when we live by God's Spirit?

Say: **In our game, you had to guess which hand held a treasure. You could only get the treasure if you guessed right. But God doesn't want us to live our lives guessing if we are his children or how we can be his children. We cannot repay God for giving Jesus, his treasure, to us. But we can know we are God's children and that he treasures us. ► WHEN WE LIVE BY GOD'S SPIRIT, GOD CHANGES US.**



No Guesswork Supplies

Bible
pennies





Sweet Spirit Supplies

3-ounce cup, plastic spoon, and knife per child
paper plates
large bowl
1 cup strawberry halves
1 cup sliced peaches
½ cup sliced bananas
12-ounce fruit yogurt
large spoon

! ALLERGY ALERT

Spirited Fruit Supplies

Bibles
My Bible Fun
fruit-scented markers

Spirited Fruit Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 12 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.

Sweet Spirit

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Divide the children into groups of up to 10 kids, giving each group a different kind of fruit from the list below to dice with plastic knives. Have each group place its diced fruit into a large bowl, and allow kids to take turns stirring the fruit together with yogurt. You will need the following fresh fruit to give 10 children each a 3-ounce cup of fruit salad: 1 cup halved strawberries, 1 cup sliced peaches, ½ cup sliced bananas, and 12 ounces of fruit yogurt. Adjust the recipe to your class size.

As you serve the children and allow them to eat their fruit, read the Key Verse to them: **“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control” (Galatians 5:22-23).**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How are things such as love and patience like fruit?
- Why does God want us to have this fruit?
- What happens when we live by God's Spirit?

Say: **The fruit of the Spirit is wonderful, like real fruit. God's Spirit leads us to follow God and to act like his children with the fruit of the Spirit. There are different types of fruit of the Spirit, but all of the fruit is inside of us to make our lives better.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Spirited Fruit

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a fruit-scented marker and a My Bible Fun page. Open your Bible to Galatians 5:22-23, and assist kids in doing the same.

Say: **Our Key Verse helps us know how to live in God's Spirit. It is found in Galatians chapter 5, verses 22-23 and says, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.





Ask:

- What does it mean to have the fruit of the Spirit?
- How can you show these things, the fruit of the Spirit, in your lives?

Explain that showing the fruit of the Spirit means we show these traits. We are loving, kind, peaceful, and gentle to others because we are God’s children. Have kids think about the different fruit of the Spirit and choose three that they struggle with in their lives and write or draw them on the empty fruit on the page. For example, one child might have trouble being kind to his sister.

Say: **Let’s remember this week that ► WHEN WE LIVE BY GOD’S SPIRIT, GOD CHANGES US.**



4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let’s think about how ► WHEN WE LIVE BY GOD’S SPIRIT, GOD CHANGES US.**

Have kids find this week’s Daily Challenges in their My Bible Fun 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 help 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 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 believe in Jesus, God’s Spirit lives in us. Let’s remember that ► WHEN WE LIVE BY GOD’S SPIRIT, GOD CHANGES US, as we follow through on our Daily Challenges.**

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun





Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how God's Spirit changes us. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

Take a couple minutes to pray with your kids. Pray: **Dear Lord, thank you for giving us your Spirit to lead us to follow you. Help us to live by the fruit of the Spirit this week and all the time. In Jesus' name, amen.**

