



# Paul Describes Living by God's Spirit

Romans 8:9-17


Kids this age are beginning to choose how they're going to live their lives. A lot of factors play into their choices: family background and practices, family teachings, influences such as TV and movies, and influences of friends. The influence you have as a teacher can sometimes seem rather small compared to those things. But what you do makes a big difference! A relationship with God through Jesus Christ can be the biggest influence in a child's life. If kids make a faith commitment to Christ and seek to live by the Holy Spirit, their lives will change. You can be a huge influence in their lives by introducing them to Jesus and to how God's Spirit can help them in their lives.



► **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 experience lasting change through the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives.  
.....

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Simon Says</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Play a game to help them think about how we follow guidelines in our lives.		
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Holy Spirit Questions</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Roll the Question Cube and answer questions about the Holy Spirit.	<b>Teacher Pack:</b> Question Cube 	
	<b>Not-So-Coded Messages</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Dig out what Romans 8:9-17 says about how God's Spirit works in our lives.	Bibles, pencils or pens, Bible Buzz	Tear out the Lesson 12 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.

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



LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Option 1: Group Fruit Study</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Explore the fruit of the Spirit in groups, examining what it means to live by God's Spirit.	Bibles, pencils or pens, Bible Buzz	
	<b>Option 2: Reflections</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Individually reflect on the fruit of the Spirit and on how the Spirit is working in their lives.	Bibles, pencils or pens, Bible Buzz, CD player, CD of praise music	
	<b>God's Spirit in Us</b> <i>(up to 5 min.)</i> Share with group members areas for prayer and pray together for those needs.		
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Buzz	
	<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.





## 1 GETTING STARTED

### Simon Says

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. When everyone has arrived, play a game of Simon Says. In case you're not familiar with the game, here's how it works. Have students stand in an area where they have a bit of room to move around. Then tell them to quickly do whatever commands you give them whenever the command begins with "Simon says." Kids are not to follow your command if you don't say, "Simon says."

Give commands such as "touch your nose with your right hand," "raise your left foot," "turn around twice," and so on. Begin slowly, and then speed up the commands, mixing "Simon says" commands with plain commands. When kids mess up, they're out of the game and have to sit down. After a few minutes, stop the game and help kids talk about it.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How difficult was it to play by the rules in this game?
- How did it feel if you messed up?
- How is this like following rules in real life? How is it different?
- What kinds of guidelines do you live by in your everyday life?
- How might following the rules of this game be similar to following God's Spirit in our lives?

Say: This activity helped us begin thinking about living by something. We all live by certain rules, but that's not all we should be living by. ► **WHEN WE LIVE BY GOD'S SPIRIT, GOD CHANGES US.** Let's learn more.

## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

### Holy Spirit Questions

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Play a game to help your kids share with each other what they know about the Holy Spirit. Get the Question Cube from the Teacher Pack, and give kids the following instructions.

Holy Spirit Questions  
Supplies

Teacher Pack  
Question Cube



Say: **I'm going to give this cube to someone, and that person will roll it. The person who rolled the cube will then answer the question it "asks" with one thing about the Holy Spirit. For example, if you roll "What?" you might say, "the Spirit of God."**

Give the cube to one of your students and begin. After one person rolls and answers, pass the cube to another student. Keep going until kids begin to run out of answers. Affirm kids who roll the cube even if they can't think of an answer. Encourage kids to think about and share what they know about the Holy Spirit. Don't make it easy for them to shrug and pass the cube on. However, if it seems that your students don't know much, you might want to take over rolling the cube and just share what you know in response to each question that comes up. When you're done with the Question Cube, put it away and discuss the following questions.

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What did you learn about the Holy Spirit from these questions and answers?**
- **How is rolling the cube like trusting the Holy Spirit in our lives? How is it different?**

Say: **In our next activity, we're going to learn a lot more about who the Holy Spirit is and what he does.**

## Not-So-Coded Messages

### What You'll Do

Have your students turn to "Code Breakers" in Bible Buzz (Lesson 12). Give each student a pen or pencil.

Say: **We've been talking about the Holy Spirit. Now let's see what one passage in the Bible says about the Holy Spirit. But first, I want to be sure you know that the Holy Spirit and God's Spirit, which today's passage talks about, are one and the same. God's Spirit, or the Holy Spirit, is one of the three persons of the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Keeping that in mind, let's go to work on "Code Breakers" in Bible Buzz.**

Give students several minutes to work through the passage, following the instructions in Bible Buzz. Then help them form pairs to share their findings and discuss the questions at the end of the passage. While pairs are discussing, circulate among pairs and listen to some of their findings. After a few minutes, ask for volunteers to share insights they've discovered.

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.



### Not-So-Coded Messages Supplies

.....  
Bibles  
pencils or pens  
Bible Buzz

### Not-So-Coded Messages Easy Prep

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





Ask:

- **What did you learn about the Holy Spirit from your study and discussion?**

Give kids as much time to share as you can because they could have gleaned a lot from the passage. If they have trouble getting started, question them about some of the things you heard in your stroll around the room. When all their thoughts seem exhausted, move on to the next question.

Ask:

- **What happens when we live by God's Spirit?**

Again, allow plenty of time for sharing. Then wrap up the activity.

Say: **We've learned quite a bit about the Holy Spirit and what he does. Now we're going to examine further how ► WHEN WE LIVE BY GOD'S SPIRIT, GOD CHANGES US.**

### 3

## WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

### Option 1: Group Fruit Study

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids form groups of four or five. Have students turn to "Spirit Fruit" in Bible Buzz.

Say: **This week's Key Verse tells us what it means to live by God's Spirit. When we live by God's Spirit, we produce the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. We're going to spend some time looking at what that means right now.**

Have students turn to Galatians 5:22-23 and read the passage aloud in their groups: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." Assign each group two or three of the fruit of the Spirit listed there. It's okay if more than one group has the same fruit, but be sure all fruit are covered. Give each group pencils or pens.

Say: **In your group, follow the directions in your Bible Buzz. You have two tasks for each fruit of the Spirit you've been assigned. First write a brief definition of each fruit. Then discuss and write down what it would look like for you to live out that fruit in your daily life.**

While groups are working, circulate among the students to answer any questions. When they're finished, have groups report their discoveries on each fruit of the Spirit. Encourage kids to fill in information they hear from other groups about fruit of the Spirit. Then discuss the following questions.

#### Option 1: Group Fruit Study Supplies

Bibles  
pencils or pens  
Bible Buzz



## Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What happens when we live by God’s Spirit?
- What fruit of God’s Spirit do you see coming out in your life or in the lives of those in your group?
- How would your life be different if you lived fully by God’s Spirit?

## Option 2: Reflections

### What You’ll Do

Use this option if you believe your students would benefit more from quiet reflection on how God’s Spirit is at work in their lives. Have them turn to “Spirit Fruit” in Bible Buzz.

Say: **This week’s Key Verse, Galatians 5:22-23, tells us a lot about what it means to live by God’s Spirit: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” When we live by God’s Spirit, we produce the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. We’re going to spend some time looking at what that means right now. We’re going to work on this section of Bible Buzz individually so that everyone can quietly reflect on the Holy Spirit’s work in his or her life.**

Have students find spots separate from each other as much as possible. Give them about 15 minutes to go over the “Spirit Fruit” exercise. You might want to play some quiet music while they work. Make yourself available to answer any questions.

When students appear to be finishing up, have volunteers share what they came up with. Move from one fruit to the next, allowing at least two or three students to report on each one.

## God’s Spirit in Us

### What You’ll Do

Have kids form groups of four or five. If you did Option 1 above, have kids remain in the same groups.

Say: ► **WHEN WE LIVE BY GOD’S SPIRIT, GOD CHANGES US. But talking about what the fruit of God’s Spirit looks like in our lives and experiencing it are two different things. In your groups, share with each other areas where you feel you need to live by God’s Spirit more closely. Tell how you’d like to see that fruit in your life. Then have your group members pray that God’s Spirit will help you especially in that area. Repeat this process for each person in your group.**

Allow groups several minutes for this activity. Then bring them all back together to wrap up your session.



### Option 2: Reflections Supplies

- .....
- Bibles
  - pencils or pens
  - Bible Buzz
  - CD player
  - CD of praise music



## Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Buzz

# 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 the Bible Buzz 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.**
- **At lunchtime, hand out fresh fruit to your friends at school, and explain how living by God's Spirit enables us to bear good fruit.**
- **Read a Bible story to 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 see how God changes us as we follow 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 God's Spirit. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Buzz 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 prayer.