



Jesus Teaches About Good Fruit

Luke 6:43-45

Preteens are just beginning to establish their identities. As they do, they “try on” various identities. From week to week, some young people may seem to change completely. Throughout this process, make sure you continue to affirm them for positive attributes of who they really are. Be patient as they learn to accept themselves as God made them. It’s a long process!



► Bible Point

Acting like Jesus shows we’re Christians.

Key Verse

“In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).


Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will show their faith in Christ by the way they live.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Secret Disguises <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Disguise team members and guess the true identities of the other team’s disguised people.	pens, Bible Buzz, materials to disguise kids	Tear out the Lesson 1 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.
2 Bible Exploration	Music Metaphor <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Listen to two contrasting types of sound and then to the Scripture passage.	Bible, pens, Bible Buzz, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
	Good Fruit Banners <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Make banners to represent the meaning of the Scripture passage.	Bibles; 5 pieces of cloth, 1x2 feet each; glue, markers, and craft supplies for 5 groups; tape	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Showing God's Light <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse and commit to letting their faith show in the way they live.	Bible Buzz, newsprint, marker, candles, matches, CD player, copies of the lyrics (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Buzz	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	Bible Buzz	Tear out the letter to parents from the back of each Bible Buzz student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





Jesus Teaches About Good Fruit

Luke 6:43-45

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Jesus Compares Trees to Authentic Faith

In his references to good and bad trees in this passage, Jesus is obviously drawing an analogy to the fruit that people bear. Notice that the distinction is not between healthy apple trees and diseased apple trees. It is between fruit trees and thorns or briars; it is the kind of tree that makes the difference. Many kinds of trees look good but don't produce fruit. So it is with people. Jesus seems to be saying that a person who is not really a servant of God, no matter how good he or she seems to be, cannot possibly produce fruit for him. Conversely, someone who really is God's servant will automatically produce fruit.

The Heart Is Known Through Actions

Then in Luke 6:45, Jesus expounds on the principle he introduced in the tree metaphor. What comes out of us through our speech and behavior flows from what is within. If what is inside us is good and God-honoring, our lives will honor God. If what is inside us is evil, our lives will not honor God. No matter how hard we try to make good impressions, no one will be fooled for long if our hearts are deceitful.

The Jesus Connection

As we make our relationship with Jesus a priority, we'll find our actions will bear fruit that will please him.

Read aloud Luke 6:43-45. What can you do to store good things in your heart? In what circumstances can you bring good things out of the good you've stored in your heart? If you passionately follow God, the good you've stored will flow out to a needy world. Ask God to show you someone in your church who has a need. And then do the good thing and help that person. Don't forget to pray for the person! You can write your prayer here.





Secret Disguises Supplies

pens
Bible Buzz
materials to disguise
kids

Secret Disguises Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 1
pages from each Bible
Buzz student book.

1 GETTING STARTED

Secret Disguises

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. When everyone has arrived, give each person a pen. Have students form two teams; instruct one team to leave the room. That team should quickly disguise a few people on the team, using old oversized coats, hats, masks, towels, or sheets. (Remind kids that the idea is to hide the kids' identities, not to create a "cool" disguise!) Then send the disguised team members back into the room along with a team representative. The other team will try to guess who the people are.

Say: **Guessing team, you get to ask three yes-or-no questions of the team representative about each person. Then each of you will guess silently and secretly who the disguised people are. Write your guesses in the "Identity Guesses" section of your Bible Buzz page.**

When the guessing team has had a chance to guess the identities of the disguised people, have the teams switch places. The original guessing team will leave the room. That team should quickly disguise a few people on the team, and then send the disguised team members back into the room along with a team representative. The original disguising team will try to guess who the people are.

Say: **Guessing team, you get to ask three yes-or-no questions of the team representative about each person. Then each of you will guess silently and secretly who the disguised people are. Write your guesses in the "Identity Guesses" section of your Bible Buzz page.**

When the guessing team has had a chance to guess the identities of the disguised people, have both teams reveal people's true identities and list the correct answers on their Bible Buzz pages.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How hard was it to disguise people on your team?
- How hard was it to identify people?
- How could you tell who people were?

Say: **It's easy to disguise our physical identities. But it's not easy to disguise who we really are. The way we treat others, good or bad, reveals who we are. Today we'll explore how ► ACTING LIKE JESUS SHOWS WE'RE CHRISTIANS.**





2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Music Metaphor

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Make sure each person has a pen and his or her Bible Buzz (Lesson 1) page.

Say: **I'm going to read today's Scripture passage, but before I do, let's listen to something that will help us understand what the passage is saying. Pay close attention to the differences between the two parts of what I play. As I play, write down what you notice. There's space for you to write in the "Metaphor Musings" section of your Bible Buzz page.**

Play the "Metaphor Sounds" (track 2 on the CD). If necessary, pause to allow kids to finish writing in their Bible Buzz pages.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you write on your Bible Buzz page?
- How did the first part of this CD segment make you feel?
- How did the second part make you feel?
- How were the two parts different?
- Why do you think they produced such different reactions?

Say: **Now I'm going to read today's Scripture passage. As I read, write in your Bible Buzz pages what you notice.**

Read Luke 6:43-45 aloud. If necessary, pause to allow kids to finish writing.

Ask:

- What did you write on your Bible Buzz page?
- What are the two things that are being contrasted in this passage?
- How are these two things similar to the two parts of the CD segment we heard? How are they different?
- What kinds of results does each of these things produce?
- According to this passage, where do these differences come from?

Say: **The contrast in this passage is a lot like the contrast between the two types of sounds on the CD. Let's take a closer look at the difference and where it comes from.**



Music Metaphor Supplies

-
- Bible
 - pens
 - Bible Buzz
 - CD player
 - Teacher Pack**
 - CD: "Metaphor Sounds"
(track 2)





Good Fruit Banners Supplies

Bibles
5 pieces of cloth, 1x2
feet each
glue, markers, and craft
supplies for 5 groups
tape

Good Fruit Banners

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids form five groups. Assign each group one of these Scripture passages: Luke 6:43; Luke 6:44; the first part of Luke 6:45 (“The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart”); the second part of Luke 6:45 (“and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart”); and the third part of Luke 6:45 (“For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks”). Give each group a piece of cloth or felt (about 1x2 feet); markers; glue; and other craft supplies such as glitter, yarn, and stickers.

Say: In your group, create a banner that portrays the message of your assigned Scripture. Just focus on the passage I assigned you, and use any of the supplies I've provided.

When groups have finished creating their banners, have them present their banners to each other, and hang them all together in order. Then ask for a volunteer to read the entire Scripture passage aloud.

Say: While our volunteer reads the entire Scripture passage, let's turn to look at the banners you created. They should help us visualize the passage as we hear it.

Ask your volunteer to read the entire Scripture passage while the class looks at the banners.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- According to these verses, how can you tell if a tree is good or bad?
- How can you tell what's in a person's heart?
- What kinds of things act like “fruit” in a person's life?
- How do we show we're Christians?

Say: We show we're Christians by acting the way God wants us to. Our faith shows in the way we live. When we don't act as God would want us to, it shows that we aren't allowing our faith to grow and influence our lives. When we let our faith grow stronger, it will change the way we live, and ► ACTING LIKE JESUS SHOWS WE'RE CHRISTIANS.





3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Showing God's Light

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have students find the Key Verse, Matthew 5:16, on their Bible Buzz pages: "In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

Ask a volunteer to read Matthew 5:16 aloud while students follow along.

Ask:

- What is the light this verse talks about?
- How is this light like the good fruit Jesus talked about in today's Scripture passage?
- How can we keep that light or that good fruit from showing?
- What are some specific ways ► **ACTING LIKE JESUS SHOWS WE'RE CHRISTIANS?**

As kids name ideas, list their answers on a piece of newsprint.

Say: **Look at the list we just created. I'd like each person to pick one thing from this list to commit to. We'll make these commitments to God in prayer, so be sure you're really ready to make that commitment.**

Allow students a few moments to think, and then give each person a small candle. Darken the room and light the candles.

Pass out copies of the lyrics, and play "Let Your Light Shine" (Matthew 5:16) (track 3 on the CD). Lead kids in singing the song a few times, referring to the copies of the lyrics.



Hey! Hey! Yeah!

Hey! Hey! Yeah!

**Let your light shine before men that
They may see your good deeds and
Praise your Father in heaven.**

**Let your light shine before men, yeah,
Let your light shine before men.**

(Repeat.)

**Let your light shine before men that
They may see your good deeds and
Praise your Father in heaven.**

**Let your light shine before men, yeah,
Let your light shine before men.**



Showing God's Light Supplies

- Bible Buzz
- newsprint
- marker
- candles
- matches
- CD player
- copies of the lyrics (at the end of this lesson)

Teacher Pack

- CD: "Let Your Light Shine" (Matthew 5:16) (track 3)





Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Buzz

Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

Bible Buzz

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

Tear out the letter to
parents from each Bible
Buzz student book.

**Let your light shine before men, yeah.
Let your light shine before men.
Hey! Hey! Yeah!
Hey! Hey! Yeah!**

"Let Your Light Shine" (Matthew 5:16) by Carol Smith. © 2003, 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

As this week's Daily Challenge, encourage kids to follow through on their commitments from "Showing God's Light."

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: ► **ACTING LIKE JESUS SHOWS WE'RE CHRISTIANS. Let's act like Jesus by following through on our Daily Challenges this week.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Send the letter to parents home with your kids or give it to parents when they pick up their kids. This is a great way to show families they're important to your church and to support their role as spiritual leaders to their kids.

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about acting like Jesus. 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.



Close with prayer. Pray: **Dear God, we want to let your light show in our lives. We want our lives to produce good fruit to show that our faith is strong and growing. Help us to grow stronger in our faith and to live up to the commitments we've made. In Jesus' name, amen.**





Lyrics

Let Your Light Shine (Matthew 5:16)

Hey! Hey! Yeah!
 Hey! Hey! Yeah!
 Let your light shine before men that
 They may see your good deeds and
 Praise your Father in heaven.
 Let your light shine before men, yeah,
 Let your light shine before men.
(Repeat.)

Let your light shine before men that
 They may see your good deeds and
 Praise your Father in heaven.
 Let your light shine before men, yeah,
 Let your light shine before men.
 Let your light shine before men, yeah.
 Let your light shine before men.
 Hey! Hey! Yeah!
 Hey! Hey! Yeah!

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