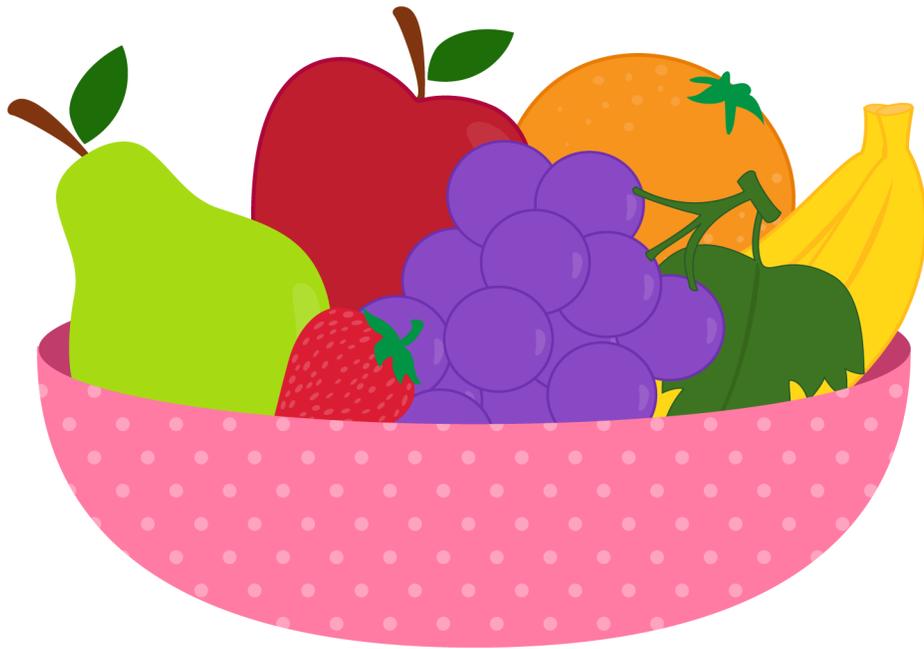


Fruit of the Spirit

Devotional



for young children

Galatians 5:22-23

To the parent:

Children are little sponges, and now is the perfect time to teach your youngster the Truths of Scripture! One of my favorite places to start is with the **Fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22-23**. These verses offer your child a glimpse of what exemplifies a true Christ-follower. Teaching and training your child in these character qualities will point them toward Christ!

The format of this devotional is simple and practical. Every day touches on one of the Fruit while reinforcing previous lessons. Everything is written out for you, the teacher, in **bold lettering**. Possible answers are in plain text, and any extras you need are in **red**. Each devotional is short and easy for young children to understand. This is not meant to be an in-depth Bible study, but rather an introduction to the Fruit of the Spirit.

I have written this devotional using the NIV translation. Many years ago I found a wonderful [Scripture Memory Songs](#) CD that taught the NIV translation of the Fruit of the Spirit. The songs on this CD are lovely and catchy without adding to or taking away from Scripture. I strongly encourage you to purchase the CD as a resource for this devotional. The CD can be purchased through this Amazon affiliate link: [Scripture Memory Songs](#).

Additional supplements to this devotional can be found at [Mama's Learning Corner](#). Lauren has put together a wonderful package of worksheets to enhance this devotional and reinforce what your child is learning. You will also find a Fruit Chart to reward your child for displaying the Fruit of the Spirit in their everyday life!

May you always be about the business of [Raising Arrows](#)!

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Day 1: Love

Read Galatians 5:22-23.

These verses tell us about something called the Fruit of the Spirit. Today, we'll be talking about Love.

Do you know someone who loves you?

(answers will vary)

Can you tell me someone you love?

(answers will vary)

Do you know what it means to love others?

(answers will vary)

Did you know that true love isn't about how you feel? Love is something you do. In fact, you can continue to love someone even when they have hurt your feelings or don't act like they love you back.

God loves us like that. Even when we aren't doing the right things He still loves us. In fact, He loves us so much, He wants us to be a part of His family.

You love your family very much, don't you?

Well, God wants you to love Him too, and when you love God you also love others... even those not in your family. God wants us to show His love to others here on earth.

Can you think of some ways we can do that?

(answers will vary)

Let's pray:

*Dear God,
Please help me to show Your love to others. Help me to love others even when they don't act like it and I don't feel like it. Thank you for loving me.
Amen.*

Add **Love** to the **Fruit Basket**.

Listen to the **Fruit of the Spirit** song from [Scripture Memory Songs](#).

Introduce and explain the **Fruit Chart**.

Day 2: Joy

Read Galatians 5:22-23.

Can you remember the Fruit of the Spirit we learned yesterday?

(Love)

Very good! Today, we are going to talk about Joy.

Do you know what joy is?

(answers will vary)

Show me a happy face.

That's great! Did you know that joy is even better than being happy? Joy is happiness way down deep in your heart. It's like having a song in your heart.

What's your favorite song?

(answers will vary – and feel free to take the time to sing it!)

Well, joy is having a song for God in your heart all the time!

Let's sing our Fruit of the Spirit song to remind us to be joyful!

(Sing **Fruit of the Spirit** from [Scripture Memory Songs](#))

Let's pray:

*Dear God,
I am so thankful you put a song in my heart and make me joyful. Help me to show that joy to others!
Amen.*

Add **Joy** to the **Fruit Basket**

Reinforce **Fruit Chart** and mention any ways you've seen them show love or joy.

Day 3: Peace

Can you tell me what two Fruit of the Spirit we have already learned?

(love, joy)

Good job! Listen closely as I read Galatians 5:22-23 again and see if you can figure out what Fruit we'll be studying today.

Today, we'll be studying Peace.

Have you ever heard the word peace before?

(answers will vary)

Well, peace can mean a lot of things to different people, but what peace really comes down to is a calm heart that doesn't stir up trouble.

Peace is a difficult fruit to remember. It's easy to want to cause trouble for someone who has caused trouble for you. If someone is being mean to you, you want to be mean back, but having peace stops you.

Jesus said, "My peace I give to you." (John 14:27) Jesus was so peaceful that even when people he knew and loved hurt Him, He didn't fight back. He knew that God would take care of Him.

That's what peace is all about... knowing that God will take care of you. You show this Peace to others by remaining calm, showing Love, and having Joy.

Do you see how the Fruit of the Spirit all work together?

Let's pray:

Dear God,

Help me to be peaceful. Help me to not cause trouble for others and stay calm even when trouble comes my way. Thank you, Jesus, for giving me peace.

Amen.

Add Peace to the Fruit Basket.

*Sing the **Fruit of the Spirit** song from [Scripture Memory Songs](#).*

Look for chances to add "fruit" to their chart!

Day 4: Patience

Read Galatians 5:22-23.

Can you say the first 3 Fruit of the Spirit with me?

(love, joy, peace)

Today, we'll learn about Patience.

Have you ever had to wait for something?

(answers will vary)

I've had to wait before too. One time I had to wait for...

(share something you've had to wait for with your child)

Waiting is hard. It seems like what you are waiting for will never get here!

Did you know there are two ways you can wait?

You can wait patiently or you can wait impatiently.

When you wait impatiently, you complain about how long it is taking, you whine when it takes too long, and you get upset because things aren't going your way when you want them to.

When you have patience, you wait without complaining. You don't whine or try to get your way faster. You wait quietly, trusting that God will take care of you.

Suppose I tell you that you can have a cookie in an hour. Show me how you would wait patiently for that cookie.

(encourage child to sit quietly and not have a sour face)

Now isn't that so much nicer than whining and crying about wanting a cookie now?

Let's pray about having patience:

Dear God,

I trust you and I know that you want me to wait patiently for your answers and your timing.

Help me to learn not to whine or cry when I don't get my way. Help me to show others what it means to trust You by showing them how I patiently wait.

Amen.

Add **Patience** to the **Fruit Basket**.

Sing the **Fruit of the Spirit** song from [Scripture Memory Songs](#).

Look for chances to add "fruit" to their chart!

Day 5: Kindness

What are the 4 Fruit of the Spirit we have learned already?

(love, joy, peace,patience)

Very good! Let's sing our Fruit of the Spirit song to find out what today's fruit is.

Sing [Fruit of the Spirit](#) from [Scripture Memory Songs](#)

Today's fruit is Kindness. What do you think it means to be kind?

(answers will vary)

Have you ever been kind to someone?

(answers will vary)

Do you remember a time when someone has been kind to you?

(answers will vary)

Kindness goes hand in hand with the very first Fruit we learned about. Do you remember what that fruit was?

(love)

Kindness is love in action. That means loving others helps us to be kind to others. We care for others, help others, and show love to others when we are kind.

Can you think of someone you can be kind to? How would you show love to them by being kind?

(answers will vary)

Be looking for ways you can show kindness to someone today. When you show kindness, you are showing others God's love and that will bring joy to their hearts!

Let's pray:

*Dear God,
Bring someone into my life today to whom I can show kindness. Help me to love others
with Your love.
Amen.*

Add [Kindness](#) to the [Fruit Basket](#).

Remind them of the [Fruit Chart](#) and continue to look for chances to add "fruit" to their chart!

Day 6: Goodness

Let's sing our Fruit of the Spirit song to start out our lesson today!

Sing **Fruit of the Spirit** from [Scripture Memory Songs](#)

Can you tell me which Fruit of the Spirit we have learned already?

(love, joy, peace, patience, kindness)

Today we are going to learn about Goodness.

Has anyone ever told you to "be good?" What does being good look like?

(answers will vary)

But goodness isn't simply about being good. True goodness comes straight from the heart. It is being good not because Mommy or Daddy said so, but because your heart wants to do good.

God is good and when we love Him, we desire to be good without anyone telling us to be good.

Let's read Galatians 5:22-23 and let's see how many Fruit you can remember!

(read verses, pausing for each fruit and letting the child try to remember them in order)

Let's pray for God's goodness to shine through us:

Dear Lord,

I want Your goodness to shine through me to others. I want others to see how wonderful You are. Bring me closer to You every day.

Amen.

Add **Goodness** to the **Fruit Basket**.

Remind them of the **Fruit Chart** and continue to look for chances to add "fruit" to their chart!

Day 7: Faithfulness

I'm going to read Galatians 5:22-23 and I want you to join me in saying the Fruit of the Spirit as I read them.

You are doing so well!

Today's Fruit is Faithfulness.

Have you ever heard the word faithful?

(answers will vary)

It's a big word, isn't it? Well, faithfulness is being there for someone, being loyal, believing in something even when it seems hard or no one else is doing it. It is remaining constant no matter how circumstances change.

You know that Mommy & Daddy love you. If Mommy & Daddy had to go on a trip somewhere and you had to stay here with Grandma, that wouldn't change how much we love you and how much you love us. We would still be faithful in loving you and you would still be faithful in loving us.

Did you know God is a faithful God? He loves us and He does what is best for us because He loves us. He is always the same... yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

When we are faithful, we show others we can be depended on and we do what is right because we know we are God's children.

Let's sing our Scripture song!

Sing **Fruit of the Spirit** from [Scripture Memory Songs](#)

Let's pray:

Dear God,

I know You love me and are faithful all the time. Help me grow to be more trustworthy and faithful to You every day.

Amen.

Add **Faithfulness** to the **Fruit Basket**.

Look for chances to add "fruit" to their chart!

Day 8: Gentleness

Can you recite back to me the first 7 Fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22-23?

(love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness)

Today's fruit is Gentleness. Have you ever heard the word "gentleness" or "gentle?"

(answers will vary)

Show your child a baby doll or a stuffed animal (preferably a cat or dog). Show me how you would hold/pet this baby/animal if you were being "gentle."

Gentleness means you are calm and careful. It is being quiet with your voice and soft with your touch. Let's practice again with our baby/animal by holding/petting gently and speaking softly.

Why would God want us to be gentle?

(answers will vary)

Jesus was gentle in spirit. He was kind and tender toward others. He held small children on His knee and He quieted storms with His words. We want to be like Jesus, so we practice being gentle.

Let's go over the 8 Fruit of the Spirit we have learned!

(love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness)

Let's pray:

*Dear God,
Please help me to be gentle like Jesus. Help me to have a quiet voice and gentle hands.
Amen.*

Add **Gentleness** to the **Fruit Basket**.

Sing the **Fruit of the Spirit** song from *Scripture Memory Songs*.

Look for chances to add "fruit" to their chart!

Day 9: Self-Control

Read Galatians 5:22-23

(encourage your child to join in reciting Fruit)

Today we learn the last Fruit of the Spirit! Did you hear it in the Scripture we just read?

(don't expect them to know, but praise them if they do!)

It's Self-Control. Any idea what that means?

(answers will vary)

If you simply switch the words around, you'll hear exactly what it means... controlling yourself. That means when you feel like doing something that isn't right, you stop yourself – you control yourself. It means not yelling and throwing a fit when things don't go your way. It means not doing bad things no matter how tempting they are.

What if Mommy has just made cookies for supper and has told you not to touch them, but you really want one. What will you do if you have self-control?

(not touch them)

That's right!

God wants us to be self-controlled. When we are tempted to do things we shouldn't do, God is right there with us helping us to do the right thing. He helps us to control ourselves!

So, every time you are tempted to do something you shouldn't, ask God to help you be self-controlled.

Let's pray:

*Dear God,
Sometimes I want to do something I know I shouldn't do. Please help me to be self-controlled and not give in to the temptation to do something I shouldn't do. Help me to remember the Fruits of the Spirit that you have given us.
Amen.*

Add Self-Control to the Fruit Basket.

Sing the Fruit of the Spirit song from [Scripture Memory Songs](#).

Continue to look for chances to add "fruit" to their chart and reward them for a job well done!