

17



THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

The Vine and the Branches

YEAR 2 – KINGDOM LIFE

UNIT 6: KINGDOM BEHAVIOUR

1 | Teacher's Notes

Scripture John 15:5; Galatians 5:22-23

Objectives To explain that

- Today's lesson is about Kingdom Behaviour.
- Jesus talks about himself as the vine and us as the branches. We can only produce fruit when we stay connected to him.
- The fruit we produce is called the Fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Jesus showed all these qualities in his life and ministry.
- We cannot produce this fruit by ourselves. It is the work of the Holy Spirit in us as we follow and obey Jesus.
- God doesn't only want us to follow rules. He wants our hearts to be changed by his love.
- The Fruit of the Spirit is what becoming like Jesus looks like. The more of the Fruit of the Spirit we have, the more we are like Jesus.

Memory Verse "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." (Galatians 5:22-23 – ESV)

ACNA Catechism Connections Today's lesson of The Fruit of the Spirit is connected to the following Catechism questions:

Q16 What does God desire to accomplish in your life in Christ? God desires to free me from captivity to sin and transform me into the image of Jesus Christ, by the power of his Holy Spirit.

Q89 What is the fruit of the Holy Spirit? The fruit of the Holy Spirit is the very

character of Jesus developing in us through the work of the Holy Spirit: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."

Q363 How does Jesus heal you? Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, as I continue in repentance and faith, Jesus mends my disordered soul from the effects of sin in my mind, will, and desires.

Q364 What is this healing called? This healing is called "sanctification," which means to be made whole and holy. By the work of the Holy Spirit, my mind, will, and desires are increasingly transformed and conformed to the character of Jesus Christ.

**Suggested
Materials,
Props, and
Costumes**

Big story props:

- Large Bible
- Kingdom Life storyboard (see photo)

Lesson Props: (see Props Document for instructions on how to make these)

- "Fruit of the Spirit" title card. "Jesus" and "Followers" cards.
- 9 pictures of grape clusters with one Fruit of the Spirit attribute on each. Put numbers from 1 – 9 on the back of each card along with the name of the attribute for a child to read out.
- Two glass jars of water, one coloured with blue food colouring.
- Storyboard symbol: Fruit of the Spirit vine
- Optional: Large picture of vine with branches drawn on large strip of paper. Place "Jesus" card on the trunk of the vine. Place "Followers" cards on some of the branches. The Fruit of the Spirit grape clusters can be placed on the vine during the lesson. (See photo on page 10.)
- Cue cards are encouraged if a child reads the part

Memory Verse: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."
(Galatians 5:22-23 – ESV)

(Found on the last page of this lesson plan) Print out and place in large Bible.

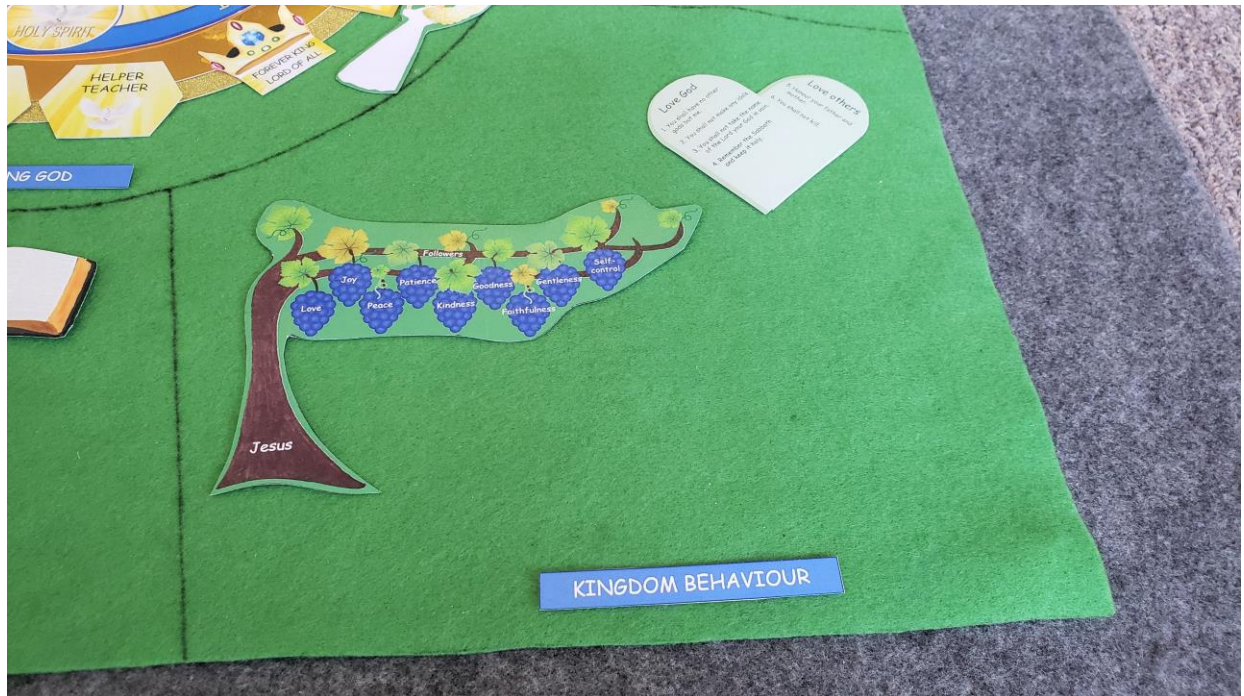
2 | Lesson Outline:

Welcome	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
Greeting & Collect for Purity	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity (<i>see Resource Section</i>)
Prayer of Confession	Say the Prayer of Confession (<i>see Resource Section</i>) Extinguish the candles
Music	The Fruit of the Spirit Song Greatest Commandment (With All My Heart) Love the Lord (CJ and Friends) <i>Please check internet for lyrics and music.</i>
Review of foundations	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment. <i>For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section</i>
Reading	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
Story Board Review	Ask review questions relating to props from previous lessons on story board. <i>Story board review is found in Section 4</i>
Props/Costumes	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) Big story props: Large Bible, Kingdom Life storyboard
Bible Story	<i>Proceed with story and questions found in Section 4.</i>
Related activities	<i>After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.</i>
Preparation for Communion & leaving class	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. <i>See Resource Section.</i>

3 | Storyboard Progression



This is how the storyboard should look at the start of the lesson



This is how the Kingdom Behaviour section should look at the end of the lesson. Leave the storyboard like this for next week.

4 | Story and Questions

SETUP: *Set up two teaching stations – one with the Kingdom Life storyboard, and the other one with the large picture of the grape vine up on a wall. (Alternatively, the large grape vine picture can be omitted, and the smaller storyboard symbol or condensed poster used for illustration instead.) Start your lesson by the storyboard. Ask for a volunteer to read the words of Jesus in the story.*

BIBLE: *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Today's lesson is from the Bible, and it is about Kingdom Behaviour.'*

STORYBOARD REVIEW:

We have learned about the 10 Commandments (*point to stone tablets on storyboard*) and how they are all about loving God and loving others.

STORY:

TEACHER: Today we are going to talk in a different way about loving God and loving others. We are going to talk about fruit.

Let's go over here and sit by this picture of a grape vine. The grape vine is the plant that produces grapes.

ACTION: *Have the children sit down by the grape vine picture.*

TEACHER: One day, when Jesus was teaching his followers, he used the grape vine as a picture of himself:

JESUS: "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you stay joined to me, and I stay joined to you, then you will produce lots of fruit. But you cannot do anything without me." (John 15:5)

TEACHER: (*Point to the words on the vine*): **Jesus** is like the vine itself, and we, his **followers** are like the branches. And we produce fruit. The Bible calls this the **Fruit of the Spirit**. (*Place title on the top of poster*).

What is the Fruit of the Spirit? Our memory verse talks about this. Who would like to read that for us again?

STUDENT: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,

goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

TEACHER: Who would like to place the fruit on the vine?

ACTION: Give 9 different children a grape cluster picture with a Fruit of the Spirit attribute.

TEACHER: Let's hear how Jesus showed us each of these qualities and how we can be more like Jesus.

ACTION: Have the 9 children come to the front one at a time (in the right order), holding their picture facing the other children so they can see it, while reading out the number and name of the attribute. The teacher reads the comments and asks the question. Have the children suggest answers to the question and add your own if need be. Have the child place the attribute on the vine and sit down.

STUDENT: #1 - LOVE

TEACHER: Jesus loved us so much that he came down from Heaven to die on a cross so we could be with him forever. **How can we love one another?** (Care for people in need. Be a friend, also to those who are not popular, etc.) *(Student places attribute on the vine and sits down.)*

STUDENT: #2 - JOY

TEACHER: Even as Jesus suffered on the cross, he did it for the joy of knowing we would be with him forever. The more we know God's love for us, the more joyful we become in all circumstances. *(Student places attribute on the vine and sits down.)*

STUDENT: #3 - PEACE

TEACHER: In the Bible, Jesus is called the Prince of Peace. We can have peace in our hearts because our sins are forgiven through Jesus. When we have peace in our hearts, then we can also bring peace to the world. *(Student places attribute on the vine and sits down.)*

STUDENT: #4 - PATIENCE

TEACHER: Jesus was patient even when people mocked him and treated him badly. **How can we be patient with each other?** (Wait patiently. Listen more to others, etc.) *(Student places attribute on the vine and sits down.)*

STUDENT: #5 - KINDNESS

TEACHER: Jesus was kind. He helped people who were suffering. **How can we be kind to others?** (*Help others. Be a friend to those who don't have friends. Include others in play & conversation. Be generous etc.*) (*Student places attribute on the vine and sits down.*)

STUDENT: #6 - GOODNESS

TEACHER: Jesus showed goodness when he healed and helped others. Most of all he showed his goodness when he died on our behalf. We can show goodness when we help others. (*Student places attribute on the vine and sits down.*)

STUDENT: #7 - FAITHFULNESS

TEACHER: Jesus was faithful. He came down from Heaven to save us just as God had promised in the Old Testament. We can be faithful by staying true and close to Jesus and helping others to love him as well. (*Student places attribute on the vine and sits down.*)

STUDENT: #8 - GENTLENESS

TEACHER: Jesus was gentle and kind to others. Jesus was gentle, but he was also strong and brave. **How can we be gentle?** (*Be kind to those who are smaller or weaker than us. Be kind to animals etc.*) (*Student places attribute on the vine and sits down.*)

STUDENT: #9 - SELF-CONTROL

TEACHER: Jesus showed self-control every time he resisted temptation. When people were mean to him Jesus did not retaliate. He was pure and without sin. We can ask the Holy Spirit to help us have self-control and say **no** to temptations. (*Student places attribute on the vine and sits down.*)

TEACHER: (*Point to the vine with the attributes.*) All these nine qualities together are the Fruit of the Spirit. Let's say them together: **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.**

How wonderful the Fruit of the Spirit is! But we can only produce this fruit when we stay connected to Jesus. That's because life comes into the branches through the vine. The Fruit of the Spirit comes from God's Spirit, God's new life within us.

God doesn't just want us to follow good rules. God wants our **hearts** to be **changed** by his love, so we become more and more like Jesus. Here is an illustration of how God does that:

ACTION: Have two jars of water, one plain and one with blue food colouring.

TEACHER: This jar of clear water represents us, and this blue water represents the Holy Spirit. When I pour the blue water into the clear water, it changes colour. Just like the water is changed, our hearts are changed by the Holy Spirit as we follow, love, and obey Jesus.

Let's go over to our storyboard to put our symbol down.

ACTION: Sit down by the storyboard with the children.

TEACHER: We will put down this picture of the vine and the Fruit of the Spirit. *(Put symbol down as shown.)* We will put it close to the Holy Spirit, because it is the Holy Spirit that helps us love God with all our heart, mind, and strength, so we produce this fruit.

This is what becoming like Jesus looks like *(point to Fruit of the Spirit symbol)* The more of these qualities we have, the more we are like Jesus. Then we can bring more of **his life** to the world that he loves.

Life Application Prayer:

TEACHER: Thank you Heavenly Father for giving us your Holy Spirit to help us to become more like Jesus. Please fill us with your Spirit that our hearts might be changed, and we can love you with all our heart, mind, and strength. Then we can become more like Jesus every day, having the Fruit of the Spirit and loving others as ourselves.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

- **What does this lesson tell us about God?** (Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches. When we stay connected to Jesus, the Holy Spirit produces in us the Fruit of the Spirit.)
- **What does the vine symbolize?** (Jesus)
- **What do the branches symbolize?** (Us, the people who follow Jesus.)
- **What is the Fruit of the Spirit?** (Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.)
- **How can we have the Fruit of the Spirit in us?** (When we stay connected to Jesus by loving him with all our heart, mind and strength, the Holy Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control in us.)
- **Does God only want us to follow rules?** (No, he wants our hearts to be changed by his love, so we become more and more like Jesus. This is a work of the Holy Spirit.)
- **What does becoming like Jesus look like?** (It looks like the Fruit of the Spirit. The more of these qualities we have, the more we are like Jesus and can bring his life to the world that he loves.)

5 | Response Activities

Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

Optional activities

- Different learning stations, such as: a book table, modelling clay, colouring papers



"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

(Galatians 5:22-23)