



"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

Lesson 17: *The Fruit of the Spirit* (Condensed Version)

Saint Matthew's Anglican Church Children's Ministries

THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES (Scripture: John 5:15; Gal. 5:22-23)

Year 2. Kingdom Life
Unit 6: Kingdom Behaviour

Objectives: To explain that: *Jesus talks about himself as the vine and us as the branches. We can only produce fruit (Fruit of the Spirit) when we stay connected to him. *Jesus showed all these qualities in his life and ministry. The more of the Fruit of the Spirit we have, the more we are like Jesus. *This is the work of the Holy Spirit in us as we follow and obey Jesus. *God wants us to follow good rules, and our hearts to be changed by his love.

"I Wonder" Questions: *What do you see in this picture? *I wonder why it says "Jesus" on the vine, and "followers" on the branch. *I wonder why the Holy Spirit symbol is at the top. Let's find out more in our lesson...

Lesson Props: John 15:5 (verse about vine and branches) on page 3. Two glass jars of water, one with blue food colouring in it.

Lesson Summary: Last lesson we talked about the good rules that God has given us to live by: the 10 Commandments that teach us how to love God and love others. But 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. The Holy Spirit changes our hearts when we follow, love, and obey Jesus. One day, when Jesus was teaching his followers, he used the grape vine as a picture of himself. Jesus said to them: (*Read John 15:5*). Jesus was saying that if we stay close to him, joined to him, then we will live a life that produces lots of good fruit. The Bible calls this the Fruit of the Spirit, and it is the nine different qualities that we have written on the grapes on our poster. Let's read them and hear how Jesus showed these qualities and how we can be more like Jesus. **1. Love** - 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 good friend, also to those who are not popular, etc.*) **2. Joy** - 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. **3. Peace** - 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. **4. Patience** - 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.*) **5. Kindness** - Jesus was kind. He helped people who were suffering. **How can we be kind to others?** (*Help others. Include others in play & conversation. Be generous, etc.*) **6. Goodness** - 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. **7. Faithfulness** - 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. **8. Gentleness** - 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.*) **9. Self-control** - 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. Let's read the Bible memory verse on our poster (*read verse together*). (*Point to Holy Spirit*) The Holy Spirit changes our hearts and helps us produce all this fruit. (*Use water jars*) Here is an illustration: This clear water represents us, and the blue water represents the Holy Spirit. When I pour the blue water into the clear water, it changes colour. In the same way our hearts are changed by the Holy Spirit as we follow, love, and obey Jesus. The more all these qualities grow in our lives, the more we become like Jesus.

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 all the Fruit of the Spirit) ***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 following, loving, and obeying him, then the Holy Spirit changes our hearts and produces all the Fruit of the Spirit in our lives.)

Bible Memory Verse: The Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5: 22-23 - ESV) – see poster

"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)

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