Children's Ministries Lesson – 3rd-5th Grade
Fruit of the Spirit – Joy
Acts 16 & Galatians 5:22-23
May 17, 2020

Children's Ministries purpose is **to build a spiritual foundation in each child that lasts a lifetime**.

We hope this lesson provides additional opportunities for your family to strengthen your relationship with each other and with Jesus. This lesson has components of both Children's Church and Sunday School fused together.

As you prepare your space, consider gathering supplies, create a worship focal point (ideas: a Bible, a cross, a candle and an offering container), and remove other distractions from the area. Read through this lesson before beginning. Wording in ***BLUE italics*** is information for the family leader(s). ***BLACK italics*** are actions to do.

With love, Your Children's Ministries Team and Worship Leaders, Ashley Hymel & Thanushka Lewkebandara.

BIBLE STORY POINT: God gives us the fruit of the Spirit to help us show others what his joy looks like.

SUPPLIES: Worship focal point ideas: A Bible, a cross, a candle and an offering container; praise and worship music links; Bible story link; activity supplies (see activity options below); service opportunity (listed at the bottom of the lesson)

FAMILY CHANT: *During Sunday School, your children begin with a "class chant". To bring that to your home, create a family chant that you can say each time. Create your own or use this one. The chant helps connect mind with body and connects everyone together. Motions/actions are in parentheses.*

Let's create our family "chant" as a way to begin our time together. Repeat what I say & do.

We are the [insert family name] family. (whoop whoop) ***We are the [insert family name]. (whoop whoop)***

We are safe and helpful too. (clap clap) ***We are safe and helpful too. (clap clap)***

Using kind words is what we do. (stomp stomp) ***Using kind words is what we do. (stomp stomp)***

Together we can make the world a better place. (high five) ***Together we can make the world a better place. (high five)***

This is our family! (whoop whoop) ***This is our family! (whoop whoop)***

OPENING PRAISE SONGS

Click here for the full playlist of St. Luke's Children's Praise Music, including more Fruit of the Spirit songs!

Supplies: Select the links for Praise and Worship Music (use one or both links)

1. "Big House" (Ashley Hymel and Thanushka Lewkebandara, Contemporary & Children's Church Worship Leaders

2. "Deep Down Boogie" (performed by Ashley Hymel & Thanushka Lewkebandara)

OFFERTORY:

Determine where your offering with go. You may select an organization of your choice, or save it until we return to Sunday School/Children's Church to give to our current mission. Place your offering in your container. (You may use your 75th Anniversary piggy bank, if you have one.) The below scripture is the scripture we use each Sunday during our Offertory time.

Let's say this scripture together. "God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7.

Now, let us pray for those who will receive our offering and The Lord's Prayer. Does someone want to lead us in prayer?

An optional prayer:

Dear God, We thank you for our many blessings. May the offering we share today bring your hope to those who will receive it. And now, let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

LEARNING SCRIPTURE:

Let us learn this scripture together.
"By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." Galatians 5:22-23
This is the word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

VIDEO INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES – Fruit of the Spirit

Click here to watch this introduction video if you have not previously viewed it.

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT PRAYER

Last week, we introduced the term, "fruit of the Spirit". When the Bible uses the word, "Spirit", God means the Holy Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is a gift God gives us to help us live lives that please him and show his love to others.

Let's begin to understand the fruit of the Spirit more with a prayer. Let's pray.

Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us the fruit of the Spirit. We ask you to help us live each quality of the fruit of the Spirit.
Help us to show ***love*** *a*nd ***joy****.*
Help us to have ***peace****.*
Fill us with your ***patience*** and ***kindness****.*
Show us your ***goodness****.*
Help us demonstrate ***faithfulness*** and ***gentleness*** and, finally, help us have ***self-control****.*
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Last week, we focused on the attribute, Love. Today, we will learn more about joy!

BIBLE STORY:
Supplies: Click here for the Bible story video
Our Bible story for today comes from the New Testament, the Book of Acts. Watch and listen to two stories from the Jesus Calling Bible Storybook: *Saul and The Jailer and the Earthquake.*
Watch the Bible story video.

DISCUSSION AFTER BIBLE STORY:
Supply: Bible
What did you find most interesting about the stories? *Allow time for family members to share their thoughts.*

Why do you think the other prisoners could not believe that Paul and Silas were singing? *(They did not know Jesus and have his joy in their hearts.)*

What do you think prison was like for them? Do you think you would have been joyous? *(Allow family members time to share thoughts.)*
In the New Testament, we find a joy role model: Paul. He is so filled with joy that he finds joy no matter the circumstance! What does it mean to be filled with joy?

Sometimes we think the word “joy” means the same thing as the word “happy” or “happiness”. And, in some ways, the two words are a lot alike. We say we are happy when we get to play with our friends. Or we say we are happy when we get our favorite cookie for dessert. We are happy when we are watching our favorite television show.

How do you feel when you cannot spend time with your friends?
How do you feel when your favorite TV show is over?
How do you feel when something that you love breaks, like an iPad? (*Insert children’s favorite thing!)* Lots of things make us happy. But if something changes, then we may not be happy any longer.

Joy means more than just being happy. The Bible tells us the fruit of the Spirit is love and joy. Joy is an attitude or a feeling that Jesus gives you when you have him in your heart. When you believe in Jesus and celebrate that you have a forever life with Jesus, you can feel real joy. Your heart is full of joy. Knowing Jesus gives us joy. You may still be sad that your iPad broke or that you cannot spend time with a friend, but that cannot take away the joy you have by knowing Jesus and that he loves you and will take care of you. We can have joy during the good times, happy times and fun times. But we can also have joy during the sad times, difficult times, or even scary times.

Let’s look up a few Bible passages written by Paul to the church in Philippi.
Philippians 1:3-4
3 I thank my God every time I remember you, 4 constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you,

Philippians 2:17-18
17 But even if I am being poured out as a libation over the sacrifice and the offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you— 18 and in the same way you also must be glad and rejoice with me.

Philippians 4:4
4 Rejoice[a] in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.[b]

Paul wrote the three passages we just read while in prison! Amazing, right? Paul’s joy comes from his identity in Christ. With Jesus living in our hearts, we can sing and rejoice even when facing the toughest circumstances!

As a family, do you think we are as steadfastly joyful as Paul? Can you name a joyful person in your life? How can we be more joyful? How can we spread joy to others?

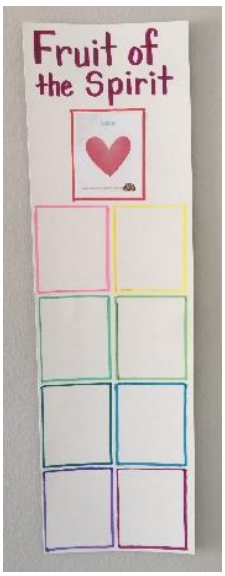
Always remember, Jesus’ love and joy can carry us through anything!

ACTIVITY 1: Fruit of the Spirit Multi-Week Family Activity

Supplies (for total project): See below under each idea.

You will make part of this project each week of the Fruit of the Spirit series. Today you will add "JOY" to your banner/poster from last week or make the overall banner/poster, if needed. Images of various options:

1. **Poster** – Ready to print as is – use the link to print. Post in a central location for your family. Simplest way to do this activity.
   Supplies: https://biblegamescentral.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Fruit-of-the-Spirit-Cards.pdf.

   Thank you, www.BibleGamesCentral.com.
2. **Vertical Banner** –
   Supplies: poster board or large piece of paper, poster cards (link above), markers, glue stick and/or painter's tape. Great for a fridge or narrow space.
   Write Title; draw boxes (we used the cards from the poster and just made them a bit larger; cut cards; and tape or glue each one in a box, one per week.
   

3. **Horizontal Banner** - Using Poster Cards (above link)
   Supplies: ribbon, clothes pins or tape, poster cards, heavy paper cut in banner style or be as creative as you want.
   To make the background banner cards, cut paper larger than the poster cards (see link above); lay them on a piece of ribbon; leave about 6 inches on each end to for hanging; write "Fruit of the Spirit" on the three center banner cards; attach blank banner cards to the ribbon with clothes pins or tape; cut out poster cards; tape or glue one on each banner card each week. Hang on a wall with painter's tape or bulletin board, etc.

4. Horizontal Banner – Create your own
   Supplies: Whatever you choose! For this one, we used ribbon, cardstock, markers, clothes pins, and painter's tape to attach to the wall.

We would love to see your creation! Send to rfisher@stlukesmethodist.org.

Overall Directions:

1. As a family, decide how large you want your family banner to be and where the banner will be displayed in your home.
2. Select your design.
3. The fruit of the Spirit for week two is **joy**.
4. As a family, decorate one sheet of paper to represent joy. Be as creative as possible!
5. Attach joy to the banner. Your banner should now contain love and joy! A new picture and new fruit of the Spirit attribute will be added for 7 more Sundays!

FAMILY CHALLENGE – Caught Showing JOY (and love)

Supplies: Fruit of the Spirit banner and your family

Throughout this Fruit of the Spirit series, notice or "catch" each other living out the attributes of the fruit of the Spirit. When you notice someone showing "joy", go to the banner and give a shout out to the family member who shared joy. What are some ways your family shows joy? Of course, as your family notices "love", point that out, too!!

Want to do more with the challenge? Have family members record the acts of joy (and love) on slips of paper and collect them in a jar. Read them together as a family and see God at work in your home!

Parent Tip:

The goal of the banner is to help your family memorize the fruit of the Spirit and put them into practice each day. A great tip for memorizing the fruit of the Spirit is to remember it is made up of 9 characteristics. These characteristics can be broken down into three sets of three (3+3+3). Each of these three sets increases in syllables. The attributes in the first set have one syllable: love, joy, peace. The ones in the second set have two syllables: pa-tience, kind-ness, good-ness. And the ones in the third set have three syllables: faith-ful-ness, gen-tle-ness, and self-con-trol. Use this tip to help memorize the fruit of the Spirit for yourself and share with your children!

ACTIVITY 2: Make Your Own Matching Game

Supplies: 18 – 3x5 notecards and markers

Directions:

1. Write each fruit of the Spirit on a separate notecard. You will use 9 notecards (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control).
2. On the remaining 9 notecards, draw a picture the represents each fruit of the Spirit. Ideas for pictures are found above in first activity.
3. Mix all 18 cards up and place them facedown.
4. Play matching game.
5. Save cards and play through the week to help memorize the fruit of the Spirit.

CLOSING:

LEARNING SCRIPTURE:

Let's say our scripture again!
"By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." Galatians 5:22-23
This is the word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Today, we learned about joy – the joy that comes from knowing Jesus. Paul had no joy in his heart at all. In fact, he only had horrible feelings and hate in his heart. Yet, Jesus reached out to him and the Holy Spirit filled his heart with great joy. He spent the rest of his life sharing that joy with others. Jesus is mighty and powerful. He gives us his joy, too. Let's pray that we feel the joy and love in our hearts, so we may share it with others and know that we can overcome anything because Jesus' love and joy is stronger than anything. Jesus loves us so much! Let's thank God for the wonderful gift of the fruit of the Spirit.

CLOSING PRAYER:

Ask someone to close in prayer or use the following prayer.

Dear God, we love you and thank you for the fruit of the Spirit you give us in joy. Thank you for loving us first to show us what true love and joy looks like. We thank you for the gift of Jesus and for helping us learn that we can always count on your joy that grows inside us. Help us share your joy. We praise you and love you because you are God and you are love and joy. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

CLOSING SONG:

Supplies: Click here for the closing song, "We Will Worship" (Ashley Hymel & Thanushka Lewkebandara):

Play the closing song.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES – to continue our worship all week!

Spread joy to the community!

1. **Drive-Thru Food Drive for CCSC | Saturday 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.**
   Help Christian Community Service Center (CCSC) keep full shelves! You can pull up to the Main Entrance porte-cochere on the south side of the St. Luke's campus (3471 Westheimer Rd.) No need to get out of your car! Volunteers will collect all donations out of your car for you. Requested Food Donation Items: Pasta, Hearty Soups, Boxed dry cereal, Canned vegetables, Canned tuna, Canned chicken, Canned fruit, Cleaning wipes, Toilet paper, Baby Wipes, Bar soap and Diapers (4, 5 & 6).

2. **Decorate Kids' Meals Lunch Bags**
   Help bring joy to preschool aged children by decorating brown lunch bags with fun pictures. Bags can be dropped off at St. Luke's during food drive on Saturdays or anytime during the week.