

Children's Ministries Lesson – 3rd-5th Grade

Fruit of the Spirit – Goodness

Book of Ruth

June 21, 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 goodness 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)**

(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. ["Trust in the Lord"](#) (Ashley Hymel and Thanushka Lewkebandara, Contemporary & Children's Church Worship Leaders)



2. ["I've Got the Joy"](#) (performed by Ashley Hymel & Thanushka Lewkebandara)



OFFERTORY:

Determine where your offering will 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 AND INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE STORY:

We have been learning about 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 and 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.

So far, we have learned about the attributes love, joy, peace, patience, and kindness. Today, we will learn more about goodness!

What does being good mean? (*Wait for responses – think about recent times in your family or what you see in the world around you.*)

How is goodness different than niceness? How is it different than other aspects of the fruit of the Spirit? (*Goodness does not depend on one's situation. Goodness is always present, no matter who is involved or what is happening.*)

Goodness is promised to us by God. James 1:17 (NIV) says, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." Because God's goodness is all around us, we as Christians are called to see God's gift and tell everyone about his blessings!

If God is always good, why do we feel bad sometimes? Can we still find goodness when bad things happen to us? Ruth and Naomi loved God, but they had hard lives. Let's see how we can learn from their faithfulness.

BIBLE STORY:

Supplies: [Click here](#) for the Bible story video

Our Bible story for today is, "Ruth and Naomi" from *The Jesus Storybook Bible* by Sally Lloyd-Jones. [Watch the Bible story video.](#)



DISCUSSION AFTER BIBLE STORY:

1. What is goodness? (*Goodness is God's way of blessing us with his presence in all things, through happy times and hard times.*)

2. Did Naomi ask Ruth to come with her to Bethlehem? *(No, Ruth did not ask her, but Naomi would not let her go alone because she loved her so much. Ruth had faith in God's goodness and knew she and Naomi could share God's goodness together. Ruth did not have to go with Naomi, but she made the choice to because she loves and cared for her.)*
3. Was it hard for Ruth and Naomi to find God's goodness when they first got to Bethlehem? *(Yes! They were poor and had to live on leftover grain. Even though our circumstances may change and times may get tough, we can still learn from Ruth and Naomi that God is always with us, showing us his goodness everywhere.)*
4. Why were Ruth and Naomi rewarded with food and a new family? *(They worked hard, but more importantly, they never gave up on each other. God wants us to share his goodness with everyone. Because they loved and cared for each other, they showed how God's goodness is with every person, no matter what. Boaz saw this and wanted them to be a part of his family so that they could worship God and share his goodness together!)*
7. Have you done anything good for others out of love and kindness? Did you expect to get a reward for it? *(Answers will vary. Goodness can be found in examples of both. However, others will see God's Holy Spirit shine through us when we do good things because we care for and love others. God's goodness is like this, he loves us and provides for us no matter what! God is good!)*

God's goodness can be found everywhere and at all times, therefore it is our responsibility to shine a light on God's goodness to everyone! Even when things are hard or we're upset, we can have faith in Jesus that he will always be with us, blessing us with his goodness.

Always remember, Jesus' love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and goodness 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 "KINDNESS" 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.

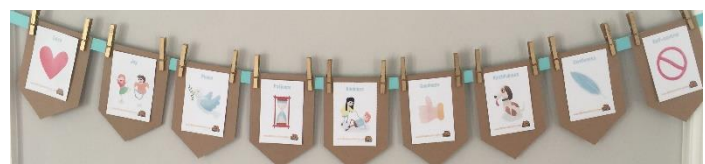
Write Title; draw boxes (we used the cards from the poster and just made them a bit larger; cut cards; and tape or glue each one in a box, one per week.



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 six is **GOODNESS**.
4. As a family, decorate one sheet of paper to represent kindness. Be as creative as possible!
5. Attach kindness to the banner. Your banner should now contain love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and goodness! A new picture and new fruit of the Spirit attribute will be added each week throughout this series!

FAMILY CHALLENGE – Caught Finding Goodness

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 God’s goodness, go to the banner and give a shout out to the family member who shows appreciation for God’s goodness. What are some ways your family shares goodness with one another? Of course, as your family notices “love” and “joy” and “peace” and “patience” and “kindness”, point those out, too!!

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 Father's Day/Special Person Scavenger Hunt (Please note that this activity can be done with dad or mom depending on the child's situation. It could even be done with someone else special that the child wants to learn more about.)

Inspired by kidsenjoyingjesus.com

Supplies: The scavenger hunt list below.

In our story today Ruth shows that she is a good person by traveling with her mother-in-law, Naomi. She also goes to work in the field so that she can provide for both her and Naomi. Ruth does not need to do any of this, Naomi does not ask her to, Ruth just does it because she loves Naomi, and has goodness in her heart. We do good things all the time for those that we love. We show goodness when we do things for others, we know they need or will enjoy. The next activity is something that can help you learn more about a special person in your life. When we learn more about others, it helps us to do good things for them. For example, if you learn what their favorite food is, you could make it for them! If this is done on Father's Day, it could be a great way to learn more about your Father. Hopefully after you have done the scavenger hunt, you will have learned more about this person, and you are able to do even more good things for them!

Directions:

Read the descriptions one at a time and have dad, or the person you have chosen provide clues to the child/children so that they can find matches to them. For kids who don't live with their dad, the name "dad" can be substituted with a foster parent, grandparent or anyone else who is special to them.

1. Find something just about as tall as dad.
2. Find something that starts with the same first letter as dad's favorite movie.
3. Find something related to a chore dad does not like.
4. Find an ingredient from one of dad's favorite foods.

5. Find something about as big as dad's favorite animal.
6. Find something that dad likes to talk or think about.
7. Find 3 things that are dad's favorite color.
8. Find something dad used every day.
9. Find something that reminds dad of his favorite game to play or watch.
10. Find something you could do to honor dad every day.

When they are done, discuss with the children what new things they have learned about dad. How could these new things they have learned help them do something good for their dad? Maybe they could use this information to help them draw pictures for dad, help make something for dad, or talk to dad about things that he enjoys.

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 goodness. The Bible teaches us of God's perfect goodness. He shares it with us so we may share it with others. Yet, it takes a lot of practice and a whole lot of prayer. God wants us to keep our focus on him. When we do, we can experience and know the fruit of the Spirit. What a wonderful gift from God. Let's thank God with our closing prayer.

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 goodness. Thank you for loving us first to show us what true love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and goodness look like. We thank you for the gift of Jesus and for helping us learn that we can always find his goodness in the ways he blesses us. Help us share these gifts with others through our words and our actions. We praise you and love you because you are God and you are kind. 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 the fruit of the Spirit to the community!

Supplies: paint, river rocks/small stones



1. Make and Share Kindness Stones - paint or decorate river rocks or small stones. As you walk through your neighborhood, leave them by the doorsteps of your neighbors. If you have paint, you may paint the rock first, if desired. You may use paint pens or colored pencils to decorate the rock.