



SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS...MATTHEW 6:33

Fruit of the Spirit

Patience - Lesson 2

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." Romans 12:12

Circle Time

Supplies:

2 bananas (1 rotten one and 1 good one)

What am I holding? (Hold up the good banana). That's right, it's a banana. Who likes eating bananas? (Now hold up the really ripe/rotten banana.) **How about this one?** Who likes to eat bananas that look like this - black and mushy? (Let them respond.) In Matthew 7:17-18 the bible says "Every good tree bears good fruit. But a bad tree bears bad fruit. A *good* tree CANNOT bear *bad* fruit. And a *bad* tree CANNOT bear *good* fruit. And in verse 20 it says "You can tell each tree by its fruit."

Hold up your arms as if they are tree branches (have the kids extend their arms out from their sides). Look at your arms. Do you see any oranges or bananas hanging from them? You don't? No! That would be silly! God doesn't grow that kind of fruit on people. But we should be able to see the "fruit of the Spirit" by the way we act and treat others. When we ask Jesus to forgive our sins and we choose to follow His ways, other people can tell us apart from people who don't follow Him. When we treat others with patience and kindness they see God's fruit in our lives.

Remember how we grow in the fruit of the Spirit - who grows us? That's right, God! Who remembers our memory verse this month? The Bible says "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." Romans 12:12 (Go over the verse a couple of times.)

Can we increase patience by eating a banana? Will that make us grow fruit? No! Can we have patience without joy? No, they are all one fruit! We cannot love and be unkind at the same time can we? No! The Holy Spirit is the only one that can grow LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS, and SELF CONTROL. As we grow by talking to God and reading His word and asking Him to forgive you and help you each day we become like a tree that keeps growing and making fruit.

Today we are going to plant a seed or bulb as we continue to learn about patience. When we plant the seed/bulb will we have a tree tomorrow? No, it will take patience while we care for it to see it grow from a seed/bulb into a plant. We will have to take care of our seeds/bulbs by watering them and giving them sunlight. And if we care for them and wait patiently, they will grow into a plant in a few weeks. We are just like the seeds/bulbs. In order for us to grow good fruit like patience we need to seek God, read His word (the Bible) and pray to Him. What would happen if we stopped reading the Bible, going to church to learn, praying to God, and thanking Him? That's right! We would stop making good fruit just like if we stopped watering our seeds/bulbs and didn't give them light they would not grow.

Prayer Time

Activity Time

The goal of this time is to utilize a variety of engaging activities –passive and active play, crafts, application, and more – to reinforce what was taught in the lesson. While you may not get to every activity, we encourage you to complete the “Take-Home” activity so children leave with a tangible reminder of what was discussed today.

If numbers are high and/or time and space allow, you may want to use a center format: divide the class into groups (one for each activity) and rotate through the centers after an allotted time.



What-Kind-of-Fruit?

Supplies:

“Good Tree” sign

“Bad Tree” sign

Pictures of good fruit (1 per child)

Pictures of bad fruit (1 per child)

Masking tape

Two leaders will stand with their arms out like tree branches. Hang the “Good Tree” sign from one leader and the “Bad Tree” from the other. Get the stack of situations depicting good fruit or bad fruit and give two to each child – one for each hand. Put masking tape on the back of each of them and have the kids look at the pictures and determine if it's representing good fruit or bad fruit. If it's good fruit, it can only grow on the good tree. Have them stick it onto the leader holding the “Good Tree” sign. If it is bad fruit the kids stick the fruit onto the leader with the “Bad Tree” sign.



Dominoes

Supplies:

Dominoes

Try to build a domino chain. See how many they can get without knocking the dominos over. Challenge them to get more next time. This takes a lot of patience and even self-control. Don't give up in hard times!



Plant a Bulb

Supplies:

Small cups or pots (1 per child)

Potting soil

Seed or bulb (1 per child)

Have the children plant a seed or bulb and talk to them about how we will have to take care of the seed/bulb in order for it to grow. We will have to be patient until we see the plant grow out of the dirt. Remind them what will happen if they forget to water their plant. It will not grow and become a plant that produces "fruit." Tell the kids they can learn about being patient from waiting for the plant to grow bigger each week. Next week we will get to water it and see if it has started to grow into a plant.



Prayer Cards

Supplies:

Prayer card (1 per child)

Talk with the kids about areas in their lives where they need to demonstrate patience. Have each child write how he/she can pray for more patience in these areas. The card will read, "Lord, help me be joyful in hope, patient _____, and faithful in prayer. Amen." After they are finished with their prayer cards take a minute and pray with each child. Remind them that we can only have true patience through the power of God's Holy Spirit.

(Have them fill in the blank with something like "waiting for Christmas" or "with my brother" in place of the word affliction.)



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