

The Fruit of the Spirit

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: God grows good fruit in me: love, joy and peace.

Bible passage: Galatians 5:22–23. Read Galatians 5:13–26 yourself before class.

Memory verse: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace" *Galatians 5:22 (KJV)*. The **Spirit** is God's own Spirit, the Holy Ghost.

You need: a Bible, a paper bag with 3 real fruits inside (like an apple, an orange and a banana), crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child. If you have them: fruit stickers.

Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Galatians 5:22. Put the fruit in the bag and fold the top closed.

1. Opening game: What's in the Bag? (5 minutes)

Let one child at a time reach into the bag without looking, feel a fruit and guess what it is. Then pull it out. Ask: "Where does an apple come from?" (An apple tree!) "Can an apple tree grow bananas?" (No!) Say: "Jesus said, 'every tree is known by his own fruit' (Luke 6:44). Today we will hear about good fruit God grows in people."

2. Bible teaching (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Galatians 5. Say: "This is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

A man named Paul loved Jesus. Paul wrote a letter to the church (Galatians 1:1–2). *(Pretend to write.)*

Some people were fighting and saying mean things (5:15). *(Make a grumpy face.)*

Paul said to love each other and help each other (5:13). *(Hug yourself.)*

Paul said God's Spirit can live in us. That is the Holy Ghost (5:16, 5:25). *(Hand on heart.)*

An apple tree grows apples (Luke 6:44). *(Make a round apple with your hands.)*

God's Spirit grows good fruit in us (5:22). *(Reach up like branches.)*

The first fruit is love (5:22). *(Hug yourself.)* **Say it with me: "Love!"**

Joy! Joy means very, very glad (5:22). *(Big smile and jump.)* **Say it with me: "Joy!"**

Peace! Peace means calm and not fighting (5:22). *(Fold your hands.)* **Say it with me: "Peace!"**

God grows more good fruit too: patience, being gentle, being good, trusting God, being humble, and self-control (5:22–23). *(Count on your fingers.)*

We don't grow it by ourselves. God grows it. *(Point up.)*

Say it with me: "God grows good fruit in me!"



3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Who wrote the letter? (*Paul, Galatians 1:1*)
2. Who grows good fruit in us? (*God's Spirit, the Holy Ghost, 5:22*)
3. What is the first fruit? (*Love, 5:22*)

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "God's Word says, 'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace.'" Teach a motion for each word: **love** = hug yourself, **joy** = big smile and arms up, **peace** = fold your hands and be still. Say the verse with the motions three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Galatians 5:22" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4). Then God's Spirit grows good fruit in us."

Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.



6. Activity: Fruit Tree (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a big tree: a brown trunk and a round green top. Then they draw fruit on the tree, or add fruit stickers. While they color, point to each fruit and ask: "Is this love? Joy? Peace?" Kids who finish early can have a slice of the fruit from the bag, if parents allow it (check for allergies first).

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:

"Dear God, thank You for loving me.

Please grow love, joy and peace in me. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep it moving and let every child feel the fruit in the bag. If they get wiggly, do the love, joy and peace motions again. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can talk about the fruit this week.

If a child says, "I was mean today": answer simply and gently. Everyone does wrong sometimes. We can tell God we are sorry, and He forgives us (1 John 1:9). God is still growing good fruit in us.