July

Week 2

July 13, 2025



SUPPLIES

Large Group Teaching:

- A plant
- · A seed big enough for kids to see when you hold it up
- Bottom Line Poster
- Memory Verse Poster

Group Activity

- Coloring sheet (provided)
- Markers or crayons



Fruit of the Spirit Elementary Series

Series Overview

This series will introduce and familiarize us with the fruit of the Holy Spirit. We'll grow to understand what the Holy Spirit produces in our lives when we choose to follow Jesus. We'll learn about each of the nine fruits described in Galatians 5:22-23, with supporting scripture to show how Jesus embodied each. This series will teach us how to walk in the fruit of the Spirit jus t like Jesus did.

Lesson Overview

As we kick off Lesson Two, we explore the fruit of the Spirit known as faithfulness. We look at the care, love, and consistency in God 's faithfulness to gain an understanding of this fruit. We focus on 2 Thessalon ians 3:3, which brings us to our bottom line that God loves when we show faithfulness to Him and to others. As we learn this truth, we realize that it's the Holy Spirit who helps us walk in faithfulness as Christians.

Lesson 2



Lesson 2: Faithfulness



Bible Verses: 2 Thessalonians 3:3



Memory Verse:

"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5



Bottom Line

God loves when we show faithfulness to Him and to others.

OPENING GAME

"Shoeless"

How to Play:

Leaders instruct children to take off their shoes and pile them up at one end of the play space. Children will be divided into two teams. Then, children will go on a search for their pair of shoes one at a time, each team competing relay-style. The next teammate can't find his or her shoes until the preceding teammate returns to the line.

Once children find their shoes, they sit down. The first team with all members sitting with all of their shoes back on wins.

SAY: We have an especially fun game for you guys to play today. First, we need all contestants to take their shoes off and put them here in this a ea. Pile them up really high!

*Have children take their shoes off and put them into a pile at one end of the play space. Then, divide children into two teams and line each team up. If you've got two kids with the same shoes, separate those and give those kids a little heads up about which area of the pile their shoes are in. You can have leaders mix up the shoes so it's harder if you want!

SAY: Now, it's going to be your job to find your own shoes. Everyone will go one at a time. You can go look for your shoes when your teammate returns back to the line. Looking might be hard, and it may take a while to find your shoes in the pile ... but you must keep trying even when you feel like giving up or walking a way. You must stay faithful to the search ... get it?

When you've found your shoes, you can return to your team and t ag the next person in line to go find his or her shoes. The first team with everyone sitting down AND with ALL shoes back on their feet wins! Go ahead and close your eyes!

LARGE GROUP TEACHING

SAY: Hey guys!

Welcome to another lesson on the fruit of the Spirit. This week we are learning about the fruit of faithfulness.

Now, just like I did last week, I must share my new fun fact.

Did you know that pumpkins are a fruit?

I didn't until I looked it up!

ASK: Who can tell me why pumpkins are fruit?

*Allow children to answer.

(Answer: Because it has pumpkin seeds inside.)

SAY: You guys are so smart!

Okay, now that I got to share that with you, we're ready for our next lesson.

Like I said, we're talking about another fruit of the Spirit to day.

This one is faithfulness.

Before we talk more about this, let's try to list out the fruit s of the Spirit that we have learned about so far.

If I call on you to answer, try to act it out if you can.

ASK: What are some of the fruits of the Spirit that we have talked about already?

*Allow children to give answers and act them out.

(Answers: love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, and n ow, faithfulness.)

SAY: That's amazing!

You guys are so good at remembering!

Now, we'll talk about faithfulness.

I know you guys are pretty smart, so before I tell you the defi ition, I would love to hear what you think.

ASK: What is faithfulness?

*Allow children to answer.

SAY: It's so great to hear what you guys think.

The Bible says God is faithful – we're going to read a Bible verse that says that in just a minute.

When the Bible talks about God being faithful, it is saying that God never changes and always keeps His promises.

He always wants what is best for us, and He never ever stops loving us.

That's what it means for God to be faithful.

Let's read a quick Bible verse that talks about God's faithfulness.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 says this:

"But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one."

SAY: This Bible verse talks about God's faithfulness.

When we're learning about how we can walk in faithfulness, we have God Himself as our example.

God is perfectly faithful.

He will always be there for us, strengthen us, and protect us... no matter what.

We can be faithful like God is faithful

Because God is faithful, we can be like Him.

We can be faithful, too!

In fact, we know God wants us to be faithful because He lists faithfulness in the fruit of the Spirit!

So what does faithfulness look like in the life of a Christian?

It's being completely committed to loving God and loving others the way God says to love others.

Being faithful to God means that we keep loving God, keep trust ing God, and keep following God's instructions, even when it's hard to do.

Being faithful to others means we keep loving them and caring f or them even when it's hard to do.

Being faithful in showing God's love to others means that we st and by other people and keep encouraging them and showing them God's love, even whe n it's hard to do. We have the gift of faithfulness from the Holy Spirit.

Let's take this a step further to see what this may look like. Look at this plant.

*Display plant to class.

SAY: This plant starts off as a small seed

*Hold up seed.

ASK: What needs to happen for this to grow?

*Allow children to answer.

Right! I need to make sure the seed is planted in some soil and that I give it the right amount of water and sunlight.

ASK: How long do I need to care for this plant before it grows?

*Allow children to answer.

It might take a few days for this seed to start sprouting out of the ground and showing itself... or it might take much longer than that.

It depends on the plant!

This seed can then grow, grow, and grow... but only if I am faith ful to care for it. Taking care of a plant like this isn't a one-time thing.

I need to regularly care for it for it to grow.

Otherwise, it just won't!

So, I must be faithful when it's just a tiny seed even if it do esn't seem like it's growing. Even when it seems pointless, or like it's difficult to do, I m t be faithful in caring for this seed – I can't give up.

Staying faithful in caring for the seed is the only way it will grow into a tall, beautiful plant!

And even after that, I need to keep being faithful to care for the plant so it keeps growing and thriving.

This can be a picture of what faithfulness looks like.

Just as taking care of this plant requires that I continue to help it grow — not giving up — faithfulness means I'm committed to showing God I love Him and showing others I love them... even when I want to give up!

The Holy Spirit leads us in faithfulness.

If we want to grow in being people who are faithful, then we need help from the Holy Spirit!

Only with the Holy Spirit's help and leading can we be faithful to God.

The Holy Spirit helps us to grow our friendship with God and obey His instructions.

And if something we don't like happens, we can trust that God is still in control. If something really awesome happens, we can praise God and give Him the credit for doing that good thing.

With the Holy Spirit's help and leading, we can also be faithful to our family members. We can obey our parents' instructions.

We can be helpful.

We can apologize when we're hurting our brother's or sister's feelings.
With the Holy Spirit's help and leading, we can also be faithful to our friends.
We can give our friends strength by encouraging them or standing up for them when someone puts them down.

Or maybe when we get into arguments with friends, instead of gi ving up on that friendship, we talk to them and work it out so that we stay friends.

All of these are examples of walking in the fruit of faithfulness!

ASK: Can you guys think of other examples of faithfulness? What migh t faithfulness look like?

*Allow children to answer.

SAY: These are great!

I can tell from all your ideas that you're really beginning to understand how you can show faithfulness.

* Show Bottom Line: God loves when we show faithfulness to Him and to other people.

God loves when we show faithfulness to Him and to other people, and He gives us the ability to get better and better at being faithful through the Holy Spirit.

How amazing that we have that gift from the Holy Spirit!

This week, I challenge each of you to try to show faithfulness to God and to other people using some of the examples that you heard here today.

SMALL GROUP TIME

Memory Verse

"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5

SAY: We are going to continue working on memorizing John 15:5 this week. We will do our hand motions again this week!

This week, we are going to learn some hand motions to help us memorize the verse.

*Say the memory verse while using the hand motions with children. Show Poster

Leader Says: Jesus says

• Put your hands on your hips

Kids Say: Jesus says

Leader Says: Yes, I am the vine

Put both hands straight up in the air and nod your head

Kids Say: Yes, I am the vine

Leader Says: You are the branches

 Wiggle your fingers and bring them down to your sides, like you reoutlining branches of a tree

Kids Say: You are the branches

Leader Says: Those who remain in me

Bring both thumbs up and point them at your chest

Kids Say: Those who remain in me

Leader Says: And I in them

Point both hands straight out with fingers pointed

Kids Say: And I in them

Leader Says: Will produce much fruit
• Spin around with your arms out
Kids Say: Will produce much fruit

Leader Says: For apart from me

Put both hands out to the sides, opening your arms outward

Kids Say: For apart from me

Leader Says: You can do nothing

Throw hands down like you're frustrated

Kids Say: You can do nothing

Leader Says: John 15:5

Hold hands like they are an open book, palms up

Kids Say: John 15:5

SAY: Practice this verse at home for next week! We're going to try t o make it more challenging and see if you can do the verse without me leading you through the hand motions!

Making Connections

SAY: Our teaching today helps us learn about God's heart. When we le arn about God's constant love for us, then we can walk in faithfulness to God a nd others, too. We get to choose, just as we learned with the example of caring for the plant. It grows when we care for it every day without failing. Yes, God is faithful to us every day without failing. We get to benefit from God's faithfulness and also show faithfulness to others, too!

Group Activity - "How Can I Be Faithful?"

*Print out the provided coloring sheet ahead of time. Pass out worksheets and markers or crayons.

SAY: We are going to color the watering can and plants on this color ing sheet. Then, we'll write down one way we can be faithful to God and one way we can be faithful to others!

Discussion Questions:

- 1. How is God different from people?
- 2. If you had to pick three really good words to describe God, what would they be?
- 3. Does God ever change?
- 4. Has anyone ever broken a promise to you? How did that make you feel?
- 5. Will God ever break a promise?
- 6. What are some ways that we can show faithfulness to God? (Ex: p ray, go to church, trust God, believe God's promises)
- 7. What are some ways that we can show faithfulness to other peopl e? (Ex: be helpful, stand up for people, keep our promises)

Group Activity – "Human Knot"

How to Play the Game: Gather preteens in groups (depending on size, you may need multiple). Have preteens form a circle facing the center. Then, preteens will each reach both hands out across the circle to grab someone's wrist, creating a "Human Knot."

Kids need to be holding the wrists of two different people. Otherwise, you'll end up with mini-circles instead of one larger circle.

Kids cannot hold the wrist of someone next to them – they m ust hold the wrist of someone who is across the circle.

The task is for kids to untangle themselves, remaining faithful to each other by steadily putting in equal effort to get free from this knot.

SAY: We are going to play a game where you guys need to stay faithful to one another by not giving up, no matter how hard it is to untangle this knot.

*Explain the game and have children form the knot.

Are we ready? Go!

*You can add a challenge and play multiple rounds with differen teams or make it a race against the clock. You'll want to coach them on being kind to one another, showing patience, and being committed (faithful!) to the end goal.