

# Fruit of the Spirit



*Written by Mary Jane Ponten*



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*But the fruit that the Spirit produces in a person's life is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these kinds of things.*

Galatians 5:22-23- ERV

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# Fruit Salad

## *There Ain't No Law Against That!*

### *The Picnic*

#### *Lesson 1*

A group of people from the church were having a picnic. They had a watermelon eating contest, ran races, played games, and sang songs. They were having such a good time together. There were people of all ages, laughing, playing, and singing together. It was a happy time for everyone.



The pastor shared some thoughts about fruit from the Bible. He began with the fruit Adam and Eve ate which got them thrown out of the Garden of Eden. That was the first act of sin. He spoke briefly about several other fruits that were

mentioned in the Bible.

Then he ended by saying that the most important fruit mentioned in the Bible was actually a group of fruits – called the “Fruit of the Spirit.” He bent over and wrote them in chalk on the sidewalk. Then he had the children and young people pick a piece of fruit that could remind them of each of the fruits mentioned in Galatians 5:22 and 23.



Here is the list of the fruit of the Spirit and the fruit they picked for each one.

**Love - Apple**



**Kindness – Plumb**



**Joy – Strawberry**



**Goodness - Banana**



**Peace – Peach**



**Faithfulness – Grapes**



**Patience – Pineapple**



**Gentleness – Oranges**



**Self-control – Pear**



*NOTE TO TEACHER: Let the class share some thoughts and then close in prayer.*

Then the pastor reminded them that the next verse tells us that there is no law against doing good things and showing the fruit of the Spirit in their lives. All these fruits taste good, just as all the actions and attitudes of the fruit of the Spirit share good things from our lives and our hearts.

What are some of the good spiritual fruits you can share and how can you share them?

When you think of God the Father, Jesus Christ our Lord, and the Holy Spirit our comforter and counselor, how many of these “fruits” can you relate to each person, Father, Son, and Spirit?

As we begin this series of lessons why don't we ask God right now to help us learn to live the way each fruit tells us we should live?

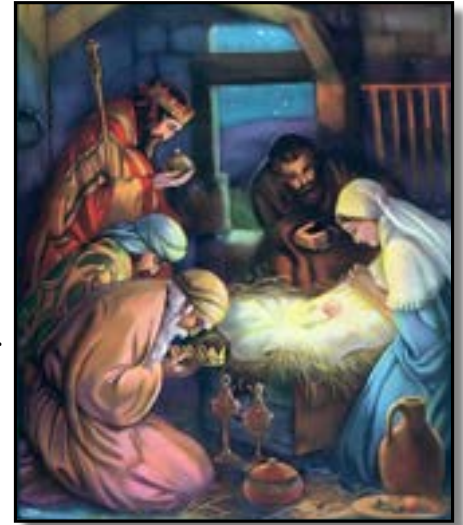


# Love Delivered

## *Love – Gods’ love* *Lesson 2*

Love is the greatest gift God has given mankind. God’s greatest expression of this love is His gift of Jesus Christ our Savior.

God made the world and everything in it. Even though the people He created were not perfect He loved them and always wanted the best for them. Very early God saw that people needed help to stay away from sin, so He promised a Savior would come at the right time. Until that time the people who looked forward to that Savior and did what God told them to do were considered good and righteous in God’s eyes. So they went to Paradise when they died.



When the time was just right God sent His Son Jesus into the world. From the beginning of the world God had promised to send the Savior. Many times in the Old Testament God had His prophets write these promises down so the people could hear them and look forward to the fulfillment of these promises.

Finally a young woman named Mary was God’s choice to bring His Son into the world. His name was Jesus and He was born over two thousand years ago. One of Jesus’ closest friends was a fisherman named John. When John was writing about Jesus’ life he said “God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son, so that whoever believes in Him will have life forever.” Jesus lived a good life. He never did anything wrong. He was, and still is, the only person who ever lived who never did anything wrong.

When we do wrong or bad things, big or small, that is called sin. Because Jesus never sinned He could take the punishment for the sins of everyone who asks Him for forgiveness.

God’s gift of love to the world was forgiveness of sins and life forever in Heaven through faith in Jesus Christ, His Son.

John 3:16















A suggestion: Why don't you take this opportunity to talk to the class about God's love. You may want to read John 3:16 in the bible with your class.

**Puzzle instructions:** Match the letter with the right color Fruit Loops cereal, then write the letters in the blank above it.



# FRUIT LOOPY!

 = d      F\_\_r God      \_\_ \_\_ l\_\_ \_\_ ed  
 = o  
 = v      the \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ ld \_\_ ha\_\_ he  
 = r  
 = s      ga\_\_e his \_\_ n\_\_ an\_\_ on\_\_y  
 = b  
 = n      \_\_ on, tha\_\_ wh\_\_ e\_\_er  
 = e      \_\_ elieves in h\_\_ m sha\_\_ \_\_  
 = w  
 = i      \_\_ ot p\_\_ \_\_ ish but ha\_\_ e  
 = t  
 = l      \_\_ \_\_ erna\_\_ life.



# Good Sam

## *Love – Man’s love*

### *Lesson 3*

Jesus and his disciples were having one of their “heart to heart” conversations when they were joined by a priest who wanted to justify himself before God. He asked Jesus what the greatest commandment was. He was trying to trap Jesus.

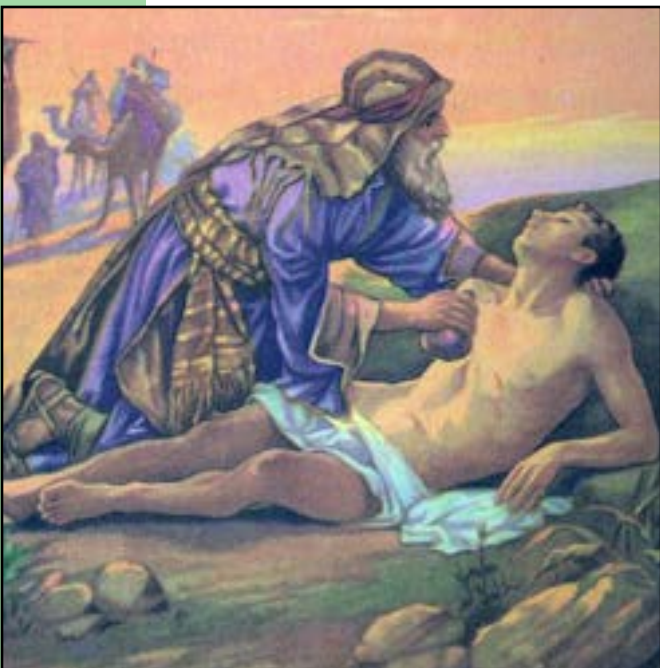
Jesus used the Old Testament for part of His answer. “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself. All the law is summed up in this commandment.”

Now this man who had asked the question was a leader in the Jewish religion, so he felt the need to justify himself before the people who had gathered around and also before God. He asked Jesus, “Who is my neighbor?”

Rather than giving him a direct answer, Jesus told him and all those around him a parable –that’s a story with a meaning to it. He told them that a man

had gone on a long trip. On the way he was robbed and beaten and left on the road to die.

The first person to pass by was a priest. He crossed to the other side of the road and went on his way, leaving the wounded man to die. A little while later a Levite, that’s another very religious man, came by and did the same thing. A while later a man from another country came by. He was from Samaria, a country where the people had nothing to do with the Jews. The man who was robbed was a Jew, as were the priest and Levite.





Let's call this man Sam because he was from Samaria. Sam stopped to help the one who was hurt. So Sam felt sorry for the man who was robbed and beaten and left to die. He put the injured man on his donkey, took him down the road to the nearest hotel, and cared for his injuries. When Sam left the hotel he told the owner "take care of this man and when I return I will pay you back for everything you spend."

Jesus then asked the priest, "Who was the good neighbor?"

The priest agreed that Sam was good and did what was right. Sam showed love for his fellow man, one he did not even know, and had every right to ignore. Sam was indeed a good neighbor to someone he did not even know.

Matthew 22:37 – 40

*Find the words in the puzzle from the list below and circle them.*



# LOVE WORDS



R E S P E C T D  
A G A P E S E R  
K I N D S V E O  
S R V S O P V N  
G O I T T X O O  
U K E E E N L H  
H D D N E I R F  
C H E R I S H Z

AGAPE    CHERISH    HONOR    KIND    HUGS  
FRIEND    DEVOTED    RESPECT    LOVE    KISS



## *A Mother's Love – Lesson 4*

Early in the existence of Israel as a nation it was very common for a man to have more than one wife. A man named Elkanah had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah. Hannah had no children and Peninnah made Hannah feel terrible because she gave her a hard time about not having children. Their husband loved Hannah and tried to make her feel better. But it didn't work, she was very sad.

Once when the family went to worship God and take their offerings Hannah went close to the tent where the priest (or pastor) sat. She was so sad and was praying from her heart. Her lips were moving but she made no sounds. So Eli, the priest, thought she was drunk and began to scold her for getting drunk.

Then Hannah was really embarrassed. She explained that her heart was very sad and she was praying to God for help. The priest told her to go home and he would ask God to answer her prayer.

Hannah was praying for a son. After a little while God allowed her to have a son. She had promised that if He gave her a son, she would give him back to God. They named the boy Samuel. In a few years, when he was old enough, Elkanah and Hannah took Samuel to the "Tent of Meeting" where the priest, whose name was Eli, lived and served God.

Samuel lived all of his life serving God. He was the prophet who led Israel for many years. When he was old the people of Israel wanted a king like the other countries around them had. His sons were not following God or His rules so God allowed Samuel to give the people what they asked for. God showed Samuel the man he wanted to become the king. So Samuel anointed Saul and he was the first King of Israel.





Samuels' mothers greatest joy was having a son to give back to God. Her joy was both in getting what she wanted and then giving that gift back to God. Because Hannah was faithful to God and gave her first child back to Him (because she had promised to) God allowed her to have more children to have joy in. There is joy both in giving and in receiving.

First Samuel chapters 1, 2, and 3

## HANNAH'S JOY

*When Hannah prayed to God, He answered her prayer and this brought her much joy. How did God answer her prayer?*



**A**



**U**



**S**



**L**



**E**



**M**



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## *A Great Promise*

### *Lesson 5*

Jesus and His twelve most trusted followers sat on the ground as they often did. They were listening intently to their beloved leader whom they called “Teacher, Master, and Friend.” Every chance He had, Jesus took these twelve men aside and taught them about God, all He was and all He stood for. He told them that God was His Father.



On this particular occasion Jesus was giving them assurance that God the Father loved them. But more than that Jesus wanted His followers, His apostles, to know that God would never leave them alone and that the Holy Spirit would soon come to live in their hearts. But even more than that, Jesus promised to give them peace.

The apostles had seen how the religious leaders of the day treated Jesus. Those leaders said He was a fake leader, and even worse, that Jesus was a follower of the devil. They watched and saw that Jesus did not argue or rebuke those leaders, but walked away from their attacks. He knew those leaders would never accept who He was.

Jesus said to His followers, “Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you.”




He told them that this peace was from God Himself and that the Holy Spirit would come after He left and give this peace to them as well as all who trusted in Him from that time on. This peace was not fake or pretend. This was peace from God Himself that came through the Lord Jesus Christ after He was crucified and came back to life and then returned to Heaven to sit at the right hand of God Himself.


Jesus told his disciples not to be afraid. The peace that would carry Him through the experience of being killed would certainly be strong enough to carry them through any situation they would face. They needed to wait for the Holy Spirit to come, then this wonderful, holy peace would be theirs.

This promise was not only for the apostles but for all those who followed through faith in Him, yes, all the way down to our generation. Jesus said this peace was not like the peace the world promised, it is a real peace – NO MATTER WHAT!!

John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you”

Match the letter for each dove below then write that letter in the blanks with that dove under it to find the scripture verse in John 14:27.

E= 

A= 

C= 

P= 

“ \_\_\_\_\_ I leave with you,



my \_\_\_\_\_ I give to you”



John 14:27



# Patience

## *Plans Can Change* *Lesson 6*



A man named Saul was a young man when Jesus was crucified. Saul was very religious. He was certain that Jesus was a false prophet and therefore the leaders of his religion were right to kill Him. Saul went around arresting people who believed in and followed Jesus. He put them in prison and would have killed them if he had been given that much power.

He got letters from the leaders of his synagogue that gave him the power to arrest any Christians he found and put them in jail in any city. So Saul set off on his crusade. He was on his way to Damascus. It was noon. As he walked with his companions down the road suddenly a very bright light came from heaven. Saul fell down and became blind. He heard a voice talking to him. The others did not hear the voice – they heard what sounded like thunder.

The voice told Saul that Jesus really was God's Son and told him that he would be told what to do by a man named Ananias. His friends led him into the city of Damascus and left him with a man named Judas who lived on Straight Street. So Saul laid in bed for three days and waited without being able to see.

Ananias came and told Saul what God had planned for him. From then on Saul, who became known as Paul, never turned back. He became a follower of Jesus Christ, who indeed is the Son of God. He was sent to the entire Jewish world. He wrote letters to various churches and people. These letters are now known as epistles and part of the New Testament – the second half of the Bible.

As Paul worked in all the cities he had one deep desire. He wanted to visit the capitol of the then known world. Rome was the head of the Roman Empire. In a letter to the Christians in Rome Paul told them that he planned to visit

them on his way to Spain.

BUT GOD had other plans. Oh, yes Paul would go to Rome, but not in the way he had planned. Paul was arrested by the leaders of the religion he had once served so faithfully. They wanted to execute him on the spot. In order to avoid that Paul – as a citizen of the Roman Empire – appealed to Caesar. The answer was “Then to Caesar you will go!” On the way to Rome there was a shipwreck, several delays, and snake bites etc.

Paul did get to Rome and stayed at least two years as a “guest,” prisoner of Rome. He was allowed to stay in a rented house and have guests, however he was constantly under guard. Indeed he was a prisoner. He ministered to all he could and strengthened the churches in that area of the world. His desire was fulfilled, but not according to his plans, but Gods’ plans.

Paul had to wait patiently for God to work out His plans for Paul and the work he would do in Rome. Because of the way God planned it Paul was able to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with the highest level of the Roman government.

Be patient as you wait for God to show you His way for your life. Don’t run ahead of Him.

Acts 9: 1-19 and Romans 15:23-29, and Acts 28: 17-31



## Play “God Says”

*If you have ever played “Simon Says” you can play “God Says”. Here are a few suggestions to get you started. Teachers can create their own list of commands. This game will show how easy it is to go ahead of God if we don’t listen to Him very carefully.*

1. God says, “clap your hands”
2. God says, “smile”
3. God says, “shake your head”
4. “Clap your hands”
5. God says, “say a prayer”
6. God says, “hold up one hand”
7. “Smile”
8. God says, “stomp your feet”
9. God says, “close your eyes”
10. Stomp your feet





# Kindness

## *A Hungry Little Family* *Lesson 7*

In the Old Testament a prophet was a person who spoke for God. God often told these prophets what to say or do. Elisha was one of the prophets. One day the widow of another prophet came to Elisha and asked him for help.

Her husband was dead. She had two sons who were young enough and could not work to bring in money for the family. And there was no work for her either. The people she owed money to were ready to take her and her boys as slaves and everything they had to pay back what they owed.

She asked Elisha for help, any kind of help, just please help us! This was her attitude. She told him all she had was one jar of oil.

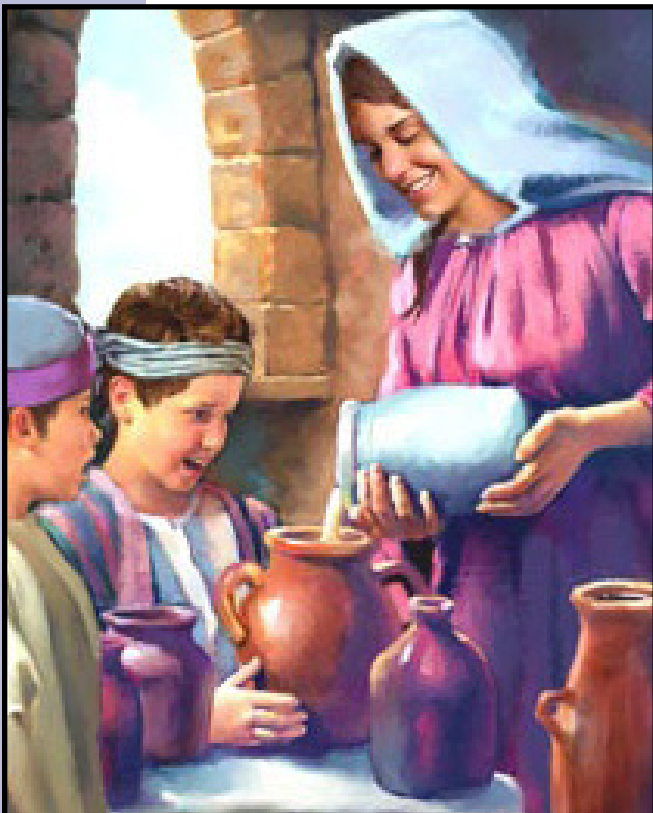
Elisha was a prophet who served God, the real God, who lives in Heaven.

God told Elisha where to go and what to do.

Elisha went to her land and found her gathering wood.

Elisha told her to go to all her neighbors and gather as many jars as she could. She and her sons went house to house and got all the empty jars they could find and took them home.

Then Elisha told her to close the door and take her only jar of oil, the only thing she had left in the house, and to begin pouring it into the jars she had gathered. She and her sons did as Elisha told her. The oil kept running and running until all the jars – every single one of them – was filled with oil. Then the oil



stopped running.

Elisha told her to sell the oil and buy food for her tiny family. God had provided enough oil for her to sell the oil, pay everyone who she owed money to, and she still had enough left to care for herself and her sons until the boys were old enough to take care of their mother.

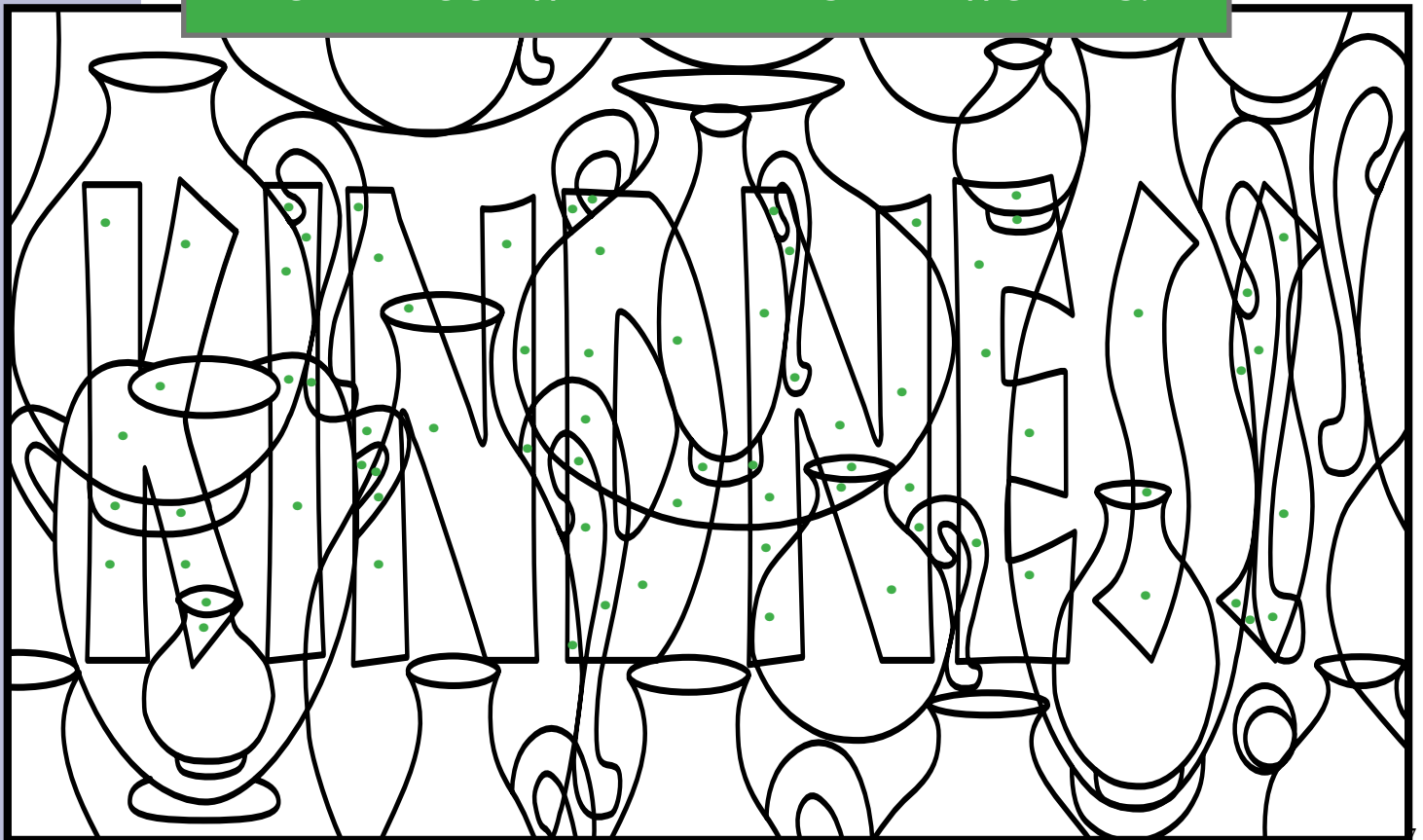
God showed his kindness to a poor widow, the wife of one of His messengers, through the prophet Elisha.

God may choose to use you sometime to show His kindness to someone. Watch for that opportunity. It may be as easy as a peanut butter sandwich with a smile given to someone who is hungry.

Second Kings 4:1-7



***COLOR IN THE AREAS WITH A GREEN DOT IN THEM TO FIND OUT WHAT THE MYSTERY WORD IS!***





# Goodness

## *Never Too Young to Serve God*

### *Lesson 8*

Remember in lesson four we learned about Hannah who wanted a child so badly? She asked God for a son then she gave him back to God. That boy's name was Samuel. He was very young when Hannah took him to live with Eli



at the Tent of Meeting. Every year his parents came to worship God. When they came his mother brought him a new set of clothes, a little bit larger and some food and other supplies.

Samuel was taught by Eli how to do the things he needed to serve God. I am sure that included reading, writing, and arithmetic. He learned about God, but really did not know God until one night, as he laid in his usual spot in the tent of meeting, he heard someone call, "Samuel! Samuel!"

He ran to see what Eli wanted since they were the only two people in that area. Eli said, "I did not call you, go lay down again." The third time this happened Eli realized that it had to be God calling Samuel. Eli told Samuel to go lay down and if He called again answer, "Here I am, speak, I am listening."

God did call again, and Samuel listened. He learned to obey God and served Him the rest of his life. Samuel became not only a priest but a prophet and lead Israel until they decided they wanted a king.



Eli's sons were not good men. They cheated and stole from the people they were supposed to serve and teach about God. God told Samuel that he was taking the priesthood away from Eli's family, and that Samuel was to serve before God.

Samuel followed God's leading all his life. When he was very old God allowed him to help the people of Israel choose their first king. The first king, Saul, failed to continue following God. Samuel felt sad. Then he had to go to the young man God wanted to become the next king. Secretly he anointed David to be the next king. Samuel died before David was accepted by the people as King of Israel. Samuel faithfully served God from the time he was a very young child until he died.

First Samuel 2 on

## A TASTY ACTIVITY

FOR GOODNESS SAKE, LET'S ALL GO BANANAS...APPLES, ORANGES  
PEARS, GRAPES, STRAWBERRIES, PINEAPPLES, PLUMS AND PEACHES!!!

***Bring in as many pieces of fruit as you can and have everyone  
taste them all, then answer the questions below.***

Why do you think God compares spiritual attitudes and actions  
to fruit? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

All fruit is good for you and sweet, what is your favorite fruit  
and why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Faithfulness

*Gods' Faithfulness*

## *Lost and Found*

### *Lesson 9*



Have you ever lost anything very, very valuable? Maybe it had been in your family for many years. Remember how happy you were when it was found and returned to you or your family.

Several hundred years ago long before Jesus Christ was born, the people of Israel lost their freedom and were taken into captivity. Along with the people, all the valuable treasures that were in the temple of God were also taken to the land of Babylon. Everything that they had taken remained there for at least seventy years.

During those years the land of Babylon was taken over by the land of Persia. All those valuable treasures that King Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple in Jerusalem went deeper and deeper into the past. They had been put into the temple of a god that was no longer worshiped in what was then Persia.

When Cyrus became King of Persia the God of Heaven, the real God, the God who the people of Israel worshiped let King Cyrus know that He was indeed the real God. King Cyrus did not want to get on the wrong side of that God, so he encouraged any Jews who wanted to go home to the land of Israel to go. The one requirement was that they were to rebuild the temple of God right where it had been. "On its site" is the way the order read.

King Cyrus knew where all the treasures were that had been taken from the temple of God in Jerusalem. He ordered them brought out and entrusted them to Ezra. Now Ezra was a priest who had studied and was a teacher of the Hebrew (Jewish) faith. Ezra was well known and highly trusted by his countrymen and by the leaders of Persia as well.

Ezra gathered hundreds of his fellow countrymen who wanted to return to Jerusalem. They were still under the rule of the Persian Empire, but they

were going to their homeland. How happy they must have been as they formed a large caravan and headed home.

Twelve of the most trusted leaders were given equal amounts of the treasures to carry along with their personal property. It was a five month walk. When they reached the city of Jerusalem, which had been burned to the ground, they were very tired and rested for three days.

Before they left Persia (also called Babylon) another group of survivors of the exile had returned and begun to rebuild the city and live in their homes.

On the fourth day after arriving, the men who had carried the treasures, along with Ezra the priest, gathered at the place where they were to store all the treasures, where the temple would stand, and counted out everything. Not one treasure had been lost.

God had been faithful and kept everything that had been taken out of His temple safe. Now it would be back where it belonged. If King Nebuchadnezzar had not taken them as “loot” for himself, they would have been burned up with everything else when his troops burned down the city of Jerusalem. The lost treasures were found. Isn't that just like our God?

Second Chronicles 36:18 – 23, Ezra 1:7 – 11



*Fill in the missing word in these two statements to find your answer, the first letter is a “t”.*

Neb took the t\_\_\_\_\_

from the temple, but Cyrus returned the

t\_\_\_\_\_ to the temple where they

belonged.





# Faithfulness

## *Mans' Faithfulness*

### *Dad Was a Carpenter*

#### *Lesson 10*

Not just an angel, but the highest angel, Gabriel himself, talked face to face with him. He delivered a message that would change this man's life, the world he lived in, and the world that would be forever changed by what was going to happen. In all probability Joseph did not grasp the full meaning of it.

All he heard was that his fiancé was going to have a baby that wasn't his. Further God, the God he had learned to honor, respect, and obey, wanted him not only to marry the girl but to raise this child as his.

Joseph and Mary got married, Jesus was born. The angel again spoke to Joseph and he took Mary and Jesus to Egypt rescuing the child Jesus from death, because Herod had ordered all the boys under two years old were to be killed. A third time the guardian angel gave the message that it was safe to return to their homeland.

On their return to Israel Joseph shows his concern for the family. He looked into places and settled on Nazareth which Gabriel showed him would be a safer place to raise Jesus and the other children. He didn't know that he did it to fulfill scripture. He showed love and concern for the young boy who in all aspects had become his child.



He taught his son, Jesus, the trade he knew. Jesus grew up as the son of a carpenter – a very respectable trade even in ancient Nazareth. In all probability Jesus was taught the skill, ethics, and all that goes with a trade. “He (Jesus) grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.” That tells us that he had a good foundation at home. It speaks well of his earthly

parents.

At the age of twelve, when a Jewish boy becomes a man, Jesus went with his family to Jerusalem to worship at the temple. After the Passover was celebrated his family headed home. On the way, they discovered that Jesus was not with the extended family traveling back to Nazareth. Mary and Joseph returned to the temple where they found their son.








Jesus' parents found Him in the temple talking with the religious leaders of the day. When they asked why He was there He said that He needed to be "about my Father's business." He certainly was not talking to the priests about carpentering, was He? Yet Joseph kept silent.

As far as we know Jesus stayed with His earthly family until the age of thirty. He grew up with brothers and sisters. Then He went to the Jordan and was baptized by John the Baptist after which He began ministering in Israel. Nothing further is said about Joseph.

From what we know of his life, Joseph fully obeyed each time he was given instructions from God. This was a choice he made. He was not forced to obey God, but chose to do so. He could have said, "No, I'm not doing that." Joseph acted in faithfulness each time God spoke.

Matthew 1:24, 2:13-14, 2: 19-21. 2:21-23

*Joseph was a carpenter and Jesus was a carpenter. They both used tools to make things with wood. Today carpenters also use similar tools. Match the letter to the tools and find your answer to finish this statement about Joseph.*

I = 	A = 	L = 
T = 	H = 	F = 
		U = 

When God spoke Joseph was always

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	•
								

# Gentleness

## *A Strong Yet Gentle Man* *Lesson 11*

For hundreds and hundreds of years children have played in the streets, in vacant lots, of anywhere there was room to play. One day Jesus was talking to a group of people when he noticed His followers were shooing the local children away. They probably thought what Jesus was saying to the adults was very important, after all He was teaching them about God – the real God – the God Who had created the world and saved His people Israel over and over again from the time they first became a nation.



Jesus stopped in the middle of what he was saying and called out to his disciples, “Stop! Don’t chase the children away! Let them come to me. The kingdom of Heaven, my Father’s kingdom, is made for them and those whose faith is like theirs. It takes faith like theirs to really believe in Me and trust the God I serve.”

These are not the exact words recorded in the Bible, but this is the meaning of His words. In this way He showed his followers, even down to the followers of today, the value God places on children.



Jesus brought some children back to life, and He healed other children. Each time He did this He showed how much He valued each child.

Jesus did many very strong things. His words were unusual. His miracles were spectacular. However there were times, many times, when He showed God's gentleness. He was gentle when He dealt with those who were grieving.

Can we learn from Jesus to be gentle when we deal with those who need a gentle touch, word, or look?

Matthew 13:1-5 Mark 10:13-16 Luke 18:15-17

**How many times you can find the word GENTLENESS in the puzzle below. Words can be up or down, at an angle or backwards. We found 8!**

G	S	S	E	N	G	L	T	N	G	G	N	S	G
E	E	E	E	E	E	E	O	E	E	E	E	S	E
N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	E	N
T	T	B	T	T	T	N	T	A	T	T	A	N	T
L	L	L	N	L	L	L	E	L	L	L	L	E	L
E	E	E	E	E	E	P	E	G	E	E	G	L	E
N	M	X	D	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	X	T	N
E	A	T	E	L	E	F	E	G	E	E	G	N	E
S	N	S	X	E	S	V	W	S	S	S	B	E	S
S	S	S	A	G	S	N	S	W	S	S	R	G	S



# Self-control

## *Brilliant, Yet Humble* *Daniel chapter 9* *Lesson 12*



The war was over. Israel lost and Babylon won. The winners took all the treasures and things of value with them back to Babylon. They also took the king and all the government officials as well as the brightest young men from the royal families who were related to the king. Among those taken were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. They were given new names. Daniel was Belteshazzar, Hannaniah became Shadrach, Mishael was called Meshach, and Azariah became Abednego

These four young men were handsome, in great physical condition, and brilliant. They were fast learners with keen understanding and perception. Along with many other young men who had been taken captive they were to study the language, history, and culture of the Babylonian empire. They were to prove themselves valuable to king Nebuchadnezzar.

These four friends who were taken were convinced that the God they served, the God of heaven, was the only real God. They were God-fearing Jews and had grown up following His laws and did not want to “defile” themselves by eating and drinking the things the king had prepared for them. Daniel asked their guard if they could be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. Their guard liked these four young men, but was afraid of the king. What if they looked sickly and the others look better. The king could have him killed. Daniel asked him to test them for just ten days and then they would do whatever the guard said. Of course after ten days Daniel and his three friends looked ten times better than the other young men. Therefore they were allowed to eat the veggies and drink water from then on.

After two years of special studying King Nebuchadnezzar interviewed all the

young men who were in that group and found Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah far better than the others so they were taken into the kings' service.

Daniel became a trusted advisor to that king as well as those who followed him as kings. Daniel was able to tell the meaning of dreams and visions. Once he even had to tell the king what his dream was as well as what it meant. Because God helped him to do that he saved the lives of hundreds of wise men all of the country of Babylon.

Daniel had every reason to be proud of his accomplishments. Instead of this, Daniel chose to humble himself before God. He realized that he and all his people, the Jews, were nothing more than slaves in a foreign land.

When he prayed to God he included himself as one who had sinned before God and begged God to forgive him and the rest of those who were now seeking to follow God again. This prayer did indeed begin the restoration of Israel to their homeland. They were never again free but they did live in the land of Israel again for a long time. Hundreds of years later, long after the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, the people of Israel were again removed from the homeland.

*Self control is about making the best choice, not just choosing what tastes good or feels good at the time. Here are some good and bad choices. Circle the best choice between each two. After everyone has made their choices, discuss them with the whole class.*

## Choose what's good for you.

- *You have the flu, choose what is best for you to eat...*

*PIZZA OR CHICKEN SOUP*



- *Your best friend is sick in the hospital, do you...*

*GO VISIT THEM OR GO OUT FOR ICE CREAM*



- *You have a big test in the morning, do you...*

*STUDY FOR THE TEST OR WATCH TV ALL NIGHT*

- *You have laundry to put away, do you...*

*PUT IT AWAY OR LEAVE IT AND TAKE A NAP*



- *You are asked to pray for a friend, do you...*

*FORGET ABOUT IT OR SAY A HEARTFELT PRAYER*



# FRUIT STAND GAME!

Look at the fruit stand and match each fruit to the beatitude it describes. Put the number of the description of the fruit. Here is the first example to get you started. Number 1 says “...” It talks about loving, or caring for someone whether you know them or not. It talks about Love. So love and number 1 go together. Write “1” on the fruit stand basket that says love.

Now you have the idea. If you need help just ask your teacher or helper.



JOY



GOODNESS



GENTLENESS



Answers to the Fruit Game Puzzle are found at the bottom of page 30.

**#1** When you take care of your fellow man, even when you do not even know them, you are being a good neighbor and this is showing them what?

**#2** When Jesus saw little children, he wanted them on his lap and all around him. The disciples thought Jesus wanted the children to go away. But Jesus showed he is gentle to those who are young.

**#3** Jesus told us that God will never leave us alone and that the Holy Spirit will come to live in our hearts. But even more than that, Jesus promised to give us peace.

**#4** Wait for God to show you His way for your life. Don't run ahead of Him.

**#5** When Ken packs his lunch to eat in the park, he always packs an extra peanut butter and jelly sandwich to give away to Joe, a homeless man so he is not hungry.

**#6** Samuel learned to obey God and serve Him from a very young age. Samuel became not only a priest but a prophet and lead Israel until they decided they wanted a king.

**#7** God had been faithful and kept everything that had been taken out of His temple safe. Now it would be back where it belonged. If King Nebuchadnezzar had not taken them as "loot" for himself, they would have been burned up with everything else.

**#8** A woman who wanted to have a baby really badly, but could not, told God how much she wanted a baby and finally she gave birth to a baby boy! She felt joy in her heart?

**#9** When Daniel and his friends were captured by king Nebuchadnezzar, they wanted to prove themselves valuable to the King. They didn't eat or drink the Kings fancy foods Instead they had self control and only ate fruits and vegetables and drank water. By doing this, they were healthy and smart and asked to serve the King.



# Fruit Loop

## *Looking Back*

### *Lesson 13*

#### **Study Questions:**



#### *Lesson 1-The Picnic*

1. Who was having a picnic? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Were they all the same age? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Did they have fun? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Who talked about the fruit? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What was the real fruit the pastor talked about? \_\_\_\_\_

Work out this puzzle to see what fruit that we can eat goes with the fruit of the Spirit.

\_\_\_\_\_

#### *Lesson 2-Love Delivered*



1. Who is the giver of this gift? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the gift He gives? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who gets this gift? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How do we get this gift? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Have you ever received this gift? \_\_\_\_\_



### Lesson 3- *Good Sam*



1. What is a parable? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who told this story or parable? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What name did we give the man from Samaria? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Who were the two men who passed by the man who was robbed and hurt and where were they from? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What did Sam do to help the injured man? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. When he left the Inn how did he provide for the man who was hurt?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What can we learn from this story? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Lesson 4- *A Mothers' Joy*



1. What is the mothers' name in this story? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why was she so sad? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What did Eli, the priest, think Hannah was doing? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What was she really doing? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. What was she praying for? \_\_\_\_\_

6. When Eli understood what she was really doing what did he tell her?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Did God answer her prayer? \_\_\_\_\_

8. What did Hannah give God? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Did God give her more children because of her gift to Him? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson 5- *A Great Promise*



1. Was Jesus a good friend to His disciples? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Did He take time to teach His disciples about God? \_\_\_\_\_

3. On this particular occasion what was He teaching them about? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. The time for Him to leave them was getting close, what was He promising that God would send them? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you think peace is important? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson 6- *Plans Can Change*



1. Who was this lesson about? \_\_\_\_\_

2. This man had two names. What were they? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Was Saul very religious? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What happened that changed his heart and mind? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. When he became the apostle Paul, what one city did he REALLY want to visit? \_\_\_\_\_
6. He had made plans to visit Rome on his way to Spain, but what happened before he got there? \_\_\_\_\_
- Because of God's plans who was Paul able to minister to? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson 7- *A Hungry Little Family*



1. What was Elisha's job? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What does a prophet do? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. A little family, whose father was also a prophet and had died, needed help. They went to Elisha for help. Why did they need help? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What did they have left in their home? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What did Elisha tell them to get from their neighbors? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. When they had all the jars their neighbors could spare what did Elisha tell them to do? \_\_\_\_\_
7. When the last borrowed jar was full of oil what happened? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. When they sold the oil did they have enough to meet all their needs?

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**Lesson 8-*Never Too Young To Serve God***



1. Hannah gave her son, Samuel, to God. Was he very young, a teenager, or an adult when he began to serve God? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Every year when his parents came to worship God what did his mother bring? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What did Eli, the priest, teach him? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. When he was old enough to understand, who woke him up in the night?

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5. What did God tell him? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Was Samuel willing to follow God? Did he tell Eli everything God said?

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7. As the first prophet in Israel did he lead them faithfully? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. When Israel wanted a king did God say it was OK? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. What did the first King Saul do that made Samuel very sad? \_\_\_\_\_

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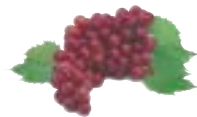


## Lesson 9-*Lost and Found*



1. What is a treasure? \_\_\_\_\_
2. In the beginning of this story, where were the valuable treasures kept?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Whose treasures were they? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What happened to all the valuable things that were in the temple of God?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Who took them? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Where did King Nebuchadnezzar put them when he got to Babylon?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. About how long were they in the temple of that false god? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Who did the real God use to bring the treasures back to Jerusalem where they belonged? \_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson 10-(Focus – Man's faithfulness)



### *Dad Was a Carpenter*

1. How does God talk to most people? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who did God send to talk to Joseph? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What was the first message the angel gave to Joseph? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Did Joseph obey God then? \_\_\_\_\_

5. After Jesus was born, what was the next message God sent to Joseph?

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6. Why did they have to leave their home for a while? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. How did they know it was safe to return home? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Was Joseph faithful to God every time He sent messages to him? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Lesson 11-Gentleness

### *A Strong Yet Gentle Man*



1. Was Jesus a strong man? \_\_\_\_\_

2. From the story how do we know that He was also gentle? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. What were his disciples doing with the children? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. When Jesus saw them turning the children away, what did He say?

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5. How did Jesus show that He loved the children? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Do you think that Jesus felt the children were valuable? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Should we show the children that we know that we think they are valuable to God? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. How can we do this? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Lesson 12-Self-control



### *Brilliant, Yet Humble*

1. Daniel was  stupid  average  pretty smart  brilliant?
2. Were Daniel and his three friends free young men to do anything they wanted to do? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What land were they taken to as slaves? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What are some of the unusual things Daniel could do that others could not do? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Why was King Nebuchadnezzar impressed with these four young men from Israel? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Did Daniel forget the other people who came from Israel who were real slaves? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Who did Daniel talk to about all of the Jews who were in desperate need?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Did Daniel admit that they were all sinners and need to come back to their God? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Did God answer his prayer and after a while let them return to the land of Israel? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Daniel humbled himself before God. Was God pleased with this? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



We hope you enjoyed learning about the  
*Fruit of the Spirit!*

Fun fruit phrases!

**Going bananas!**

**YOU'RE A PEACH.**

**"Why so glum, sugar plum?"**

*Sweet as a peach.*

**Peachy keen, jelly bean.**

**AN APPLE A DAY KEEPS THE DOCTOR AWAY.**

**Yes we have no bananas?**

**"ORANGE YOU GLAD I DIDN'T SAY BANANA?"**

Pretty pretty please with a cherry on top!

**Comparing apples to oranges.**

**SOUR GRAPES!**

*When life gives you lemons, make lemonade.*

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Mary Jane with her books 2015

