



St Lawrence
with St Paul
Longridge



Family Activities: Sunday 30th August 2020

Fruits of the Spirit

Introduction: Children's Church at St Lawrence with St Paul is not meeting in person at present. However, the team is putting together a sheet each week for families to do 'Children's Church at Home' and we are also meeting on Zoom on Sunday mornings at 1045am to go through some of the activities together!

We are very grateful to the Blackburn Board of Education and their 'Weekly@' resources which we are drawing on to help us to put together each week's activities.

Please do e-mail Carolyn Barton at carolynbarton@hotmail.co.uk to be added to the Children's Church private Facebook group and/or to be sent the link to the Sundays @1045am Zoom Children's Church Meeting.

Theme: This week we will be thinking about the Fruits of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Setting the Scene:

Show the children pictures of fruit trees before the fruit has grown on the them....can they guess what type of fruit each tree will produce?

Song: Sing and dance along to 'The Fruit of the Spirit' at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rezg4jYFoj0&t=69s>



Bible Passage: Gal 5, v22-23 and Col 3, v12-13

A cartoon of the bible passage can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TZrIDT3k84U>

...or you may prefer to read it:





From Galatians:

²² But the Spirit gives love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
²³ gentleness, self-control. There is no law that says these things are wrong.

From Colossians:

¹² God has chosen you and made you his holy people. He loves you. So always do these things: Show mercy to others; be kind, humble, gentle, and patient. ¹³ Do not be angry with each other, but forgive each other. If someone does wrong to you, then forgive him. Forgive each other because the Lord forgave you.

Questions to ask:

The Galatians bible reading tells us that we if we are friends with Jesus, His Holy Spirit lives in us and we will have the 'fruits of the spirit'.

- 1) Can you remember what the nine fruits of the spirit are?
- 2) Why do you think the bible refers to them as 'fruit'?

A healthy tree that is water, pruned and fed over time grows and produces wonderful fruit. Similarly over time if we love Jesus, get to know Him better, read our bibles and invite his Holy Spirit to live in us, we will grow and produce the fruits of the spirit!

- 3) Which of the fruits of the spirit do you think are easy? Which are hard?

The great thing is that God helps us to be all of these things, we're not on our own!

- 4) How can we manage our behaviour when we don't feel like being loving, kind etc?

Further Discussion:

A similar bible passage from Colossians 3:12-13 states: "Therefore as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

The Bible says that we should clothe ourselves with kindness, gentleness, and patience. It says we should put on a forgiving attitude. As we are careful in choosing what clothes to wear, we must be just as careful about choosing our attitudes. What about us? What would happen if we got straight out of bed and went to school? We would look rather silly going to school in our pyjamas. Sometimes in the morning, when it's cold and we are tired, it is a big effort to get dressed! We have to make an effort to put on our clothes. We need to also make an effort to clothe ourselves with kindness, gentleness and patience.



In the same way sometimes we won't naturally be compassionate, kind, humble, gentle, patient and forgiving – we need to make the effort to 'put these things on' every day.

And God can help us to have all of these attitudes and to behave in these ways. The great thing is that the Holy Spirit living in us helps us, we're not on our own!

Prayer:

“Jesus thank you that your Holy Spirit helps us to be loving, joyful, peaceful, kind, patient, good, faithful, gentle and to have self-control. Please help us this week as we try to be all of these things to our families and our friends.”

Game:

1. Try out the actions!



See how you get on with the actions to today's song:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QcnzKDO_a6Q

2. Craft



Cut different sizes of heart shapes out of thin craft foam, or card and provide pens, stickers and ribbon. Ask the children to stick the hearts on top of each other in order of size to give a slightly 3D effect. You may wish to encourage the younger children to simply decorate the hearts whilst older children may like to write a message on their hearts as well as decorating them with the pens. Attach a loop of ribbon to the back so the hearts can be hung up. Invite the children to think of someone that they would like to give their heart decoration to; this might be to tell the person that they love them or to encourage them in some way.

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/368591550755095992/>