

August 25, 2019

## Morning Overview

**Lesson:** Galatians & The Fruit of the Spirit

### Lesson Objective:

In our story today, we discover Paul's letter to the Christians living in Galatia. Paul's words are really God's Words to those Christians then and to us today. Paul encourages the Christians not to forget that only Jesus saves us. He also reminds only trusting in Jesus is what makes us right with God, and not following the law of Moses. When we place faith in Jesus, a radical transformation happens – we become indwelt by the Holy Spirit and are given the ability to bear fruit of the Spirit. This is only possible through the power of the Holy Spirit!

### Teaching Summary:

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps His promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- God has promised to always be with His people. He is with us through the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- The Church is growing, but also experiencing persecution. Because of the persecution, followers of Jesus scatter.
- The scattered Church takes the Good News and tells others about Jesus.
- Paul helps start and visits many churches. He writes letters to these churches to remind them of what to believe and teach, or to do, and to encourage them.
- Paul writes to the church at Galatia to remember Jesus is who makes all people right with God. Trusting in Jesus is what saves us, not obeying the Law, and because God changes us through the Holy Spirit when we do trust in Jesus, we bear the fruit of the Spirit.
- Paul's letter to the Galatians is also for us today. We should remember that only Jesus' death and resurrection make us right with God, that we should only trust in Jesus, that God always loves us, and that the Holy Spirit has come to change us – the fruit of the Spirit.

**Scripture:** Acts 16:6-8; Galatians 5:1-26

**Story:** The Gospel Story Bible, Pages 260-261

**Scripture Memory for August:** Acts 26:17b-18 (ESV)

**I am sending you** (*point up to God and then to yourself*)

**to open their eyes** (*close your eyes with hands closed beside them then open hands wide as you open your eyes*)

**so that they may turn from darkness to light** (*turn around and lower your head covering it with your arms and then face the front again raising arms, lifting your hands to the light*)

**Craft:** Fruit of the Spirit

### Rooms 123 and 124

**Supplies:** Cardstock tree, fruit circles/ovals, leaves

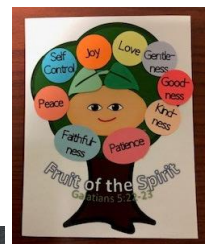
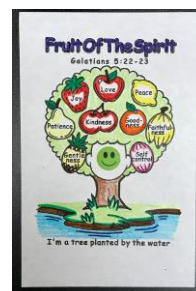
**Instructions:** 1. Glue 9 fruits to the tree (there are 9 different colored circles/ovals).  
2. Add some leaves.

### Rooms 121 and 170-177

**Supplies:** Cardstock tree, smiley face sticker, crayons/markers

**Instructions:** 1. Attach smiley face to blank face of tree.  
2. Color tree and fruit.

If child has already done craft first hour, have them work on a coloring sheet



# Story

## Transition

Boys and girls, in our story today we learn about a very big fight! Not with fists, no kicking, and no weapons, but it was a dangerous fight. The fight was over what it meant to be a follower of Jesus and to have the Holy Spirit inside us. Let's find out more in our story...

## The Church Is Growing

The Church was growing. The Bible tells us every day more and more people believed the Good News! They believed that God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to rescue us from our sins and He rose from the dead! This was called the Good News. More and more people believed in Jesus and the Church was growing!

Followers of Jesus went to tell others about the Good News. The Good News was spreading far and wide. Some people, however, did not teach the right things. But the Apostles taught that good works were a result of believing the Good News.

## The Jerusalem Council

Paul, Barnabas, and the others took a letter to Antioch to encourage the followers of Jesus. There they gathered the church and gave them the letter. When they read it, the followers of Jesus in Antioch were very happy because of the encouraging letter. Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch. They and many others preached the Good News and taught the people the message of the Lord!

But Paul did not stay in Antioch too long. He traveled and met a young man named Timothy. With Timothy, Paul traveled to a region called Galatia and told the people there about the Good News. Paul would choose and train people to help lead the church once it was started. Paul traveled a lot, and many churches began in many different places because of the Holy Spirit. Paul would not be able to visit all these places after he left, so he wrote them letters to remember what to teach and do, or to be encouraged.

In the Bible there is a letter called Galatians. Paul wrote the letter of Galatians to the Followers of Jesus living in this place. The Holy Spirit guided Paul as he wrote this letter. They are Paul's words, but even more they are God's Words.

## To the Church in Galatia

Paul wrote to remind the Followers of Jesus living in Galatia about a few things. Paul warned the Followers of Jesus to watch out for false teachers who were trying to add something to the Good News. These false teachers told the Galatians that believing in Jesus was not enough; that they could not be right with God unless they followed the law of Moses. Paul told the Followers of Jesus, "we know that a person is not made right with God by following the law. No! It is trusting in Jesus Christ that makes a person right with God" (Galatians 2:15-16). Paul wanted the Followers of Jesus to remember that trusting in Jesus was the most important thing!

Paul tells the Followers of Jesus in Galatia a few more important things. He tells them that our sins are not forgiven because of the good things we do for God. "No!" Paul would say. We are forgiven because of what Jesus has done for us – He lived a perfect life, died for our sins, and rose from the dead! (Galatians 3:13) Paul wanted them to know that Jesus loves them and gave Himself for them! (Galatians 2:20) When we trust in Jesus, Paul tells us, we receive the promise of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 3:14).

When the Holy Spirit comes and lives in us, it changes us! We will not "look" differently, but we will be and act differently. The Holy Spirit comes and makes an angry, impatient, and mean person, kind, patient and loving. These sorts of things are called the fruit of the Spirit. Paul tells the Followers of Jesus in Galatia, and us too, what the fruit of the Spirit are:

***Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*** (Galatians 5:22-23)

The fruit of the Spirit is a sign that the Holy Spirit is at work in a person's life. So, if you see someone with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, the Holy Spirit is there! But it's important to remember that the fruit of the Spirit is not a "to-do list" to earn God's love. You do not have to be or do these things for God to love you. God always loves you. The fruit of the Spirit happens because God loves us and changes us. You might not always be loving, or joyful, or kind as you would like or need to be. And you will certainly mess up and sin. But we know that our sins have been forgiven because of Jesus, and we turn to God for forgiveness. And when the fruit of the Spirit is there, when we are loving, joyful, and good, we can thank God for helping us to be those things to other people.

### **Questions for Review with Younger Children**

Have children answer "yes" or "no."

- Is the Church growing – adding more and more people? (Yes)
- Is the Holy Spirit growing the Church? (Yes)
- Did the letter encourage the followers in Antioch? (Yes)
- Did the letter tell the followers of Jesus in Antioch they were true followers and had the Holy Spirit? (Yes)
- Did Paul stay in Antioch? (No, he left)
- Did Paul go to the grocery store after he left Antioch? (No! He traveled to Galatia)
- Did Paul write a letter to the followers of Jesus in Galatia? (Yes)
- Did Paul tell the followers of Jesus in Galatia how to eat their broccoli? (No! He told them about Jesus!)
- Did Paul tell the followers of Jesus about trusting in Jesus to be made right with God? (Yes!)
- Did Paul tell the followers of Jesus that if we trusted in Jesus we would receive the Holy Spirit? (Yes)
- Which is not a fruit of the Spirit? (**Love?** Apple? **Joy?** Coconut? **Peace?** Watermelon? Banana? **Patience?** **Kindness?** Happiness? **Goodness?** **Faithfulness?** Strawberry? Grape? **Gentleness?** Please and thank you? **Self-control?**)