

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
Lower Elementary		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: I am a child of God.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles	SPARK RESOURCES: None
FRUIT SALAD SALSA: Kids use singing, movement, and instruments to explore the fruit of the Spirit.	SUPPLIES: Labels, marker, basket, fruit, CD or mp3 player, "Apples and Bananas" by Raffi or other gathering song	SUPPLIES: CD or mp3 player, "Fruit Salad Salsa" by Laurie Berkner from <i>Victor Vito</i> CD (available on iTunes™), egg shakers, maracas
Upper Elementary		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: I can live life as a child of God.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	SPARK RESOURCES: None
SPIRIT SOUNDS: Kids use voices, rhythms, instruments, and actions to create a fruit of the Spirit composition.	SUPPLIES: None	SUPPLIES: Spirit Sounds Composition (page 105), pencils, assortment of rhythm instruments
All Kids		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: God lives in me through the fruit of the Spirit.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	SPARK RESOURCES: None
SPIRIT CIRCLE: Kids use drums, a steady beat, and beanbags to explore the fruit of the Spirit.	SUPPLIES: Beanbags, basket, black marker	SUPPLIES: Drums, additional rhythm instruments (optional), beanbags, paper, pen



Looking for additional Spark content to further engage kids? Visit www.wearesparkhouse.org to learn more about these options for purchase.

- The Director CD-Rom contains Activity Pages, Coloring Pages, Family Pages, Large Group Openings, and two additional in-class activities for each lesson.
- A Sparkhouse Digital annual subscription gives you access to all content contained in the Director CD-Rom and the Spark Leader Guides, plus administrative tools and other extras.

Workshop Focus: I am a child of God.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids, it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.

Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Fruit of the Spirit Storytelling

Set Up: Print the name of one fruit of the Spirit on each of nine address labels: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Stick each address label on one of the nine pieces of fruit. Put all the fruit in the basket.

Activity Instructions

Play the song “Apples and Bananas” or other gathering song as kids are arriving.

Welcome to Music today! Join me, and let’s sing along to this great song!

Encourage kids to sing along. **Do you like apples and bananas? What other kinds of fruit do you like?** Allow time for responses. Hold the fruit basket in your lap. Show kids each piece of fruit, asking them to name the fruit (not the name on the label, which is a fruit of the Spirit).

Tell kids that each fruit is labeled with another name—a fruit of the Spirit name. These words are things we do and ways we can behave that show God’s love. Hold up the basket again and ask kids if they know the name of any fruit of the Spirit. If it is late in the rotation, kids may know all the names. If it is the first week, you’ll need

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

Labels
Marker
Large basket
Nine different pieces of fruit (real or artificial)
CD or mp3 player
“Apples and Bananas” by Raffi (available on iTunes™) or your choice of gathering song

to read the names on the labels. **How can you show love to someone? What does it mean to be patient, and how can you show that to people? How can you be kind to people?** Allow time for responses.

Today, I'll read a letter to you. This letter is in your Spark Story Bible. The writer was a man named Paul who lived a very long time ago. But the advice he gave then is good advice today, too. Let's turn to Fruit of the Spirit on page 550 in our Spark Story Bibles. Invite kids to listen as you read the text aloud. **Why do you think the people in Galatia changed the way they were acting?** Allow time for responses.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Fruit Salad Salsa

Activity Instructions

1. **Have you ever had fruit salad? Have you ever had salsa?** Allow time for responses. **Fruit salad and salsa are very different from each other. But if you create a mixed-up bunch of chopped fruit, you could make fruit salad salsa for dipping crackers or anything else in! Let's listen to a song called "Fruit Salad Salsa." There are six fruits named in this song. Listen carefully, and let's see if we can name all of them after the song.** Play the song.
2. **What fruits are in the fruit salad salsa?** (*mango, apple, papaya, pineapple, orange, banana*) **Great listening! Now we're going to act out the song. Who would like to be the mangos? Apples? Papayas? Pineapples? Oranges? Bananas?** Try to have at least two kids pretending to be each fruit. **We'll listen one more time now, but this time we'll stand up, make a circle, and get into our acting! Stand next to people who are the same kind of fruit as you are and be ready!** Make a circle, play the song, and act it out/dance.
3. Invite kids to sit in a circle. **Wouldn't it be cool if we could use our fruit of the Spirit to be like a giant, living fruit salad salsa? We can jump into doing things with other people and show God's love for everyone by showing love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control to everyone. We would be just like the fruit salad salsa . . . each fruit brings something wonderful to the bowl, and each one of us can bring something wonderful when we live by the Spirit with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control!** Allow time for responses. **Let's do our song and dance again, but think about being a fruit of the Spirit, too. We'll add egg shakers and maracas** (or other instruments) **to show that we've added the fruit of the Spirit to our fruit salad salsa!** Give every kid an instrument. Sing, dance, and shake!
4. Invite kids to sit in a circle, then collect their instruments.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

CD or mp3 player

"Fruit Salad Salsa" by Laurie Berkner from *Victor Vito* CD (available on iTunes™)

Egg shakers and maracas or other rhythm instruments

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

You did a spectacular job mixing it up as part of the Fruit Salad Salsa today! The people Paul talked to learned to live together. They mixed together every good fruit of the Spirit to show God's love. What can other people see about God when they see you living by the fruit of the Spirit?

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Invite kids to fold their hands and bow their heads for a prayer.

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for this day and our time together in Sunday school.

Help us to be like the Galatians, learning how to live with the fruit of the Spirit in mind.

We live as children of God.

Amen.

Workshop Focus: I can live life as a child of God.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids, it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.

Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Fruit of the Spirit Storytelling

Welcome to Music today! Have you ever had an argument with someone? What does arguing sound and look like? Allow time for responses and demonstrations.
What does getting along with someone sound like and look like? Allow time for responses and demonstrations.

Today's story is about people who were arguing a lot and about someone who told them there was a better way to live together. Let's turn to Galatians 5:16-26 on page 1293 in the Spark Bibles. Have your stickers ready. Who would like to read aloud? Take turns reading the passage out loud.

Whew! That was a lot of lists. Let's talk about the list Paul said the Holy Spirit wants us to live by. Can you name a fruit of the Spirit? If kids know these from memory, remind them to put an I Memorized It sticker by verses 22-23. If it's early in the rotation, ask kids to read verses 22 and 23 to a partner.

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
None

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Spirit Sounds Composition

Set Up: Make copies of the Spirit Sounds Composition from page 105.

Experiment with sounds—using your voice, rhythm patterns, actions, and various instruments—to demonstrate each fruit of the Spirit.

Activity Instructions

- You had great ideas earlier for what arguing might look like and sound like. Now, let's compose sounds for each fruit of the Spirit. You can use your words or other sounds with your voice and some of the instruments we have here today. If you could only use words, what would sound like joy?** (*happy, hooray, smile*) **If you just had instruments to use, what instruments would you choose to sound like love?** (*triangle, bells, shakers*) **What sound effects can you make that would sound like peace?** (*silence, gentle wind sounds, wind chimes*)
- Great Spirit Sound ideas! Now let's divide into groups to create Spirit Sound Compositions!** Divide kids into groups of 3 or 4. Pass out a Spirit Sounds Composition sheet, pencil, and a set of different rhythm instruments to each group (not to each kid.) **Let's go over the instructions at the top of the Spirit Sounds Composition sheet together.** After you read the instructions, ask if kids have any questions.
- Your group will have 10 minutes to create a Spirit Sounds Composition. Think about the sounds that are the best fit for each fruit of the Spirit. One person in your group should be the scribe—the person who writes your ideas in the Sound Boxes. The scribe can use words, symbols, pictures, or whatever will help the group in remember the sounds you will make for each fruit of the Spirit. Be ready to perform your composition for our class!** Allow 10 minutes for kids to work together.
- Time's up! Let's give each group a chance to perform their composition for everyone!** Be positive as each group performs their Spirit Sound Composition.
- Excellent Spirit Sounds Compositions! How can these Spirit Sounds remind you to live your life according to the fruit of the Spirit? How can the fruit of the Spirit help you to live as a child of God?** Allow time for responses.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Spirit Sounds Composition,
page 105

Pencils

Assortment of rhythm instruments of different tone qualities: shakers, maracas, drums, triangles, tambourines, chimes

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

You did exceptional work on your Spirit Sounds Compositions today! Remember that in our Bible story, we heard about how to live as children of God according to the fruit of the Spirit. We also read about things we do sometimes that are not good choices. How can you make good choices and live your life according to the fruit of the Spirit? Allow time for responses.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Invite kids to join hands and bow their heads for a prayer.

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for this day and our time together.

Help us listen for and live the sounds of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Amen.

Workshop Focus: God lives in me through the fruit of the Spirit.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Fruit of the Spirit Storytelling

Set Up: Using the black marker, print the name of one fruit of the Spirit on each beanbag: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Put all the beanbags in the basket.

Activity Instructions

Welcome to Music today! I've got some things in this basket to show you. Hold basket in your lap. Show kids each beanbag, saying the name of the fruit of the Spirit written on each one. **Have you heard those words before? They all have something in common. What do think that is?** (*how to treat people, how to be nice, ways to talk to people*) **These beanbags are labeled with the names of what are called the fruit of the Spirit. They are things we can do and ways we can behave to show everyone that we are children of God. The fruit of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Do you do things and say things in your life that follow the fruit of the Spirit?** Allow time for responses. **The Bible story we will read today is all about letting God live through us by following the fruit of the Spirit. Let's turn to Fruit of the Spirit on pages 550-553 in the Spark Story Bibles, and page 1293 in the Spark**

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Beanbags (or items that can be written on and are easy to pass around), 9 different colors
Basket
Black marker

Bibles. Have your stickers ready. Read the story from the Spark Story Bible. **How were the Galatians behaving when Paul first arrived? How did learning about the fruit of the Spirit change what they were doing?** Allow time for responses.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Spirit Circle

Set Up: Make a list of each fruit of the Spirit, indicating the order the beanbags will be introduced into the game.

Activity Instructions

- Today, we are going to play a game called Spirit Circle! In order to get ready to play, we first need to get into buddy pairs—older kids partnering with younger kids.** Assist in pairing kids. Assign two younger kids to one older kid if necessary. **Now let's get into a circle. Be sure to sit next to your buddy!** Kids get into circle.
- Now we need a Caller.** Select an older kid to be the Caller, and give him or her the list of each fruit of the Spirit. Have the Caller sit away from the group with his or her back turned. Be sure the Caller knows the order in which you are putting the beanbags into play. **I'm going to play this drum with a steady beat.** Show the drum. **As I do that, you will follow the beat and pass two fruit of the Spirit beanbags, one at a time, around the circle to your left. Keep going until the drumming stops, then FREEZE! The Caller will then call out the name of a fruit that is currently in the game. The person who has that beanbag at "Freeze!" will briefly tell one thing he or she can do to show that fruit of the Spirit in life. (Buddies can help each other.) Then the drumming will start up and we will try again. We'll start with two beanbags and add one more after each "Freeze!" As we add more, be ready for the fruit of the Spirit beanbags to come at you fast! Ready to play?** Play begins.
- After a few rounds, have the Caller choose someone to take the job next. Invite one of the kids to replace you as the Drummer, encouraging him or her to keep a nice steady beat for the game. Play continues. Repeat several times, changing Callers, Drummers, and tempos. Add more instruments if desired.
- Excellent job with our Spirit Circle! How does God live in you through the fruit of the Spirit?** Allow time for responses.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Drum (hand, conga, djembe, gathering drum)
Additional rhythm instruments (optional)
Beanbags or similar items (from Open the Bible), 9 different colors

Paper

Pen

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

Thank you for doing such a great job in our Spirit Circle today! Remember that in our Bible story, we heard about living a life according to the fruit of the Spirit. How can you use the fruit of the Spirit so God's love shines through you? Allow time for responses.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Invite kids to join hands and bow their heads for a prayer.

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for this day and our time together with Sunday school friends.

Help us to be like the Galatians and learn to let God's love show in all we do.

Help us to live according to the fruit of the Spirit.

Amen.

Spirit Sounds Composition

Your Group Name:

Use your voice (words and sounds), rhythm patterns, instruments, and sound-producing actions to make Spirit Sounds for each fruit of the Spirit. Begin with *love* and end with *self-control*. Each Spirit Sound should be 10 seconds or less.

1. Write or draw words or symbols in the Sound Box to help you remember the sounds your group will make.
2. Practice your Spirit Sounds Composition.
3. Be ready to announce your group's name and share your composition.

Fruit of the Spirit	Sound Box
Love	
Joy	
Peace	
Patience	
Kindness	
Generosity	
Faithfulness	
Gentleness	
Self-Control	