

Love Your Neighbor
as Yourself

Family Bible Adventures

This summer, we're encouraging YOU, *as a family*, to dive into *God's Word* as we discover what it means to, "love your neighbor as yourself." Work your way through each section below, and be sure to interact together as *an entire family!*

Know a family who might benefit from these Family Bible Adventures? Be sure to **pass along this PDF and each edition's online link** so that others can join in on the adventures!

LEARN the story >>> Fruit of the Spirit

To hear a dramatic story-telling of this passage, follow [this link](#).

If you're unable to access the story through this link, simply read the story below¹:

Paul helped people understand how to live the way God wanted them to live. Paul wrote a letter to a group of people called the Galatians. The Galatians had a new church and they needed lots of help!

One of the problems they had was that they were always arguing. They fought and fought about all sorts of things. The Galatians didn't always agree about what it meant to be a church and what rules to follow. They had a hard time getting along, and it was getting in the way of them making a good church! Paul wrote a letter to the Galatians to tell them to stop fighting. He had some great advice.

"To the Galatians," the letter said. "I am so happy that you believe in Jesus, but all your fighting is getting in the way! You're not living the way the Holy Spirit tells you to live. I have a suggestion to try. Instead of living

like you are, live with the fruit of the Spirit in mind. Show love, joy, peace, and patience to one another. Be kind,



generous, and faithful. And remember, be gentle with one another and always show good self-control. Live with the fruit of the Spirit in mind! That's the way the Holy Spirit wants you to live."

The Galatians looked at each other. They were very quiet. Paul was right.

They weren't living the way the Holy Spirit wanted them to! What were they thinking? All this fighting was just not right!

At the end of his letter, Paul wrote, "The way for you to get along and be a church is to let God's love fill you. May the grace of God be with you, Paul."

Each day the Galatians tried to remember the words of Paul's letter. They said yes to peace, no to fighting, yes to kindness, no to anger, yes to being generous, no to being greedy. Little by little the Galatians saw God's love and show it to others. They felt loved by God and they loved each other.

¹ Story of the Fruit of the Spirit taken from the *Spark Story Book Bible*, published Augsburg Fortress, pages 550-553.

3rd Edition
from
GRACE LUTHERAN &
SHEPHERD OF THE CROSS
JULY 29, 2020

Each
**Family Bible
Adventure**
will have three
intriguing components
for you and your family
to explore together

Learn



Live



Pray



Look for our last
edition in the
coming weeks,
focusing on >

Feeding of the 5000

YOU HAVE
THE
POWER
TO CHANGE
THE WORLD
USE IT TO
MAKE
A DIFFERENCE

Next, REVIEW these questions both individually and together >

1. How did Paul start his letter (the salutation)?
2. What made Paul happy about the Galatians?
3. What made Paul unhappy about the Galatians?
4. How does what Paul wrote connect to what it means to love your neighbor?

Want to go a bit deeper?, TRY THESE QUESTIONS on for size!
Be sure to discuss each of your answers with one another >

1. What ways do you live with the fruit of the Spirit in mind? (Show love, joy, peace, patience, etc. to one another).
2. How do you think the people reacted to hearing Paul's letter?
3. In the beginning of the story, the Galatians fought about many things. What are some things that you, or your family, have fought about in the past week? What are some things that you see others fighting about in the world around you?
4. Which fruit of the Spirit is hardest for you to show to others? Why?
5. Imagine a group of people living according to the fruit of the Spirit. What would that community look like? How would it be the same, or different, than what you see *right now* in your family, in your church community, or in the world?

LIVE the story > > >

Each week, we'll provide an activity for you that relates to the story. This week is EXTRA special because we have TWO activities for you! >

Make a Fruit of the Spirit Basket!

Use the instructions and materials on pages 3-5 to create your basket.

- A. BUT, don't put all your fruit in the basket just yet! Instead, **keep your paper pieces of fruit *outside* your basket.**
- B. Then, when you see someone show a way that they are living by one of the fruits of the Spirit, pick up that fruit, write on the back what that person did to live by that fruit of the Spirit, and put it in the basket. Or, if YOU – yourself – have shown how you have lived by the fruit of the Spirit, write what YOU did and write it on the back of that fruit, and then put it in the basket.
- C. Your goal? Get all your fruit *into* the basket!

Make cards to send to people in your home congregation >

One way to show the fruit of the Spirit is by living together as one in community. We have a unique opportunity to be a part of a church family – whether Grace Lutheran, Shepherd of the Cross Lutheran, or any other congregation!

And, even if you are not officially a part of a congregation, guess what?
YOU are still a part of the *entire* family of God!

So, just as the Galatians were encouraged to live together in community and to show the fruits of the Spirit, you are encouraged to show the fruits of the Spirit to those in your congregation (or family) by sending some cards/drawings. Go through your church directory, or contact your home pastor for suggestions, and then send your cards/drawings. As you do so, you will be living by the fruit of the Spirit, sharing the fruit of the Spirit with others, and building up our community of faith...just like the church in Galatia!

Remember the challenge for Random Acts of Kindness?

During our first week of Family Bible Adventures, we challenged you to make a random act of kindness jar and begin completing slips from your jar throughout the summer. Be sure to continue making your way through your jar and send your pictures to office@shepherdofthecross.org. Just think, you might complete one of your random acts of kindness by completing our activity for the week!



PRAY the story > > >

Now that you and your family members have reviewed the story and and have done the above activities, we invite you to PRAY. Each edition, we'll share a different model of prayer. Here's this session's prayer >

Skittles Prayer

Kiddos – here's an excuse to send your parents to the store to get some candy!



- 1) Get a bag of Skittles or M&Ms.
- 2) Choose a piece of candy at random.
- 3) Say the appropriate prayer, as indicated below.
- 4) Eat it!
- 5) Repeat until all candy is gone!
- 6) Close by praying the Lord's Prayer together with your family

For red skittles, pray for someone you love.

For purple skittles, pray for friends.

For green skittles, pray for creation/the environment

For yellow skittles, pray for the world

For orange skittles, pray for someone who is sick or hurt and needs to be healed.

If you have other colors, assign your own category. Get creative, and go through a pack of Skittles either on your own or with your family!

How is your collection of coins and cash coming along?

Last week, we asked you to help us prepare for our activity that will go along with our next Family Bible Adventure. We'll be looking at the story of Jesus feeding the 5000. **To get ready, we are asking YOU to collect spare cash and coins. Money collected will go toward the Muscatine Area Food Pantry.** Think of a few extra chores you might be able to do for your family, or even a neighbor. See if they would be willing to give you a quarter for your service that you could donate to the Food Pantry in the coming weeks! **Contributions will be collected on August 12.**

< < **Thanks for joining with us for this Family Bible Adventure!** > > >

We pray God's blessings upon you as you grow in faith, in love, and in compassion this summer! May Christ's love go with you to keep you, and all our neighbors, safe and healthy!

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

PRINTABLE CRAFT



MATERIALS:

- White paper or card stock
- Crayons, or other coloring utensils
- Scissors
- Clear tape



INSTRUCTIONS:

Step 1: Print out the two Fruit of the Basket printable sheets on white paper or cardstock.

Step 2: Color the basket, handle and fruit as desired. It is not necessary to color the tabs, as these will not be visible on your completed Fruit of the Spirit Basket.

Step 3: Using the scissors, cut out basket, handle and individual fruit pieces.

Step 4: Take the colored basket piece, and fold along each of the seams.

Step 5: Fold the sides of the basket together and tape the tabs on the inside of the basket using clear tape.

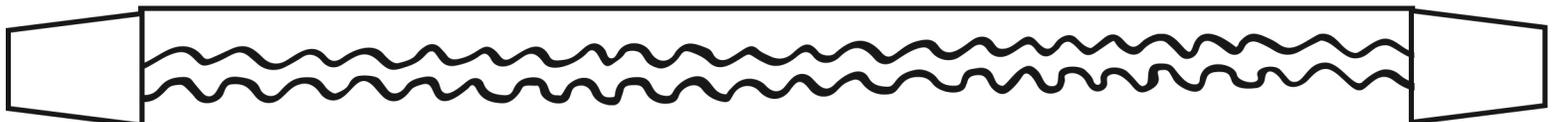
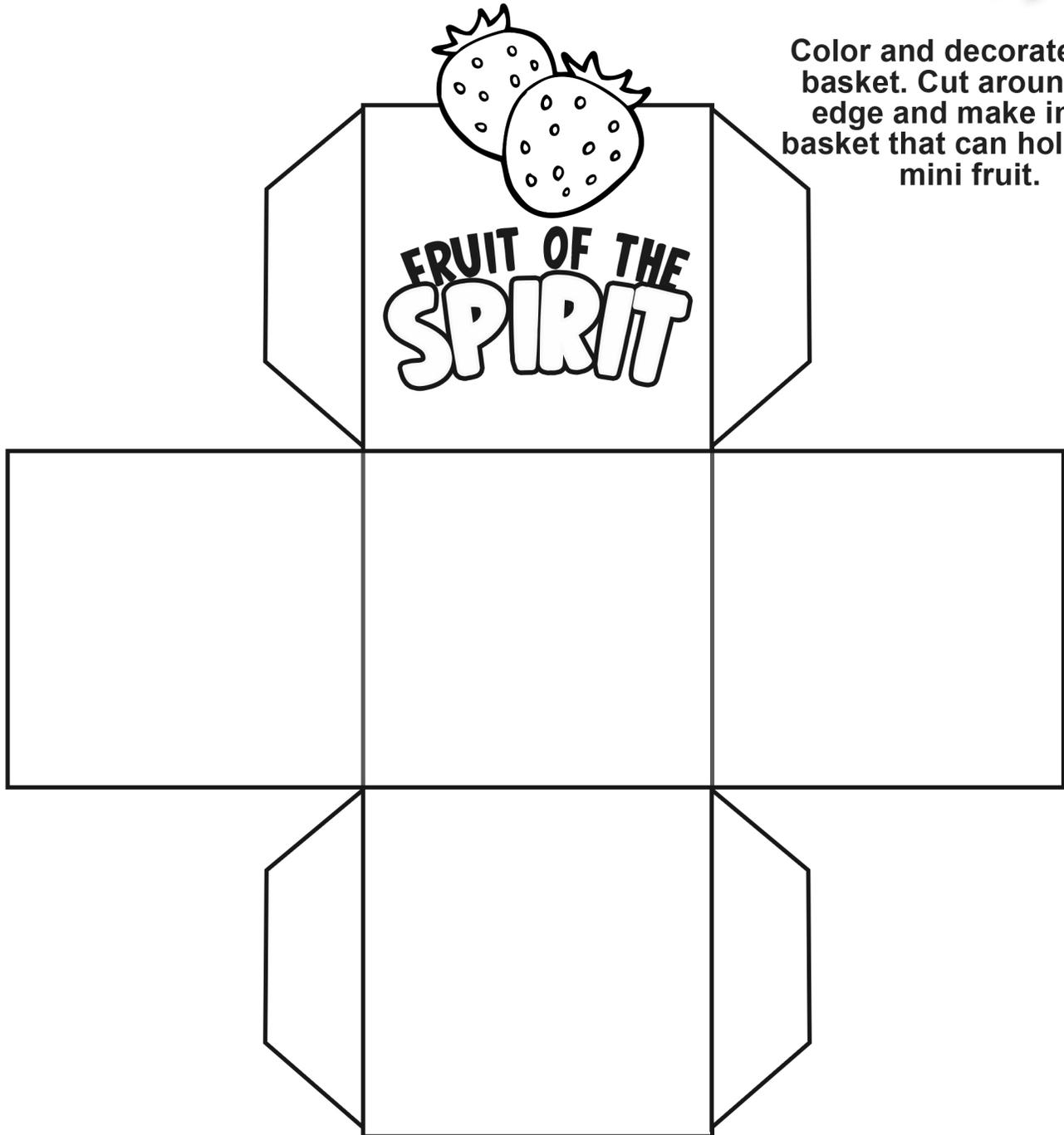
Step 5: Tape the handle to your Fruit of the Spirit Basket, with the tabs on the inside of the basket.

MY FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT BASKET

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT



Color and decorate your basket. Cut around the edge and make into a basket that can hold your mini fruit.



MY FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT BASKET

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT



Color your fruit. Cut around the edges and place in your basket.

