

[Bringing some apples to the group]

Apples grow on a tree.

[Cut apples open show the kids the seeds inside.]

What would happen if you plant the seed?

A tree will grow. When the tree gets big enough then little buds appear and we have apple blossoms.

What happens next?

Do you think lemons will start growing on the tree?

Of course not! If you plant apple seeds then a tree will grow and you will get apples.

Think about the last time we came to visit... we talked about the wordless book.

Black page was the sin in our lives

Red was the blood of Jesus that cleansed our sins when Jesus died on the cross

White was when we accepted God's gift of grace and we became saved

Gold was the place in heaven that God prepared for us

And **Green** was us growing each day as a child of God.

When a person is saved, God 'plants' the Holy Spirit inside that person.

Let's think about an apple seed, if it is planted then a fruit called an apple is produced.

If the Spirit is inside of you, guess what kind of fruit is produced . . . the Fruit of the Spirit.

Let's read from the bible to find out what that fruit looks like . . ."

{Gal 5:16 } [This] I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

{Gal 5:17 } For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

{Gal 5:18 } But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

{Gal 5:19 } Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are [these]; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

{Gal 5:20 } Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

{Gal 5:21 } Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told [you] in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

{Gal 5:22 } But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

{Gal 5:23 } Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

{Gal 5:25 } If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

[Picture of tree with no fruit]

Explaining the tree, a healthy tree with roots, a trunk, and leaves. Every part is important. The roots take the nutrients in the soil to make food for the tree to grow. The roots also make the trunk of the tree stand strong and not fall over. The leaves gather the sunlight and rain to help the tree be healthy.

Looking at this tree, can you guess what kind of tree this is? It is difficult to tell, isn't it? I'm going to give you a clue to help you know what kind of tree this is.

[Picture of a tree with apples on it]

Now can you guess what kind of tree this is? YES, it is an apple tree. It is much easier to tell what kind of tree it is now that we can see the fruit, isn't it? Fruit is another very important part of a tree.

People are like trees and their words and actions are like fruit.

In the same way you can recognise a tree by its fruit you can also know about what kind of person someone is by the way they speak and act.

In the Bible book of Galatians we read that a person who does not follow God and thinks only about him or herself is like a bad tree that produces bad fruit. The kind of fruit produced by this sinful life includes bad words and actions and thoughts.

[Picture of tree with bad apples. Bad fruit words from Galatians written on the fruit.]

Bad fruit like wild living, anger, jealousy, selfishness, drunkenness and many others.

And what if you were a tree. Is this the kind of fruit you would want to have on your tree?

But there is another kind of tree and another kind of fruit. The Spirit of God lives inside of people who belong to Jesus. If a person lives his or her life according to the Spirit then that person is like a tree that produces good fruit. This good fruit is called the "fruit of the Spirit".

Our good words and actions and thoughts are the fruit that show what kind of tree we are.

The Holy Spirit that lives inside a Christian is good and the fruit of the Spirit is also good. Let's learn about what kind of fruit the Holy Spirit produces.

[Picture of tree with good apples. Good fruit words from Galatians written on the fruit.]

The fruit of the Spirit is...

Love

To love someone is to care deeply for them and to want what is best for them.

Joy

Joy is more than just feeling happy when good things are happening. Joy is a deep good feeling we have because we trust God in both the good and bad times.

Peace

Peace is feeling calm and secure because we know that God is in control of our world.

Patience

Patience is waiting our turn. Patience is not losing our temper or giving up even if something takes a long time.

Kindness

Kindness is considering what people need and then helping them with it.

Goodness

God is holy and good and always does right. Goodness for Christians means trying our best to follow God's example in these things.

Faithfulness

Faithfulness is being loyal and trustworthy. It means sticking with something or someone and not giving up too soon.

Gentleness

Being gentle means not being rough or harsh. It means being careful and respectful with others.

Self-control

Finally, self-control means not losing our temper or always having to have our own way. It is waiting our turn and considering others' needs before our own.

So what kind of tree will you be?

Will you choose to live only for yourself and produce bad fruit that only hurts yourself and others?

Or will you choose to live according to the Holy Spirit and produce fruit of the Spirit, the kind of fruit that blesses you and blesses everyone around you?

The choice is up to you.