

LESSON ONE PATIENCE & FAITHFULNESS

Memory Verse:

Proverbs 3:6

*In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your path.*

Bible Story

Jesus Follows the Will of His Father
(Matthew 3:13—4:11)

Song Suggestions:

Be Like Jesus

Father, I Depend on You

With Love and Trust

Take Your First Step

Teach Me, Lord, to Wait

Trust and Obey
Thy Word

Fruit Full Materials:

- Student Books
- Visual Aids
 - Theme Verse and Lesson One Memory Verse Posters
 - Be Like Cards
 - Story Time Bible Book
 - Fruit of the Spirit Memory Cards
 - Fruit Crate and Fruit (Pear; Banana) Posters
 - Memory Verse Fruit and Fruit Tree Branches
 - Memory Verse Roller Coaster Cars

Additional Materials:

- Bibles
- **Midway Messenger Bags**
- scissors
- reusable adhesive
- envelopes
- jumbo craft sticks
- markers or crayons
- tape

1

WELCOME TO THE FAIR!

- Welcome students, and introduce the theme, **Fruit Full.**
- Introduce the Theme Verse, and discuss what it means to be **Fruit Full.**

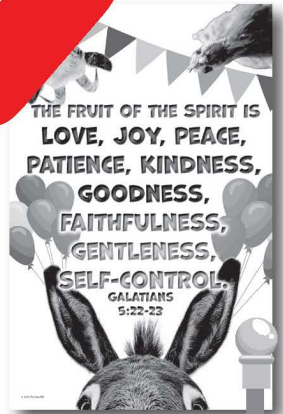
Welcome the students to the Fair. **Hello, everyone! It is berry good to see you. Thank you for joining us at Vacation Bible School.** Introduce yourself and any co-teachers as Midway Mentors.

Explain the theme of VBS. **Have you ever been to a State or County Fair? What would you find at a Fair?** (Allow students to discuss.) **Parts of a Fair are like an amusement park.** There are rides that go up and down and all around. Parts of the Fair have fun games to play or exciting shows to see. And parts of the Fair have delicious foods to eat. Fairs are a lot of fun!

We are going to have a lot of fun at VBS this year. Do you like to have fun? (Response) I do, to be going to do more than just play. We are going to learn something that is very important. Would you like to know what we are going to learn at VBS? (Response) We are going to be like Jesus. Isn't that exciting?

We are going to hear Bible stories about how Jesus learned about some wonderful things He did. We are also going to learn about how He learned about something called the fruit of the Spirit. Can you tell me what the fruit of the Spirit are? The Bible tells us that there are ten.

Direct your students' attention to the poem in Galatians 5:22-23. It says, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." Those are some really big words, aren't they? During this VBS, we are going to learn what each of these words mean. And do you want to know something amazing about these words? The Bible describes Jesus as being like each of these words. We can become more like Jesus if we learn what each of these words mean. Are you ready to get started? Before we begin, let's sing a song about remembering everyone's name.



HELLO SONG

Audio Tracks available in the Multimedia Files!

Rotate through song until every student has been mentioned.

LEARNING TO BE LIKE

Before VBS, remove the *Fruit Crate* poster, *Be Like Cards* from the Visual Aid package, and cut them apart. Place the *Be Like Cards* in a *Midway Messenger Bag*, and bring them to class with you.

PREP STEP



LEARNING TO BE LIKE

Gather students in a large, open area of the classroom. ASK: **What does it mean to *be like* someone or something?** (Response) **Berry good! To *be like* someone or something means to *act like them* or to *copy what they do*. You move like them. You sound like them. You pretend to *be like* them. Let's give it a try!** Have students spread out an arm's length apart from each other. Let one of your students draw a *Be Like Card* out of the **Midway Messenger Bag** and hand it to you. Show the *Card* to your students.

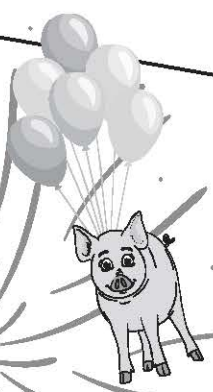
If they draw the *Rabbit Card*, you would SAY: **This card has a rabbit on it. Do you know how to *be like* a rabbit?** Allow students to act like a rabbit. They might hop around, pretend to eat a carrot, crouch and be quietly, etc. After a few moments, have another student draw a *Card*. After students have acted out three or four different things, gather them at the table or seated on the floor.

SAY: **You were *berry good* at being like something else. It's fun to *be like* something else, isn't it? Do you know there is someone that is very important for us to try to *be like*. Can anyone tell me Who that important person is?** (Response) **That is right. It is most important for us to try to *be like* Jesus. In this story we are going to learn about how that. We are going to learn to *be more like* Jesus. Let's sing a song which talks about *being like* Jesus.**

TO BE LIKE
SING

See page 48.

2



JESUS FOLLOWS GOD'S WILL

- Explore how Jesus followed God's will in difficult situations.
- Examine how Jesus showed kindness and *Patience*.

STORY TIME SONG

Audio Tracks available in the Multimedia Files!

See page 47.

Prepare the students for the story. Say, **Okay, Fruit of the Spirit, it is time to sing. We are going to hear a Bible story about how Jesus was faithful as He followed God's will. He was patient as He followed God's will. At the beginning, let's sing our "Story Time Song."**

Remember to use the *Story Time Song Book* and the *Visual Aid Packet*. Turn to the first group of pictures, and show the corresponding picture as you read the following story. Scriptural reference: Matthew 3:13—4:11; John 2:1-11.

PICTURE ONE

Jesus always tried to do what God wanted Him to do. When Jesus went to the Baptist to be baptized, John said, "No! You do not need to be baptized. I need to be baptized by you." But Jesus said, "This is what God wants me to do."

After John baptized Jesus, God let everyone know that Jesus had done the right thing. God's Spirit came down like a dove and rested on Jesus. God said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Next, God wanted Jesus to go out into the wilderness all by Himself. Jesus stayed in the wilderness for forty days. That is a long time, but for all forty of the days, Jesus did not eat anything. Can you imagine what that was like? How long would it take you to get hungry if you did not eat anything? One day? One hour? Jesus did not eat for forty days, and the Bible tells us He was hungry.

PICTURE TWO

When Jesus was feeling hungry, and probably weak, Satan went to visit Him. Satan was there to tempt Jesus, or to try to make Jesus do something He should not do. Satan knew Jesus was hungry. "Jesus," he said, "As God's Son, You have great powers. If You are hungry, then just tell these stones to turn into bread."

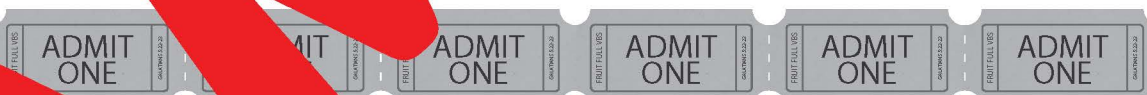
Even though Jesus was hungry, He would not do what Satan wanted Him to do. Instead, He would be patient and wait on God to tell Him what to do. Jesus answered Satan. "It is not bread that gives us life," Jesus said, "But the Word of God is what makes us strong."

The Bible tells us that Satan tried to tempt Jesus two more times. And two more times, Jesus trusted the Word of God to fight back. Finally, Satan gave up and tried one more time to tempt Jesus not to be faithful. Jesus would not listen to him. So Satan went away, and Jesus again

PICTURE THREE

Not long after this, Jesus was at a wedding. The wedding was in a room with family hosting the wedding was upset. The wine had run out of wine. Jesus' mother was there. She knew Jesus was able to help. "They have no wine," she said to Jesus.

"Why are you telling Me? My hour has not yet come," Jesus asked her. "But you know what to do," she said. "Do what He says," Jesus told the servants. "Draw some water out of the jars and take it to the master of the feast." But it wasn't water, it was wine! No one knew where the wine had come from. *Shhh!* Only a few people knew Jesus' miracle, and they were faithful to keep it a secret. Jesus was able to wait patiently on God's timing and stay faithful to what God wanted.

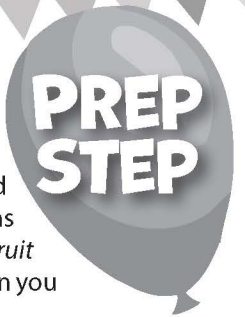


BACKGROUND GUIDES

Allow students to complete the Bible Story Activity from Lesson One in their Student Books.

FRUIT CRATE DISPLAY

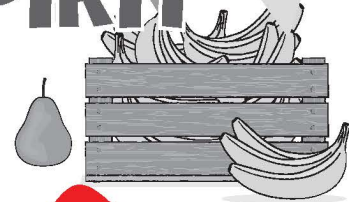
Before VBS, plan where you will place the *Fruit Crate* display. Remove the *Fruit Crate* poster and all the *Fruit* posters (9) from the Visual Aid package and cut them out. Following the directions on the poster, affix the *Fruit Crate* to a bulletin board or wall. Place the *Fruit* posters in the *Fruit Crate*. Each lesson you will add two pieces of *Fruit* to your display, except for the last lesson when you will just add one piece of fruit. You will be using the *Fruit Crate* and *Fruit* posters during *Step B*.



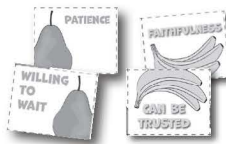
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THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

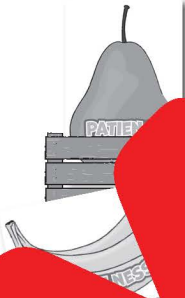
- Introduce the Focus of Lesson One.
- Discuss the first two fruit of the Spirit, *Patience* and *Faithfulness*.



A. Before class, remove the *Fruit of the Spirit Memory Cards* poster from the Visual Aid package, and cut the *Cards* apart. Lay all of the *Fruit Cards*, face down on the table in a grid. SAY: **Let's play a game of Fruit of the Spirit Memory.** Students will take turns flipping over two *Cards* at a time. If the fruit on the *Cards* match, the player keeps the pair and takes another turn. If the cards don't match, they are flipped back over, and the next student takes a turn. As the *Cards* are matched, read the fruit of the Spirit and the definition to help students become familiar with the fruit and their meaning. When all the *Cards* have been matched, pull the *Cards* for Faithfulness and Patience and put the rest of the *Cards* away.



B. Go to the *Fruit Crate* wall display, remove the *Fruit* posters from the *Crate*, and spread them on the table where your students can see them. **Who wants to help me pick the two fruit we will be learning about today? The first fruit is green. It will match this fruit.** Hold up the *Card* for *Patience*. When students have matched the *Fruit Card* for *Patience* (the pear) to the *Fruit* poster, help them add the poster to the wall display using reusable adhesive. **Ap-pear-ently you're pretty smart! Our second fruit is yellow.** Hold up the *Card* for *Faithfulness*. When students have matched the *Fruit Card* for *Faithfulness* (the bananas) to the *Fruit* poster, help them add the poster to the wall display using reusable adhesive.



C. **To be patient means willing to wait, to not rush someone or to wait for something. When was a time you were patient?** Allow discussion. Prompt them with the following suggestions:

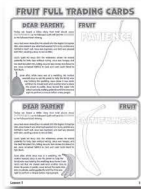
- waiting your turn when you are playing a game
- waiting for your turn to talk.
- not complaining when you have to wait
- not cutting in front of others in line.
- waiting on your mom to make lunch.
- trusting your dad when he tells you to wait.

We can also trust that God will keep His promises. We can trust God with always. When are we having a bad day? How do we trust in God, He will help us through it.

D. **Faithful means you can be trusted by others. When are you being faithful?** Allow discussion. You might prompt them with the following suggestions:

- doing what you say you will do.
- cleaning up your room when you say you will.
- keeping a secret.
- picking up on your friend, even when you are mad.
- being a good friend on good and bad days.

Most importantly, we should be faithful to God. We may not always do the right thing, but we should always try to do the right thing. We should try hard to follow Jesus. We should work hard to be who God wants us to be.



Be sure to send the *Fruit Full Trading Cards* home with students. There is a letter for the parents on the back.

MEMORY VERSE FRUIT DISPLAY

Before VBS, place where you will place the *Memory Verse Fruit* display. Remove the *Fruit Tree Branches* poster and *Memory Verse Fruit* from the Visual Aid package. Affix the *Fruit Tree Branches* poster firmly to a bulletin board or wall. Cut out each set of *Memory Verse Fruit* and place each set in an envelope to bring to class with you.

Each lesson you will be adding one set of the *Memory Verse Fruit* to the *Branches* with reusable adhesive so they are easily removed. Your students will be "picking" the pieces of *Fruit* from the *Branches* and placing them on the wall nearby, putting the *Fruit* in order, per your instructions. (Make sure to leave room for the *Memory Verse Fruit* that will be added in the lessons to come.)

PREP STEP

Bring the envelope with the *Memory Verse Fruit* for Lesson One (pears and bananas) to class. Use reusable adhesive to randomly "hang" the *Fruit* from the *Branches*.

One way to be Fruit Full is to fill our heads up with verses from the Bible. The words of our Memory Verse are on these fruit, but they are all jumbled up. Let's pick the fruit, and put our verse in order. Point to each piece of *Fruit* as you recite the verse. Then slowly recite the verse again, allowing your students to, one by one, "pick" the *Fruit* off the *Branches*, and move them to the blank spot on the wall as you direct. Once the *Fruit* are placed in the correct order, read the verse again, encouraging your students to repeat the verse with you.

Point to the "Proverbs 3:6" *Fruit*. **This Bible verse is found in Proverbs 3:6.** Point to each *Fruit* as you read the verse. **It says, "In all your ways acknowledge God, and he will make straight your paths." Our Bible verse is saying that when we are faithful to follow God, He can make our paths straight. This world can be confusing. Things happen that we can't understand. But God understands, and He has plans for us. We can trust that He knows what is best for us. Let's say our Bible verse together one more time.** The verse is also printed on page 4 of the *Student Book*, the inside of the *Fruit Full Trading Cards*. Students can color in the words of the verse as you recite the verse together.

Some children may be bothered by seeing different fruit growing on the same branch. Praise them for their knowledge of the natural world, then refocus them on the Memory Verse.



example of the fruit how to wash!



- Reinforce the lesson.
- Create a hands-on learning experience that solidify the lesson in the students' minds.
- Have fun!

MIDWAY MENTOR

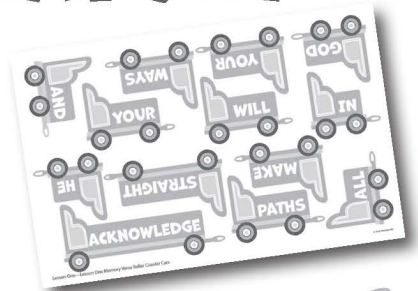


MAKING THE PATH STRAIGHT

Materials needed: Visual Aid Packet, Memory Verse Roller Coaster Cars, scissors, tape, jumbo craft sticks

Before beginning, prepare the *Memory Verse Roller Coaster Cars* from the Visual Aid Packet. Cut apart the *Memory Verse Roller Coaster Cars*, and tape each *Cars* to a jumbo craft stick. Clear a large area for the activity. Scatter the *Memory Verse Roller Coaster Cars* across the playing area. Have students stand around the edge of the playing area. When you say *Go*, have students pick up one of the *Cars*.

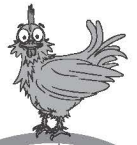
SAY: Each of the *Memory Verse Roller Coaster Cars* has a word of our verse on it. When I point to you and tell you a word on the *Car* you are holding, recite it after me. Does anyone remember the first word of our Memory Verse? Recite the verse a few times until students are consistently repeating their word after you. **But you don't look like a roller coaster. You are all scattered around. Let's get on a straight path. As your Midway Mentor, it is my job to help you get in order. I will say the words of the Memory Verse one at a time. When I say your word, get in line.** Slowly recite each word, prompting the students to step into line when it is their turn. When they are all in line, recite the verse again, having each student hold up their *Roller Coaster Car* as they say their word. When they are consistently reciting the verse, move slowly around the room like a roller coaster as you repeat the verse.



TIP

You may want to hold the *Car* for "Acknowledge," as it can be a difficult word for little ones to say.

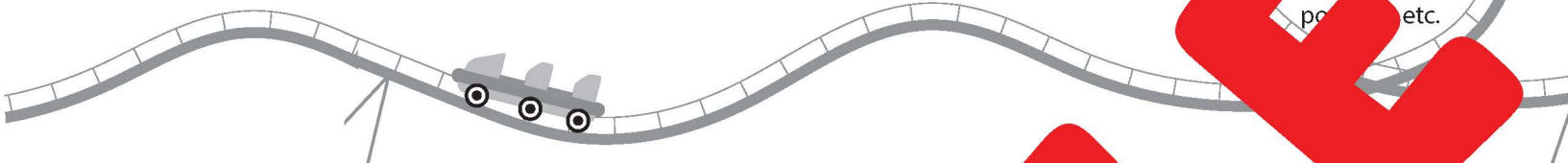
COPY CAT CAROUSEL



Have students stand in a circle, facing inward about an arm's length apart. Ask for a volunteer to go first. They should perform an action such as jumping up and down like a rabbit, clapping their hands, or spinning in a circle like a carousel. The student next to them should imitate the action, and then the next student, and on around the circle. When the action has made it around the circle, the next student should perform an action for all the other students to imitate. Play as long as you wish. Upon conclusion, discuss the activity with the students. **SAY: Even though it is fun to copy the actions of our friends, it is more important that we copy the actions of Jesus. He is our perfect example.**

IDEAS

- float like a balloon,
- juggle like a clown,
- spin like a bumper car,
- trot like a donkey,
- hop like a piece of popcorn,
- etc.



FOLLOW THE PARADE LEADER

Clear a large, open area in which to play. **SAY: A lot of Fairs have a parade. I'm going to be your parade leader. Do your best to follow what I do.** Begin marching around the room, encouraging your students to mimic your actions. Start with simple arm movements, silly walks like a clown, jump like an acrobat, etc. After a few moments, ask for a volunteer to be a leader. Help them choose some actions (skip, crawl, hop, pat head, walk backward, wiggle fingers, etc.) and continue until each student who wants to has had a chance to be the leader. Upon conclusion, **SAY: You all did such a good job following your parade leader in this game! You were faithful to follow the parade leader in this game! You need to follow our leader in life, Jesus. When we are faithful to Jesus, we will follow God's plans just like you.**

ACTION IDEAS

- flap like a chicken,
- juggle like a clown,
- stomp like an elephant,
- trot like a donkey, hop like a bunny, waddle like a duck, etc.



TRUTH FULL REVIEW

- Review the Bible story, *Jesus' Will*.
- Reinforce how we should be obedient with *Patience and Faithfulness*.
- Discover how we can be obedient to Jesus' example.



Before class, remove the *Balloon sign* from the Visual Aid Pack and glue the stick to the back of each sign. Use the signs to review the Bible story.

Arrange chairs in a circle and have your students take a seat. **Who here thinks they are a good listener? (Response) Let's see who has been a good listener during VBS. I'm going to talk about things we learned today. If I say something that is true, or Truth Full, stand up and float like a balloon that is full of air to another chair. You can float to a chair next to you or a chair all the way across the circle, but you have to float to a new chair. If I say something that is wrong, or Not Truth Full, you should stay in your chair and flop around like a balloon that is not full of air.**

Added fun: You can have your students make whooshing noises like all the air is going out of a balloon, or they can wiggle their arms like a deflating balloon.

Let's have a practice round. Are you ready? First statement, you are old enough to ride the big kid rides at the Fair. (Students should flop in their chair. Hold up the *Not Truth Full Balloon sign*.) **Berry good! Let's try again. You have a belly button.** (Students should stand up and float like a balloon until they have all switched places. Hold up the *Truth Full Balloon sign*.) **Berry good! Let's start the Truth Full Review!**

1. Jesus asked John to baptize him. (Truth Full!)
2. When Jesus was baptized, God was pleased with Him. (Truth Full!)
3. After Jesus was baptized, He went into town. (Not Truth Full!)
4. Jesus waited patiently for God in the wilderness. (Truth Full!)
5. Satan tried to tempt Jesus to turn trees into bread. (Not Truth Full!)
6. Satan tried to tempt Jesus to turn stones into bread. (Truth Full!)
7. Jesus was faithful to God and did not do what Satan wanted Him to do. (Truth Full!)
8. Jesus went to a funeral. (Not Truth Full!)
9. While Jesus was at a wedding, His mother asked Him to help the family. (Truth Full!)
10. Jesus performed a miracle in front of a lot of people. (Not Truth Full!)
11. Jesus performed a miracle, but He kept it a secret. (Truth Full!)
12. If we want to be like Jesus, we will do what God wants us to do. (Truth Full!)
13. If we want to be like Jesus, we will trust God and wait on His timing. (Truth Full!)
14. The fruit of the Spirit we learned about today were Patience and Faithfulness. (Truth Full!)

Berry good! Did you know by being such good listeners you were showing *faithfulness*? And you showed *patience*, as well, waiting and listening as I read each statement before you floated like a full balloon. You are already learning to be **Fruit Full**, just like Jesus was **Fruit Full**. Well, my **Fruit Full Friends**, let's sing some songs that will help us remember to show the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

You have been *berry good* today! I have seen you listening how *patient and faithful*, just like Jesus was *patient and faithful*. You showed *faithfulness* to yourself. You deserve a **Best in Show**. If you have time, you may want to make a **Best in Show** coloring sheet available in the *Multimedia Files*. Let each student make their own ribbon.

Let's say a prayer to God and ask Him for more *faithfulness*. Before we sing our "Prayer Song."

PRAYER SONG

Audio Tracks available in the *Multimedia Files*!

See page 47.

See page 48.



AIRGROUND GUIDES

Allow the students to complete the Application activity from Lesson One in their Student Books.