

LESSON ONE

PATIENCE &

FAITHFULNESS

Memory Verse:

Proverbs 3:6

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

Bible Story

Jesus Follows God's Will
(Matthew 3:13—4:11; Luke 4:1-13)

Song Questions

Be Still, My Soul

Father, I Depend on Thee
I Trust in Thee with All My Heart

With Love I Look to Thee

Take Ye First

Step by 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
 - Fruit of the Spirit Memory Cards
 - Fruit Crate and Fruit (Pear; Banana) Posters
 - Memory Verse Fruit and Fruit Tree Branches
 - Story Time Bible Book
 - Memory Verse Roller Coaster Cars
 - Lesson One Story Card

Additional Materials:

- Bibles
- scissors
- envelopes
- reusable adhesive
- markers or crayons
- tape
- jumbo craft sticks

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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**.

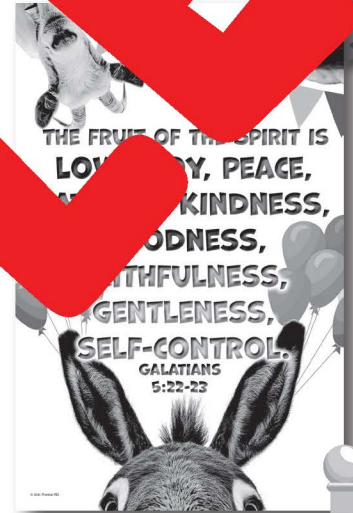
Welcome the students to the Fair. **Have any of you been to a State or County Fair?** (Response.) Introduce yourself and any co-teachers as Midway Mentors.

Can anyone tell me what a Fair is? 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. Some parts of the Fair have fun games to play. Others have exciting shows to see. And there are other parts that have delicious foods to eat. From funnel cakes to Ferris wheels, Fairs are a lot of fun!**

There is also another part to the Fair. Farmers bring their best fruit, vegetables, and animals so everyone at the Fair can see them. People enter their best fruit in the "Best Show." That means their fruit is the very best. Fairs offer a chance for people to show their very best.

A farmer shows crisp apples and sweet corn. But the fruit God wants us to show is different. He calls them the fruit of the Spirit. Direct your students' attention to the poster. Galatians 5:22-23 says, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

During this VBS, we are going to learn how to live a life that is Fruit Full, the fruit of the Spirit. Are you ready to learn about the fruit of the Spirit? (Response.) **Before we begin, let's sing a song that we can remember everyone's name.**



HELLO SONG

Audio Tracks available in the Multimedia Files!

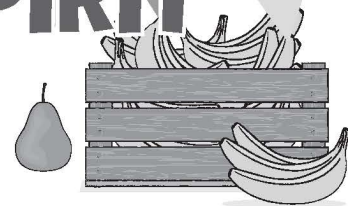
Rotate through song until every student has been mentioned.

FRUIT CRATE DISPLAY

Before VBS, plan to 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*.

PREP STEP

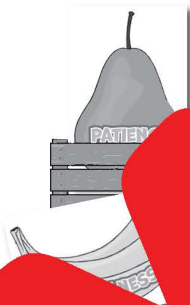
- Introduce the Focus of Lesson One.
- Discuss the first two fruit of the Spirit, *Patience* and *Faithfulness*.



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 tape. **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 tape.



C. **To be patient means willing to wait, to wait on someone or to wait for something. When was a time you were patient?** Allow discussion. Prompt them with the following suggestions:

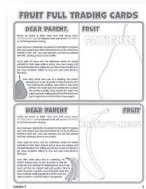
- waiting your turn when you are playing a game
- waiting for your turn to talk in class
- not complaining when you have to wait
- not cutting in front of others in line
- waiting on your mom to make lunch
- trusting your dad when he promises he will be home later.

We can also trust that God will keep His promises. We can trust God because He always does what He says He is having a bad day. He is always on God, He will do all the right.

D. **To be faithful means to be loyal, true, or trustworthy. That means if you are faithful, you can be trusted by others. When was a time you were faithful?** Allow discussion. You might prompt them with the following suggestions:

- keeping your promise when you say you will.
- keeping your secret.
- being on a 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.



Have students to turn to the *Background Guide* (Student Book) where they will find two pages they can fill out. Students can color the cards and use the information on the trading cards while you read the following information.

MEMORY VERSE FRUIT DISPLAY

Before VBS, plan 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...

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JESUS FOLLOWED GOD'S WILL

- Explore how Jesus followed God's will in difficult situations.
- Examine how Jesus showed love and patience.

Prepare the students for the Bible story. **Okay, Full Friends, it is time for our Bible story. We are going to hear a Bible story about a time when Jesus was faithful as He followed God's plan and patient as He followed God's will. Before we begin, let's sing our "Story Time Song"**

STORY TIME SONG

Audio Tracks available in the Multimedia Files!

See page 47.

Remove the *Story Time Bible* from the pocket. Turn to the first group of pictures, and show the corresponding picture for the following story. Scriptural reference: Matthew 3:13—4:11; John 2:1-11.

PICTURE ONE

Jesus told John that God wanted Him to do. Jesus told John that God wanted Him to be baptized even though He had never been baptized. Even John the Baptist said, "No! You don't need to be baptized. I need to be baptized by you." But Jesus said, "This is what God wants me to do."

So John the Baptist did what Jesus told him to do. John baptized Jesus. And God let everyone know that Jesus had done the right thing. The heavens opened, God's Spirit came down like a dove and rested on Jesus. Then God's voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Now God had something else He wanted Jesus to do. He wanted Jesus to go out into the wilderness all by Himself. Jesus stayed in the wilderness for forty days and forty nights. 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 or thirsty 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 used the Word of God to fight back. Finally, Satan gave up. He had tried three times to tempt Jesus not to be faithful to God, but Jesus would not listen to him. So Satan went away and left Jesus alone.

PICTURE THREE

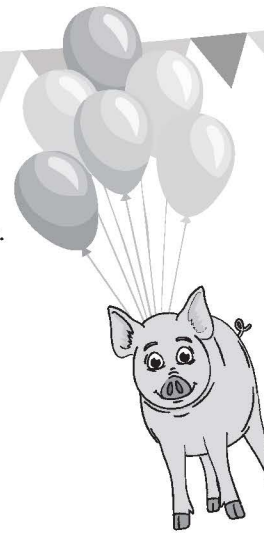
Not long after this, Jesus was at a wedding. The family hosting the wedding was upset. They had run out of wine. Jesus' mother wanted to help the family. She knew Jesus would be able to help. "They have no wine," she told Jesus.

"Why are you telling Me? My time is not here yet." Jesus asked her. Jesus knew He could do great things called miracles. Soon, God would want Him to heal the sick and raise the dead. This would show the world that He was the Son of God. But that time was not now. It was not God's plan for Him to do miracles in front of everyone yet. But Jesus wanted to be faithful to God and also faithful to His mother.

Jesus went into the kitchen with the servants. *Shhh!* There were huge jars that could hold a lot of water. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water," and they were full. Jesus then told the servants to draw some out and take it to the master of the feast. When it was time to drink, it was wine. No one knew where Jesus had come from. *Shhh!* Only a few people knew Jesus' secret, and they were faithful to keep it a secret. Jesus was able to wait patiently on God's timing and do what God wanted.

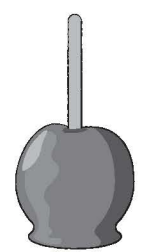
REVIEW QUESTIONS

- What did Jesus ask John to do? Baptize Him.
- What happened after Jesus was baptized? God came down with Jesus; the Holy Spirit lit on Him like a dove.
- Where did Jesus go after He was baptized? Into the wilderness.
- How long did Jesus not eat or drink? Forty days and forty nights.
- Was Jesus hungry? Yes.
- Who visited Jesus at the end of the forty days? Satan.
- What was the first way Satan tempted Jesus? He told Jesus to turn bread into stone.
- Did Jesus give in to any of Satan's temptations? No.
- How did Jesus fight against Satan's temptations? Jesus used God's Word.
- What happened at the wedding? The family ran out of wine.
- What did Jesus' mother want Jesus to do? Help the family.
- What did Jesus do? He healed the wine into wine, but He kept it a secret.
- Why did Jesus keep it a secret? Jesus knew it was God's plan for Him to wait. Jesus was patient to wait on God's timing. He wanted to follow God's plan.



FAIRGROUND GUIDES

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





MIDWAY MANIA



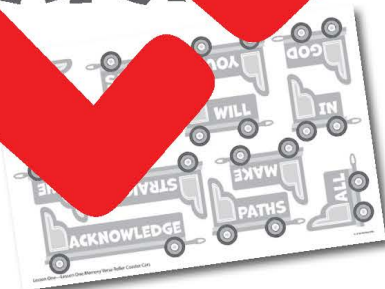
- Reinforce the lesson.
- Create a hands-on learning experience that will solidify the lesson in the student's minds.
- Have fun!

MAKING THE PATH STRAIGHT

Materials needed: Visual Aids marked Lesson One—Memory Verse Roller Coaster Cars

- scissors
- tape
- jumbo craft sticks

Before class begins, remove the *Memory Verse Roller Coaster Cars* from the Visual Aids. Cut apart the *Memory Verse Roller Coaster Cars*, and tape each *Cars* to a jumbo craft stick. Clear a large, open area in which to play. Scatter the *Memory Verse Roller Coaster Cars* on the playing area, face up. Have students stand around the edge of the playing area. When ready, have students each pick up one of the *Cars*.



SAY: Each of these *Memory Verse Roller Coaster Cars* has a word on it. When I point to you and tell you the word on the *Car* you are holding, recite it after me. As anyone can do, what is the first word of our *Memory Verse*? Recite the verse a few times until students are consistently repeating the word after you. **But you don't look like a roller coaster. You look like a roller coaster. Let's make a straight path. As your Midway Mentor, it is my job to make sure you are all on a straight path.**

TIP

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

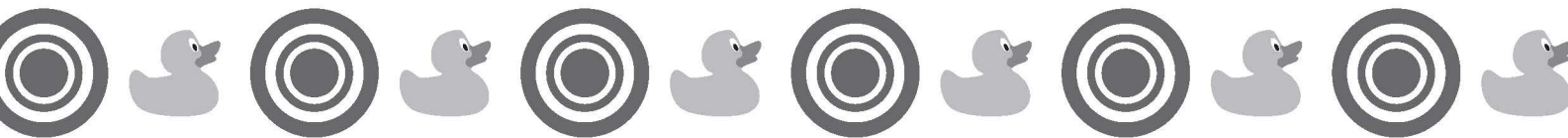
When I say a word, you say it. Slowly recite each word, prompting the students to step into line with their turn. When they are all in line, recite the verse again, having each student hold up their *Memory Verse Roller Coaster Car* as they say their word. When they are consistently reciting the verse, have them move slowly around the room like a roller coaster as you repeat the verse.

FOLLOWING THE PARADE LEADER

Clear a large, open area in which to play. **SAY: A lot of Fairs have a parade. Let's pretend to be in a parade. I will 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 adding arm movements, silly walks like a clown, jump like an acrobat, or prance like a horse. After a few moments, ask for a volunteer to be a leader. Help them think of simple actions (skip, crawl, hop, pat head, walk backward, wiggle fingers, etc.) 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 the leader in our parade! You were faithful to follow the parade leader. We also need to follow our leader in life, Jesus. When we are faithful and follow Jesus, we will follow God's plans just like Jesus did.**

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.



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 directly to their left should then imitate the first student's action and add another action. The third student must copy the first two students' actions before adding their action. Continue around the circle until a student is unable to remember or complete all the actions in the correct order. At that point, start over and continue playing. 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.**

ACTION IDEAS

float like a ball, juggle, spin like a top, etc.

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LIVING A FRUITFUL LIFE

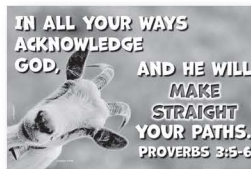
- Explore how we should live if we are filled with *Patience*.
- Discover how we can follow Jesus' example.

A. Provide a brief review of the Bible story. **Who can tell something that happened in our Bible story?** (Provide students to share events from the Bible story until the end of the story has been reviewed.) **Good job! I can see you were listening very closely. Even though Jesus had to wait to be baptized, He was. Jesus was faithful to His plan. Even though Jesus didn't know what was going on in the wilderness for God to show Him what He wanted, Jesus was patient to wait on God. Even though He had to wait to perform a miracle in front of everyone, He was patient. Jesus was faithful to His plan and patient to wait on God's timing. The Bible is filled with stories that show us how we can be Fruit Full like Jesus.** Discuss how the fruit of the Spirit can be shown in the story of the **Widow's Offering**. **We have learned in this lesson how to be patient and faithful. If we want to be like Jesus, we need to be patient and faithful, too. How can we do that?**

B. Provide a review of the memory verse. **The Bible is also filled with special words from God that teach us how to be Fruit Full and how to live. What does the Bible teach us to do. Does any of the words from the memory verse for this lesson? Point to the memory verse. It comes from Proverbs 3:6. Each word in the verse. It says, "In all your ways acknowledge Him, and he will make straight your paths." Let's read the memory verse together.** Let's listen to a story about a boy who went to the Fair with his little brother. As you listen, see if you can find the ways he was patient and faithful. Remove the *Lesson One Story Card* from the Visual Aid package. Show the picture on the *Story Card* to your students while reading the story on the back.



How did Elijah show patience? He waited for his mom to return. He trusted his mom would keep her promise. **How was Elijah faithful?** He stayed with his little brother. He kept his promise.



The verse is printed on page 4 of the *Student Book*, the inside of the *Fruit Full Trading Cards*. There is also a *Memory Verse Coloring Page* printable file in the *Multimedia Files*. Students can trace or color in the words of the verse as you recite the verse together.

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



Fruit Full Friends, let's sing some songs that will help us remember to show the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

MIDWAY MELODIES

You have been *berry* good today! I have seen you learning how to be patient and faithful, just like Jesus was patient and faithful. You should be proud of yourself. You deserve a Best in Show. If you have time, you may want to print the *Best in Show* coloring sheet available in the *Multimedia Files*, and allow students to color their own ribbon.

See page 46

Let's say a prayer to God and ask Him to help us grow more like Jesus. Before we pray, let's sing our "Prayer Song"

PRAYER SONG

Audio Tracks available in the *Multimedia Files*!

See page 47.

7 FAIR GROUND GUIDES

Also use these guides to complete the Application activity from Lesson One in the *Multimedia Files*.