

LESSON ONE

PATIENCE &

FAITHFULNESS

Memory Verse:

Proverbs 3:5-6

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.*

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

Bible Story

Jesus Follows God

(Matthew 3:13-17; John 1:1-14)

Songs

Be Strong and Faithful

Give Your Heart to God

Patience and Faithfulness

Trust and Obey
My Lord and Savior in Jesus

His Time

My Heart Goes Up to Thee

Take Your First

Step by Step

Teach Me, Lord, to Wait

Trust and Obey

Thy Word

Fruit Full Materials:

- Student Books
- Visual Aids

Theme Verse Poster
Lesson One Memory Verse Poster
Fruit Crate and Fruit Posters
Lesson One Story Card
Fruit & Definitions Cards
Fruit Labels
Story Time Bible Book
Memory Verse Roller Coaster Cars

Additional Materials:

- Bibles
- scissors
- envelopes
- bell
- markers or crayons
- reusable adhesive
- blindfolds
- masking or washi tape
- small treats

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**.

A. Welcome the students to the Fair. Introduce yourself and any co-teachers as Midway Mentors. Have students introduce themselves and recognize any visitors. Ask students to think of a way to describe themselves that starts with the first letter of their name. Examples: Talkative Taylor, Energetic Emma, Laughing Liam, Friendly Finn, etc.

B. Introduce the VBS theme. ASK: **Have any of you been to a State or County Fair? What might you see or do at a Fair?** (Allow students to discuss.)

Although State Fairs are huge, drawing visitors from over the state and even from other states, County Fairs are smaller affairs. Friends and neighbors from the county come together to have interesting expositions, or shows.

From funnel cakes to Ferris wheels, County Fairs offer fun for everyone. There is a lot to see and do. There are also contests. Most County Fairs have contests for farmers, artists, and animals. Farmers bring their best animals, artists bring their best works of art, and animals bring their sweetest pies and jams to enter them in contests. Farmers bring only the best of their fruit and vegetables and put them on display for all to see at the Fair, all hoping to win "Best in Show."

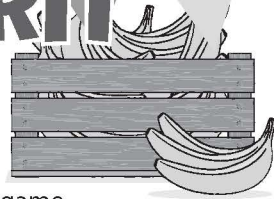


How does the VBS theme relate to our lives, and how does it relate to the VBS theme verse. Before class, put the *Theme Verse* on the wall. Just like a farmer at the County Fair, God wants us to display our best. Rather than trying to win a blue ribbon, He wants our lives to be **Fruit Full**. A farmer displays crisp apples and sweet peaches, but the fruit God wants us to produce is different. We call 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, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." These are all characteristics God wants us to have. But what is a characteristic? Do you remember earlier when we were describing ourselves? *Talkative, energetic, friendly*, those are all characteristics. Characteristics are words that describe us. The fruit of the Spirit are all words that describe Jesus. God wants us to do our best so that these words describe us too.

In this VBS, we will be learning about how God's Spirit helps us to grow these fruit in our lives. Jesus set the example for us. When we learn about Jesus, our lives will blossom with peace and joy. When we try to live like Jesus, the stronger our faithfulness and patience will grow. The more **Fruit Full** we grow, the more we can share the fruit of the Spirit with those around us. And when we show God's love to the world, our reward is far greater than a blue ribbon.

2

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT



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

A. Before VBS, plan where you will place the *Fruit Crate* display. Remove the *Fruit Crate* poster, *Fruit Labels*, 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* and two *Labels* to your display, except for the last lesson when you will just add one piece of fruit. Place the *Fruit Labels* in an envelope and bring them to class with you. (You will be using the *Fruit Labels* during *Step F* in this Block.)

Who wants to help me pick the two fruit we will be learning about today? The first fruit is green. Allow students to take turns picking a fruit from the *Crate* until they find *Patience* (the pear). Help them add *Patience* to the wall display using reusable adhesive. **Great job! Our second fruit is yellow.** Allow students to take turns picking a *Fruit* from the *Fruit Crate* until they find *Faithfulness* (the bananas). Help them add *Faithfulness* to the wall display.



- waiting your turn when you are playing a game.
- not complaining about not getting your turn.
- not trying to cut in front of others in line before you.
- not pestering your mom when she asks you to wait.
- trusting your dad when he promises he will do something later.

We can also trust that God will keep His promise. Even when we are having a bad day, we can trust that He will be with us always, helping us as we go through good times and bad. We should wait patiently on God's timing. He will make all things work together for our good.

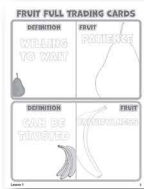
D. To be faithful means to be trustworthy. That means to be honest, helpful, and trusted by others. We should always try to do the right thing. We should try hard to follow Jesus. We should love God and work hard to be who He wants us to be.

E. 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.

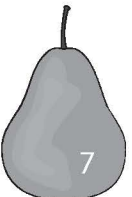
B. Before class, remove the *Fruit & Definitions Cards* poster from the Visual Aid package, and cut the *Cards* into individual *Fruit* and *Definition Cards* separate. Bring the *cards* to class with you. Lay all of the *Fruit Cards* on the table. SAY: **Pick a card, any card! We are going to be looking for the *Fruit Card* that matches the fruit we have picked.** One at a time, have each child turn over a card. When they pick one of the *Fruit Cards* (*Patience*, *Faithfulness*), ring the bell, and lay the *Definition Card* next to it. Keep picking cards until they have selected the correct *Definition Card* for this lesson.

Lay the two *Fruit* cards for this lesson in the center of the table. Then lay the *Definition Cards* face down, around them. Each child turn over a *Definition Card*. Read the definition aloud for each card. **ASK: How do you think that is the meaning of that word? How do you think that is the meaning of that word? Allow discussion.** When you hear the correct definition, ring the bell, then lay the *Definition Card* next to the *Fruit Card*.

Have students to turn page 3 in their *Fairground Guidebook* (book) where they will find two trading cards they can fill out. Students can copy the names and definitions of each fruit of the Spirit on the trading cards while you read the following information.



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. You might prompt them with the following suggestions:



3

JESUS FOLLOWS GOD'S WILL

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



See the **Multimedia** files for the *Scripture* reproducible, a PDF with the complete Scripture text.

This Bible story will explore Jesus' faithfulness as He followed God's will and His patience as He followed God's timing. Remove the *Story Time Bible Book* from the Visual Aid Packet. Turn to the first group of pictures and show the corresponding pictures as you read the following story. Scriptural reference: Matthew 3:13—4:11; John 4:1-42

PICTURE ONE

Jesus always tried hard to do what God wanted Him to do. Jesus knew that God wanted Him to be baptized even though He had never sinned. Even John the Baptist said, "No! You don't need to be baptized by me. 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 in the Jordan River. 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 wanted Jesus to do something else. He wanted Jesus to fast. He wanted Jesus to go out into the wilderness and stay in the wilderness for forty days and forty nights. That's a long time, but Jesus did it. For forty days and forty nights, Jesus did not eat anything. You imagine what that would be like? How long would it take you to get that hungry? How thirsty if you did not eat anything? One hour? Jesus did not eat for forty days and forty nights. 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, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into bread."

But Jesus would not do what Satan wanted Him to do. He would not do what Satan wanted Him to do. He would be patient and wait on God to tell Him what to do. He would not listen to Satan. "It is not bread that gives us life," Jesus said, "But the Word of God that 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 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 the wedding with his friends. His mother, Mary, and her family were hosting the wedding had run out of wine. Jesus' mother was so embarrassed. Mary wanted to help the family. She knew Jesus was able to help the family. "They have no wine," she told Jesus.

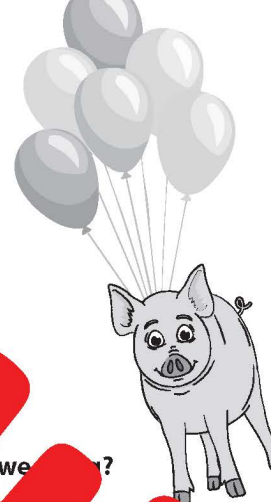
"What does this have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." Jesus asked her. He knew that God would want Him to perform miracles, to heal the sick and raise the dead, to show the world that He was the Son of God. Jesus also knew it was not God's timing for Him to do so now. But Jesus knew there was a way He could be faithful to God and also faithful to His mother.

Jesus went into a private room with the servants. There were six huge water jars that could hold gallons and gallons of water. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water," and they were faithful to obey Him. Jesus told the servants to draw some water out 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. Only Jesus, His mother, His disciples, and the servants knew about Jesus' miracle, and they were faithful to keep it a secret. In this way, Jesus was able to wait patiently on God's timing and stay faithful to what God wanted.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

- **Why did Jesus go to see John?** So that He could be baptized.
- **What happened after Jesus was baptized?** God said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."
- **Where did Jesus go after He was baptized?** Into the wilderness.
 - **How long did Jesus not eat?** 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?** 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.
 - **Not long after His temptation, Jesus was invited to a wedding. 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 performed the miracle, but He did so privately.
 - **Why did Jesus keep the miracle a secret?** Jesus knew God wanted Him to wait. Jesus waited on God's timing. He was faithful to both His heavenly Father and His earthly mother.



4

LIVING A FRUIT FULL LIFE

- Explore how we should live if we are filled with the Spirit and are fruit full.
- Discover how we can follow Jesus' example.

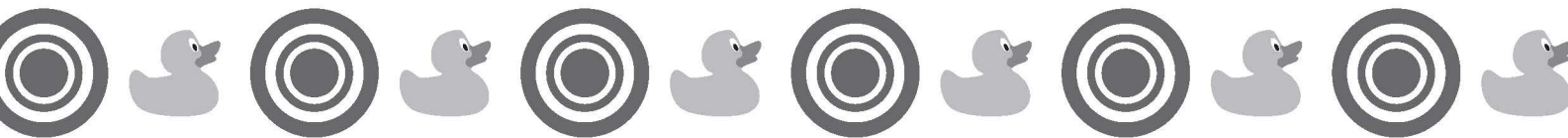
A. Before class, put the *Memory Verse Poster* for Lesson One on the wall. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths," (Proverbs 3:5-6). Have students read the verse aloud together. Have students turn to the *Fairground Guide* and fill in the Memory Verse section. Use the *Memory Verse Poster* as a guide. **This world can be confusing. Things happen that we can't understand. But God understands, and He has plans for us. We can't see what He knows what is best for us when we are in the dark. When we follow Him, He can make our paths straight.** The poster is also printed on page 4 of the *Fruit Full Trading Cards*. Students can color the poster and use it as a memory aid.



C. **Wait on God's timing.** When Jesus was baptized, God announced to the world, "This is my beloved Son." A perfect time to begin His ministry, right? Not so fast. God told Jesus to wait. How about a miracle at a large wedding in front of a huge crowd? Jesus performed the miracle in private, because He knew God's plan. Waiting can be hard. But if we want to be like Jesus, we should trust God's plan and wait on God's timing. **Do not give in to temptation.** Can you imagine how hungry Jesus was? Yet, when Satan offered Him an opportunity to eat, Jesus did not give in. Three times Satan tempted Jesus, and three times Jesus resisted. Satan still tempts us today. He wants us to follow him instead of following God's will. No matter how wonderful, beautiful, or delicious Satan's lies seem, we cannot give in. **Know God's Word.** How did Jesus know what God's plan was? Jesus knew God's Word. Each time Satan tempted Him, Jesus responded with God's Word. We should be faithful to study God's Word and patiently wait as His plans unfold.

B. Have students turn to the *Fruit Full Trading Cards* and fold them in half. Write the Memory Verse to the inside of the envelope. They can use the *Fruit Full Trading Cards* as a guide. Give students a few minutes to glue the envelope to the inside cover of the *Fairground Guide*. Have students turn to the section titled, "Lesson One: SAY: Jesus was faithful to follow God's will. He waited patiently on God's timing. Jesus showed us what it means to be faithful and to be patient. When we follow His example, we will learn what it means to be Fruit Full." Read the partial statements from *Step C* aloud. In the *Fairground Guide*, have students draw a line to match the correct Fruit to the correct Crate, completing the statements. As they complete each statement, read the paragraph under the statement aloud.





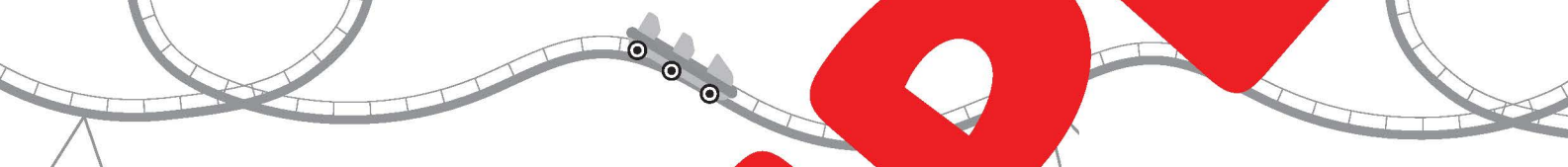
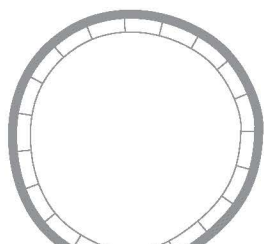
COPY CAT CAROUSEL

ACTION IDEAS

flap like a chicken, juggle like a clown, bump like a bumper car, trot like a donkey, hop like a piece of popcorn, etc.



Have students stand in a circle, facing inward about an arm's length. 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 imitate the first student's action and add another action. The third student should copy the first two students' actions before adding their action. Continue around the circle until a student is unable to remember or complete 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 ourselves. Our performance is our example.**



TEMPTATION ZONE

Materials needed: masking or washi tape
small treats

In a large, open area of the classroom, use masking or washi tape to mark off a large playing area. Inside the tape will be the *Danger Zone*; outside the tape will be the *Safe Zone*. In the center of the *Danger Zone*, mark an X where *It* will stand. On each of the four sides of the X, use masking or washi tape to mark four small squares about two feet away from the X. These will be the *Temptation Zones*. Place some small treats inside the four *Temptation Zones*.

Ask for a volunteer to be *It* and stand on the X in the center of the *Danger Zone*. Have the other students stand outside the tape in the *Safe Zone*. The goal of the game is for the students to try to take a piece of candy and get back to the *Safe Zone* without being tagged. When a student is tagged, they are out of the game.

Play as long as you like, switching *It* frequently. Upon conclusion, ASK: **Was it easy to take the candy? Was it frightening to get close to the candy? What made it so scary? Do something that was so frightening? How did it feel to get tagged by *It*? How is the candy like temptation? How does temptation lure us in? How can temptations become dangerous?**



FAIRGROUND GUIDES

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

