

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 Still and Know

That I Am God

Give Your Heart

to God

Patience and Faithfulness

in Jesus

His Time

My Eyes Look Up 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 Poster
Lesson One Memory Verse Poster
Fruit Letter Tiles; Fruit (Pear and Banana)
Fruit Definitions
Lesson One Scripture reproducible
Memory Verse Roller Coaster Cars

Additional Materials:

- Bibles
- envelopes
- scissors
- masking or washi tape
- blindfolds
- 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 name their favorite fruit.

B. Introduce the VBS theme. ASK:

- **Have any of you been to a State or County Fair?**
- **What do you like best about the Fair?**
- **What is there to see and do at the Fair?**

From funnel cakes to Ferris wheels, Fairs offer fun for everyone. But wait, there's more! Fairs also offer a chance for people to display their very best. Contestants exhibit their prize-worthy livestock, beautiful works of art, and sweetest treats. They compete for a chance to win "Best of Show." To bring only the best of their craft, they put them on display to see who wins at the Fair.

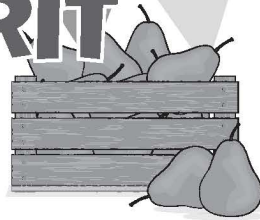
C. Introduce the Theme Verse. Before class, post the *Theme Verse Poster* on the wall. **God wants us to display our best as well. Rather than win a blue ribbon, He wants us to be Fruit Full. Fruit Full displays crisp apples, peaches, and more. God wants us to be Fruit Full. Our lives should show in our words and actions. 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."**



D. 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.

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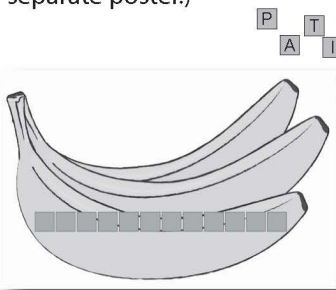
THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT



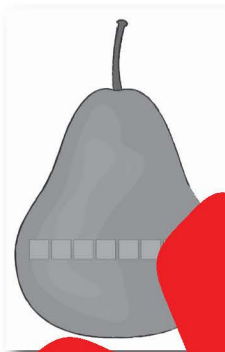
- Introduce the Focus of Lesson One.
- Discuss the first two fruit of the Spirit, *Patience* and *Faithfulness*.

A. Before VBS begins, plan where you will place the *Fruit of the Spirit* wall display. Remove the *Fruit Letter Tiles* and all the *Fruit* posters (9) from the Visual Aid package. 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.

For instance, before Lesson One begins, place the two pieces of fruit for Lesson One, *Patience* (pear) and *Faithfulness* (banana) on your display. (If you like, you can cut out around each fruit so that you can group the fruit more closely together on the wall display. Or you can display each fruit as a separate poster.)



P A T I E N C E



F A I T H F U L N E S S

Cut apart the letters of the *Fruit Letter Tiles*. Place the letters for each word in a separate envelope. Write the name of the fruit on the outside of each envelope so that you use the correct envelope during the each lesson. Bring the envelopes and the letter tiles for Lesson One (*Patience* and *Faithfulness*) to class with you.

Let's discover which fruit is the first fruit of the Spirit. Open one of the envelopes and place the letter tiles onto the table. **Unfortunately, the letters for your fruit has become a bit jumbled.** Use the poster as a guide. Have the students volunteer to rearrange the tiles to form the first fruit of the Spirit. If students need assistance, you can help out with one letter of the fruit. Repeat the process for the second fruit. Use the Theme Verse Poster. Write the Theme Verse on the poster. Then pour the tiles back onto the table, and have them unscramble the second fruit.

B. Before class, cut out the *Fruit Definitions* poster, and place the cards in an envelope. You will be using them in each lesson. Have students to turn to page 3 in their *Fairground Guide (Student Book)* where they will find two trading cards they can fill out. Have them write in the names of each fruit of the Spirit on the correct trading card.

We know what patience is, even if we are often short on it. How would you define patience? Spread the *Fruit Definitions* cards for Lesson One out on the table. Have students work together to pick out the definition and three synonyms that define each *patience* and *faithfulness*. If they cannot find one, they can use reusable adhesive to attach the correct *Fruit* posters. Have them copy the definition and fruit of the Spirit on their trading card.

Patience

- Merriam-Webster definition: holding firm when faced with opposition or difficulty
- Synonyms: waiting, enduring, persevering, steady

Faithfulness

- Merriam-Webster definition: holding firm to promises and remaining loyal
- Synonyms: trustworthy, steadfast, devoted

UNCOMPLAINING

TRULY

PERSISTENT

HOLDING FIRM TO PROMISES AND REMAINING LOYAL

DEVOTED

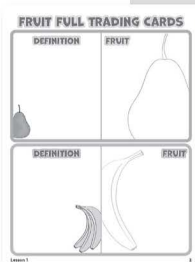
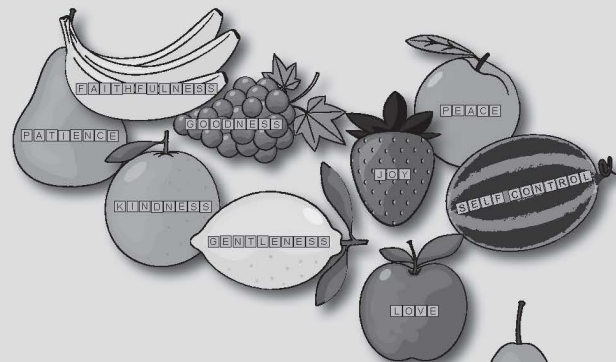
STEADFAST

TRUSTWORTHY

Discuss the difference between these two characteristics. **How are faithfulness and patience different? How are they the same? How do we show faithfulness and patience? How do we show faithfulness and patience to others? How do we show faithfulness and patience to ourselves? How do we show faithfulness and patience to God? How do we show faithfulness and patience to His will? How do we show faithfulness and patience to His commandments? How do we show faithfulness and patience to His promises? How do we show faithfulness and patience to His love? How do we show faithfulness and patience to His grace? How do we show faithfulness and patience to His mercy? How do we show faithfulness and patience to His kindness? How do we show faithfulness and patience to His gentleness? How do we show faithfulness and patience to His self-control? How do we show faithfulness and patience to His peace? How do we show faithfulness and patience to His joy? How do we show faithfulness and patience to His love? How do we show faithfulness and patience to His mercy? How do we show faithfulness and patience to His kindness? How do we show faithfulness and patience to His gentleness? How do we show faithfulness and patience to His self-control? How do we show faithfulness and patience to His peace? How do we show faithfulness and patience to His joy? How do we show faithfulness and patience to His love?**

Have you ever seen these two fruit being lived out? Have you shown patience to someone else or has someone shown patience to you? Do you know someone who was faithful though others were against them? Was there a time you wished you had been patient? What Bible story comes to mind when you think about faithfulness? Write or draw an example of patience and faithfulness below the definitions. (Allow students time to discuss their thoughts about these two fruit. Some Bible characters to mention could be Job, Abraham, Joseph, or Paul.)

Example of the *Fruit of the Spirit* wall display. See page 21 for another example.



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JESUS FOLLOWS GOD'S WILL



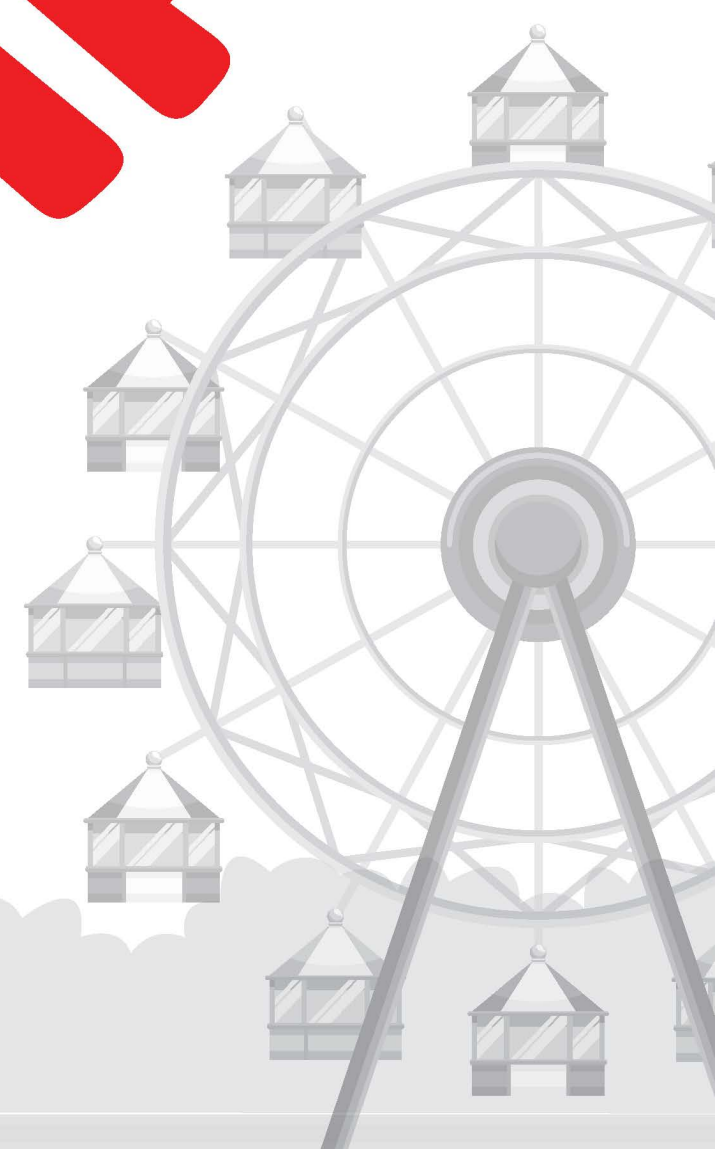
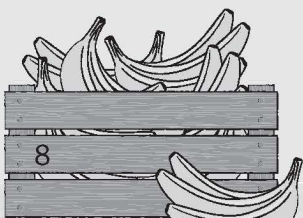
- Explore how Jesus followed God's will in difficult situations.
- Examine how Jesus showed *Faithfulness* and *Patience*.

A. During this VBS, we will be looking at examples of how Jesus led a Spirit-filled life. He showed us in what He said and what He did that His life was full of the fruit of the Spirit. This lesson will explore Jesus' faithfulness as He followed God's will and His patience as He followed God's timing. Make a copy of the *Scripture* reproducible from the Visual Aid Package for each student. Text is taken from Matthew 3:13—4:11; John 2:1-11.

B. Review the Bible story by asking the following questions:

- **Why did Jesus go to see John?** He needed John to baptize Him.
- **Since Jesus had not sinned, why did He need to be baptized?** Jesus knew it was part of God's plan for Him to be baptized. He didn't need to be baptized, but He did so to set an example for us. He was being faithful to follow God's will.
- **What happened as Jesus rose from the water?** The heavens opened, the Spirit of God descended like a dove, and came to rest on Jesus. God said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."
- **What happened after Jesus received the Spirit?** The Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted.
- **What does it mean to fast?** Someone who fasts does not eat for a certain amount of time.
- **How long did Jesus fast?** forty days and forty nights.
- **How do you think you would feel if you didn't eat for forty days?** Hungry! Weak! Dizzy, disoriented, sick, etc.
- **Matthew 4:2 says Jesus was hungry. What was the first way Satan tempted Him?** Satan tried to tempt Jesus to turn stones into bread. He tried to use Jesus' physical hunger against Him.
- **What was the second way Satan tempted Jesus?** He tried to persuade Jesus to use His power by jumping off the temple, the temple was built over the altar He had over the altar.
- **What was the third way Satan tempted Jesus?** He told Jesus to allow Satan to rule over all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would bow down and worship Satan.
- **Did Jesus give in to Satan's temptations?** No.
- **What did Jesus do to answer Satan after each temptation?** He quoted God's Word.

- **Not long after His temptation, Jesus was invited to a wedding. What happened when Jesus was there?** The host family ran out of wine, which was a very embarrassing and upsetting.
- **What did Jesus' mother say to Jesus when she saw the wine was out?** "They have no wine." She asked Jesus to perform a miracle to help them.
- **How did Jesus respond when the hour has not yet come?** He was respectful to His mother. He also knew that it was not God's will for Him to perform a public miracle at this time. He was being faithful to follow God's will.
- **How did Jesus respond when He saw the miracle, but the wine was out?** He responded so privately and discreetly, He was faithful to both His mother and His earthly mother. Sometimes, it can be difficult to follow God's will and the will of those who have authority over us in our daily lives.

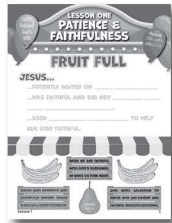


LIVING A FRUIT FULL LIFE

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

A. Have students turn to page 1 in their *Fairground Guide* to the section titled, "Fruit Full." Have them complete the three partial statements as you instruct them. SAY: **Jesus didn't need to be baptized, but He was faithful to follow God's will. Jesus could have jumped off the temple, allowing the angels to save Him, to prove He was God's Son. He could have performed a public miracle at the wedding and impressed everyone. Word would have quickly spread that He was God's Son. But Jesus knew this wasn't God's will. He waited patiently until the time was right. 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.**

B. Have students read the partial statements on page 1 in their *Fairground Guide* under the section titled, "Fruit Full." One at a time, read aloud each paragraph below. Then guide your students to fill in the partial statements in their *Fairground Guide* with the underlined words.



Jesus...

• **Patiently waited on God's timing.**

When Jesus was baptized, God announced to the world, "This is my beloved Son." A person would expect Jesus to begin His ministry, right? Wrong. God knew the time wasn't right. The Spirit immediately led Him into the wilderness. Jesus may not have known God led Him there or how long He would have to stay, but Jesus patiently waited to learn God's will. It is easy to be faithful when things are going well for us. If we want to please God, we must wait on His timing when things do not go as planned.

• **Was faithful and did not let Satan tempt him.**

Can you imagine how hungry Jesus was after fasting for 40 days? Yet, when Satan offered Him an opportunity to tempt Him, He did not give in. Leaping from the high precipice, He did not let Satan tempt Him. He was not tempted? Three times He was tempted, and three times Jesus resisted. Satan can still tempt us today. He wants us to follow him instead of following God's will, but no matter how beautiful, or delicious Satan's lies seem, we cannot give in.

• **Used God's Word to help Him stay faithful.**

Jesus was faithful to follow God's plans because He trusted God and knew God's plans were best. So how did Jesus know what God's plan was? Jesus knew God's Word. Each time the devil tempted Him, Jesus responded with the Scriptures. We should be faithful to study God's Word and patiently wait as His plans unfold.

C. **There are benefits to being patient and faithful. Let's look at what the Bible says about some of those benefits.** At the bottom of page 1 of the *Fairground Guide* are three pieces of fruit with Bible verses, and three fruit crates with benefits. Ask students to look up each verse together. Have students draw a line connecting each verse to the benefit it describes. Be sure and explain the meaning of each verse to the students before moving on.

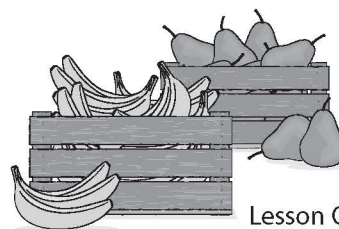
- **James 1:2-4**—Those who patiently and faithfully endure their trials, **times grow stronger.**
- **Luke 12:22-44**—When you are faithful with God's blessings, **He will give you even more.**
- **Matthew 10:22**—God gives wisdom to those who are persecuted and **will lead them through suffering.**



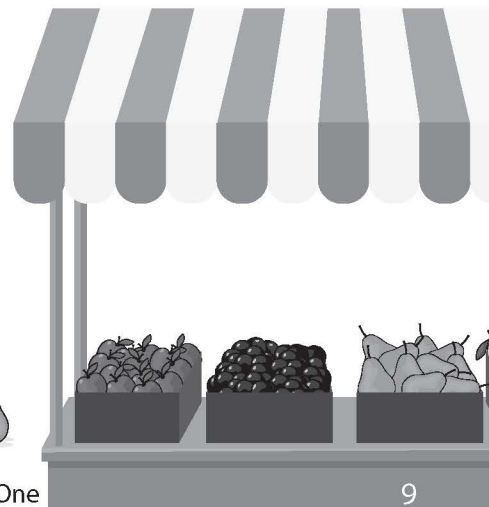
D. Before class, print the *Memory Verse Poster* for Lesson One on the wall. Direct students' attention to the poster, and introduce the memory verse. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths," (Proverbs 3:5-6)

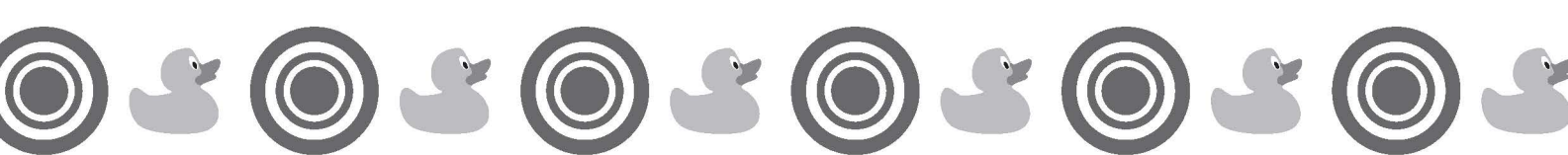
Have students read the memory verse aloud together. **This world can be confusing. There are many things in this world that we can't understand. But God has plans for us. We can trust that He knows what He is doing, and when we are faithful to follow Him, He can help us understand our path.** The verse is also printed on page 4 of the *Fairground Guide*, the inside of the *Fruit Full Trading Cards*. Students can write the words of the verses and use them as a memory aid.

Have students cut out each *Fruit Full Trading Card*, and hold them so that the definitions are on the outside, and the Memory Verse on the inside. They can use a paper clip to keep their Trading Cards closed. You may want to give students an envelope to keep their Trading Cards in until the end of VBS. They could tape or glue the envelope to the inside front cover of their *Fairground Guide*.



Lesson One





WHO WILL YOU FOLLOW?

Have students stand in a tight circle, facing inward. Tell them to close their eyes. Walk around the outside of the circle, and touch one student on the back. This student will be the *Leader*. They will have the ability to change the other students into a designated object during the game. The object will change from round to round, but during the round, each student will pretend to be the same object.

OBJECT IDEAS

chicken, clown, goat, carousel horse, rabbit, bumper car, donkey, train, etc.

Once the students have opened their eyes, they will then begin walking randomly around the room, shaking hands with other students. When the *Leader* shakes another student's hand, he should squeeze the hand quickly three times. So she doesn't give away who the *Leader* is, the student should not change into the designated object (chicken, clown, etc.) until she has shaken the hand of at least two more students.

At any time, one of the students who have not been changed can stop the game and guess the identity of the *Leader*. However, if they are wrong, they must sit out for the duration of that round. Continue until the *Leader's* identity has been revealed, or until all of the students have been changed. Choose another *Leader*, and play again. **example. If we follow Him, He can change you and make you like Him.** Jesus can change you and make you like Him.

TIP

If you have a small class, play a game of Simon Says or Follow the Leader.

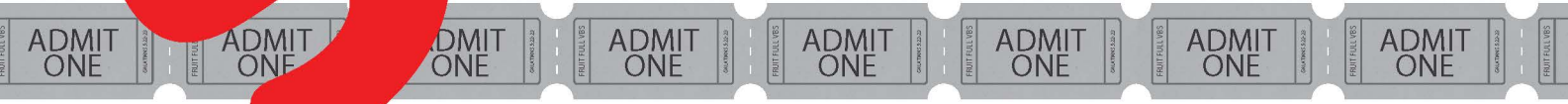
TEMPTATION ZONE

Materials needed: masking or washi tape, small treats

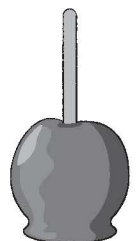
In a large, open area of the classroom, use masking or washi tape to mark off a large playing area. Inside the tape will be the *Danger Zone*; outside the tape will be the *Safe Zone*. In the center of the *Danger Zone*, mark an X where *It* will stand. On each of the four sides of the X, use tape to 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 have them stand in the center of the X in the center of the *Danger Zone*. Have the other students stand outside the tape in the *Safe Zone*. The game is for the students to try to take a piece of candy and get back to the *Safe Zone* without being tagged by *It*. 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 caught? What did you do to avoid something that was so frightening? How did it feel to get tagged by *It*? How is the temptation to take candy like temptation in our lives? 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.