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# DEAR DIRECTOR

Thank you for considering the Vacation Bible School series, **Fruit Full**. It is our hope and prayer that this VBS series will help both students and teachers grow more Christ-like as they learn more about the fruit of the Spirit.

Grab a corn dog because the State Fair is jam-packed with thrilling rides, exciting games, engaging shows, and concessions that make your taste buds dance. It's a whirlwind of epic proportions! But wait, there's more! Beyond the cotton candy and funnel cakes, it's a showcase of local produce that flaunts the "best of homegrown goodies."

Now, imagine if our lives were like these vibrant fields of produce. As Christians, we're called to grow spiritually—love, joy, peace—straight from the Spirit. It's not just a list of things we need to cherry-pick these days; it's a beautiful harvest. Galatians 5:22-23 puts them on display. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

Each time you meet, your students will discover another way in which the **Fruit Full** series is more like Jesus and aim to sow these seeds of fruit throughout our daily carousel, living life as a vibrant, joyful carnival of kindness. So, let's go bananas at the fairgrounds or showcase our divine produce! No sour grapes!

With this series, your students will be learning about one or two of the fruit of the Spirit. An overview of each lesson will be explained in a later section of this manual. Activities outside the classroom, such as crafts and skits, will reinforce what is learned inside the classroom. Every lesson is full of ways to share the fruit of the Spirit with everyone we encounter. All components of the VBS are relevant to both the biblical principles being taught and the overall theme of the VBS.

Are you ready to begin producing the Christ-like fruit found in Galatians 5? Then purchase a ticket, step into the fairgrounds, and begin leading your own Spirit-filled life!

**"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control," (Galatians 5:22-23).**

# OVERVIEW OF



## FRUIT FULL

LIVING A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE IN JESUS

During this VBS, your students will be learning about the fruit of the Spirit and how Jesus displayed each of the nine fruit with His actions. Students will be encouraged to follow His example and learn how to live a **Fruit Full** life. The five lessons are as follows:

### Lesson One:

Patience & Faithfulness

Bible Text: Matthew 3:13—4:11; John 2:1-11

Jesus Follows God's Will

### Lesson Three:

Joy & Peace

Bible Text: Mark 4:35-41

Jesus Calms the Storm

### Lesson Two:

Kindness & Goodness

Bible Text: Mark 1:40-45

Jesus Heals a Leper

### Lesson Four:

Gentleness & Self-Control

Bible Text: Mark 16:7-8

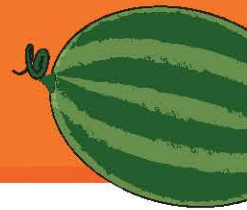
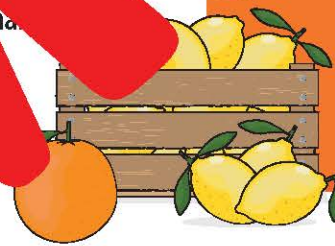
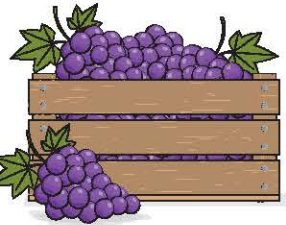
Jesus Rises in the Grave

### Lesson Five:

Love

Bible Text: Selected verses from 1 John and Acts

Jesus Shows Love



Lessons are designed to give teachers the necessary material, illustrations, Scriptures, and activities without stifling creativity or teaching beyond the developmental age levels, provisions have been made for appropriate language and skill abilities. The lesson plans for these ages have been scripted for the purpose of conveying age-appropriate language. This will enable even the most inexperienced teacher to effectively implement the lessons.

Each lesson for this year has been divided into "blocks." The purpose of the block system of teaching is to ensure versatility in practice. Each learning block has been created for a specific purpose. Some learning blocks contain application, which means they contain application and reinforcement techniques as well as activity-based learning. The block system allows teachers to comfortably plan their lessons.

**Fruit Full** combines a relevant message with a creative presentation. It is instructional, fun, and easy-to-use. Vacation Bible School is a thrilling time of year! Invite your students to join in the fun at the Fair as you learn more about the fruit of the Spirit and how to display it in your lives. Line up, grab your ticket, and enjoy a week jam-packed with learning and fun!

# PATIENCE & FAITHFULNESS

**Bible story: Jesus Follows God's Will**  
(Matthew 3:13—4:11;  
John 2:1-11)

**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**

Jesus followed God's plan and was baptized by John the Baptist though He was sinless. Jesus followed the Spirit's leading Him into the wilderness where He was tempted. Jesus followed God's timing and waited for the proper time to perform miracles publicly. Jesus was faithful to God's plan and patiently waited on God's timing, because He trusted God. We can trust God's plans for us and know that when we are faithful to follow Him, He will make our paths straight.

# KINDNESS & GOODNESS

**Bible story: Jesus Heals a Leper**  
(Mark 1:40-45)

**Memory Verse: "Do not neglect  
to do good and to share what you have,  
for such sacrifices please to God." Hebrews 13:16**

Rich or poor, Jew or Samaritan, man or woman, Jesus showed kindness to every person He met with kindness. The Gospels are filled with stories of His kindness. In many of the times Jesus stopped to help someone in need. This was the case when He was passing through the city, a leper came to Him, imploring Him to heal him.

Leprosy was highly contagious. When Jesus healed the leper and gave the man the physical touch he probably contracted the disease. Then He followed through by healing the man of his leprosy. Jesus showed us how to show kindness and goodness as Jesus did. When we are filled with kindness and goodness, we will put our compassion in action. If we are around us need our time and attention. Often we can help them with something as simple as a kind touch or a listening ear. When we are filled with kindness and goodness, we will not turn a blind eye to the needs of others but will care about their needs.

# JOY & PEACE

**Bible story: Jesus Calms the Storm**  
(Mark 4:35-41)

**Memory Verse: "I have said these things to you,  
that in me you may have peace.  
In the world you will have tribulation.  
But take heart; I have overcome the world." John 16:33**

The Sea of Galilee was prone to sudden and violent storms. Such was the case one night as Jesus and His disciples were across. Grippled by fear, Jesus' disciples battled the storm. Yet, while the storm raged, Jesus slept. When everything around Him was in turmoil, He was calm. Why? Jesus knew that God was with Him and that God's power was greater than any storm we will ever face.

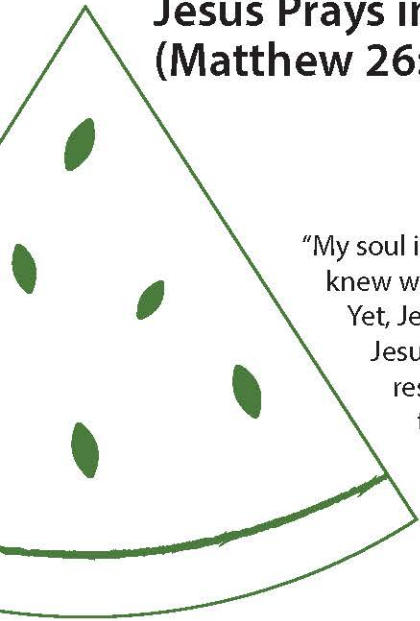
When the disciples pleaded for His help, Jesus rebuked the wind, and to the sea He said, "Peace! Be still!" At once, the storm obeyed His voice. When storms begin to blow in our lives, we can live a life full of joy and peace, because we know Who controls the wind and the waves. We can trust that He will see us safely through the storm, and we can share that joy and peace with those around us.

# GENTLENESS & SELF-CONTROL

## Jesus Prays in Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-56)

Memory Verse: "For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control." 2 Timothy 1:7

"My soul is very sorrowful, even to death," Jesus told His friends. Jesus knew what was in store for Him and pleaded with God for another way. Yet, Jesus was willing to submit to doing things God's way. Any time, Jesus could have stopped the terrible death that awaited Him. Instead of resisting the angry mob that came to arrest Him, Jesus simply allowed them to take Him. He was gentle with those He could have punished and was willing to control His own desires. Jesus was not in control of self-service. We will give up what we want to follow God's plan. We will treat others gently and give up our own will for the good of others.



# LOVE

## Bible story: Jesus Shows Love (Selected Verses from Luke 10:37-42)

Memory Verse: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." John 15:12

Jesus showed love through His actions. Jesus gave His time, His attention, His love, and, in the end, Jesus showed the ultimate love when He gave His life for us on the cross. When we love like Jesus, we show our kindness, goodness, and patience. We will share our love with others. We will show our faithfulness and self-control. We will love others as He has loved us.

Jesus Came With Us. The Spirit is God *within* us. Jesus came to show us the Way. The Spirit walks with us every step of the way as we share His love with the world. Jesus loved us so much that He died for us and, yes, left us when He ascended, so that He could send His Spirit to live within us. When we are filled with the Spirit, we will bear fruit that will feed the hungry souls that surround around us. We can help to pass on God's gift to the world.

