



MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery



1. RIPPLE EFFECT STORY REVIEW

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible marked at Galatians 5:22-23, plastic bin filled with an inch or two of water, plastic tablecloth, pennies

WHAT YOU DO:

- Review the Bible story using the points and questions

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Fruit of the Spirit
Galatians 5:22-23

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

God can help you change the world around you.

KEY QUESTION

What needs to change in the world around you?

MEMORY VERSE

"Whoever believes in me . . . rivers of living water will flow from within them."
John 7:38, NIV

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

below.

- Story Points:
 - God created the world—including people! And from the very beginning, He had a plan.
 - God sent Jesus so we could have a relationship with Him forever.
 - We can follow Jesus' example and make waves to make a difference in the world around us.
 - When we put our trust in Jesus, we have His Spirit living inside us.
 - God's Spirit will help us love others the way _____ loves us? Who loves us? (*Jesus!*)
 - Read Galatians 5:22-23. Ask the kids to name some of the characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit Paul mentioned. (*love; joy; peace; patience; kindness; goodness; gentleness; faithfulness; self-control*)
- Lay the plastic tablecloth out on the floor or table.
- Set the bin of water on the tablecloth.
- Give each kid a penny.
- Instruct the kids to take turns, one at a time, dropping the penny into the water to watch the ripples that form across the water.
- Talk about how the Holy Spirit works in us to help us show kindness (or any of the characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit). And when we are kind to others, that has a ripple effect. The kindness we show can spread from that person to the next person to the next and so on!

WHAT YOU SAY:

"When we put our trust in Jesus as our Savior, God gives us His Spirit as our Helper. The Holy Spirit will help us to show kindness (*or love or patience, etc.*), and when we are kind to others, that has a ripple effect. When someone's kind to you, it makes you want to be kind to someone else too, right? That kindness can spread from that person to the next person to the next and so on! We can make waves and change the world around us and make a BIG difference! **God can help you change the world around you.**"



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2. FRUIT ATTRIBUTE MATCH UP
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Fruit Attribute Cards" Activity Page, "Fruit Attribute Scenarios" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide your group into groups of three.
- Give each group a set of "Fruit Attribute Cards" from

the Activity Page and the matching set of "Fruit Attribute Scenarios" from the Activity Page.

- Instruct the groups to lay the "Fruit Attribute Cards" face down on the left and the "Fruit Attribute Scenarios" face down on the right in front of them.
- Direct the kids in their groups of three to take turns turning over a "Fruit Attribute Card" and a "Fruit Attribute Scenario" to see if they find a match. (If the kids aren't able to read yet, the matching colored borders will help.)
- Once the groups have found all the matches, bring all the kids together.
- Hold up each "Fruit Attribute Card" and its matching "Fruit Attribute Scenario."
- Talk about how the people in the pictures are showing that attribute of God's fruit.

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ANSWERS:

- Joy: Two kids dancing and smiling
- Peace: Two friends with their backs to one another and a third friend trying to bring peace
- Kindness: One friend helping another pick up his books
- Love: One friend giving another friend a hug
- Patience: An older brother playing with building blocks with his younger brother
- Self-Control: A kid reading a book, with a video game controller next to him

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Look at ALL of the different ways the fruit of God's Spirit is shown in these pictures! Because of how God made you, you can show love, joy, peace, kindness, patience, and self-control. But when you put your trust in Jesus, God's Spirit will help you so that you can make a difference in the world around you. And those actions can spread to others too! **God can help you change the world around you.**"

[Make it Personal] (Tell kids about a time when you chose to be patient or loving or kind when you didn't really want to or when you wanted to do the opposite. How did the Holy Spirit guide you to respond differently? How did your willingness to be that way change the situation for the better? Remember to use easy-to-understand, concrete examples for kindergarteners and first graders.)



MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



3. MEMORY VERSE DOMINOES
[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible marked at John 7:38; white dominoes; masking tape, black, permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite a kid to volunteer to open the Bible to John 7:38.
- Read the verse out loud to the group.
- Give each kid a domino.
- Demonstrate how to place a piece of tape on one side of the domino without covering the edges. (You want the domino to be able to stand to be knocked over.)
- As kids finish, direct them to give you the domino.
- Write one word from the Memory Verse on the taped side of each domino.
- If you have a large group, consider enlisting the help of other room volunteers to create two sets of dominoes.
- Once all the words of the verse have been written on the dominoes, encourage the kids to work together to stand them up, one behind the other, in verse order.
- Read the verse together as you check their work.
- Once finished, select a kid to push the first domino over to cause the other dominoes to fall, causing a “wave” or chain reaction.
- If time allows, let the kids reset the dominoes, giving a different kid a turn to knock them down again.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

“That was SO fun! Did you notice how just knocking over the first domino led to a chain reaction, causing all the others to fall too? That’s what happens when we share God’s love with others! When we believe in Jesus, the living water He gives us—the Holy Spirit—will change us and will help us change the world around us. The Holy Spirit can help us be loving when it’s hard. He can help us be patient when we don’t want to wait. He can help us be joyful even in the toughest circumstances! **God can help you change the world around you.** How cool is that?”



MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



4. PRAY AND DISMISS
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Swag Bracelet with today's symbol, a "Prayer Card: Day 5" Activity Page, pencils, cards from "Fruit Attribute Match Up" activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a prayer card, a pencil, and a Swag Bracelet (if provided).
- Point out the "ripple" symbol on the prayer card and the Swag Bracelet.
- Talk about how **God can help you change the world around you.**
- Ask kids to turn their prayer cards over and write down the characteristic of the fruit of God's Spirit they need the most help showing.
- Set out the cards from the earlier activity, and remind the kids of the characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control.
- Close your group time in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You for Jesus. When we have trouble being kind, or loving, or gentle, or patient, remind us that You are with us through Your Spirit and You can help us. Thanks for an awesome week learning how to follow Jesus and make waves. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen!"

Travel Time

As you travel to the next track, use the following questions to keep the conversation going and to keep kids thinking about what they're learning!

WHAT YOU SAY:

- What was your favorite thing from this week?
- What was your favorite snack?
- What song do you want to keep singing and listening to?

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GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Prepare ahead of time for Small Group Rotation for VBS:

1. ACT IT OUT

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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WHAT YOU NEED:

- Plastic bin filled with an inch or two of water
- Plastic tablecloth
- Pennies—one per kid

2. LOVE OTHERS SCENARIOS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible marked at Galatians 5:22-23
- "Fruit Attribute Cards" Activity Page—one set per every three kids
- "Fruit Attribute Scenarios" Activity Pages—one set per every three kids

3. MEMORY VERSE DOMINOES

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

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WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible marked at John 7:38
- White dominoes
- Masking tape
- Black, permanent marker

4. PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Swag Bracelets with today's symbol
- "Prayer Card: Day 5" Activity Page—one card per kid
- Pencils—one per kid