

Fruit of the Spirit

Welcome to the story of Fruit of the Spirit. As the caring leader of your small group of kids, you are an important part of their Spark experience. You also support the other Rotation leaders by being a consistent and friendly presence with your group. Use these Small Group Builders, Conversation Sparks, and Transition Tips to generate conversation and build relationships with your kids. Have fun as you grow in faith together!

Small Group Builders

Try these tips to build relationships, trust, and friendship with your small group of kids when you have a few minutes at the beginning of Sunday school or between activities.

- **Can You Hear the Spirit?**

Sit silently for several minutes. What do you hear? Did you hear sounds of the Spirit? Talk about ways that you heard love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, or self-control.

- **I Belong to Jesus**

Stand in a circle facing inward. One person starts by yelling another person's name. That second person shouts, "I belong to Jesus," then names a third person who shouts, "I belong to Jesus." Continue until everyone has proclaimed that he or she belongs to Jesus. Then say together, "We belong to Jesus Christ."

- **Peaceful Actions**

Work together to make a long list of ways to have peaceful actions. Think about the places you meet others—in home, in school, at lessons, in church, at the grocery store. List some ways to show peaceful actions in those places.

Conversation Sparks

Spark some faith-filled conversation during time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- Why don't we always follow the fruit of the Spirit?
- How can you be more loving and joyful?
- What kind of things do you do that might not be so healthy?
- How does one angry person change a whole group?
- When is it hard to use self-control? Why?
- How do you show your faithfulness?

Transition Tips

As your group moves from one place to another, keep things fun and story-focused! Try these tips as you transition.

- **Led by the Spirit**

The scripture tells us to be led by the fruit of the Spirit. Chant softly the words of the fruit of the Spirit as you move along. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Whisper your way, as the Spirit leads you.

- **Joy-filled Jumping**

One fruit of the Spirit is joy. Jump along to the next activity using your whole body to show your joy.

- **Self-controlled Slide**

Slide your way to the next location. Keep your slides controlled with your body upright. You can slide sideways, forward, or backward, but keep the slides controlled.

- **Fruit Basket Balance**

Imagine you are holding a basket loaded with the fruit of the Spirit on your head as you walk to your next place.

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- **Faithful Friends**

Jesus is present in our friendships. How do our friendships look different when we remember Jesus is always with us? How do words change if you remember Jesus is there? How does loyalty change?

- **Anger Management**

We all have times when we are angry. Talk about how anger can lead to behaviors that get us in trouble. Share ideas that help you calm down.

- **Writing a Law**

If it was against the law to live by the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control), what might those laws say?

Conversation Sparks

Spark some faith-filled conversation during time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- What brings you joy? How do you share joy with others?
- Is it easy to live by the Spirit? Why or why not?
- Name some places where arguing happens.
- How do you keep from being envious of something?
- How do you know you belong to Jesus Christ?
- Who or what are the idols of today's world?

Transition Tips

As your group moves from one place to another, keep things fun and story-focused! Try these tips as you transition.

- **Guided by the Spirit**

Transport yourselves to the next location and be guided by the Spirit. Gently walk and pay attention to acting out the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

- **Give It Away**

The fruit of the Spirit says that we should be generous to others. As you move along, pretend you are giving away something. What are the things you have that others might want?

- **Belonging Bounce**

Bounce along to your next activity while shouting, "I belong!"

- **Gentle Walk**

Gentleness is a fruit of the Spirit. Gently walk to your next place. Touch each foot gently to the ground and make no noise.

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- **Being Green**

The color green is often associated with being jealous. Share with others who and what make you jealous. Talk about how to be happy with what you have.

- **Spirit Life**

Take turns in your group filling in this sentence: "A Spirit-led life would be _____. " Everyone shares an idea of what it means to live a life by the Spirit.

- **Chain Reaction**

When something happens to one person, it can change things for everyone else around. Say, "A friend helped me today and I . . ." Fill in the blank and ask the next kid to tell the good thing that happened next. Keep filling your story with good fruit.

Conversation Sparks

Spark some faith-filled conversation during time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- What's the most gentle thing or action you can think of?
- Is it kind to tell the truth?
- Do you like it when someone helps you? Why or why not?
- Whom do you know who is generous? How is that person generous?
- Is it helpful to be warned ahead of time about our behavior? Why or why not?
- How can you be patient?

Transition Tips

As your group moves from one place to another, keep things fun and story-focused! Try these tips as you transition.

- **Get the Spirit**

The Spirit guides us and leads us. Do a gentle cheer for the Spirit as you move along. The leader whispers, "Give me an S." The group whispers, "S." Spell out the whole word "Spirit" and then whisper together "Yea, Spirit."

- **Love You**

Get to your next activity by saying, "Love you," to everyone you pass or meet. This fruit of the Spirit will bring smiles to faces. Can you say "Love you" all day?

- **Noting Differences**

The next time your group walks to a place you go to often, invite kids to try to see five things they've never noticed before. How many new things were noticed?

- **Rhyme and Run**

The leader names one fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, or self-control). If you can think of a rhyming word, run to the front of the line, and take a turn to name another fruit of the Spirit. Continue until you reach your destination.