



HOOK

Galatians 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

Can you remember which fruit of the Spirit you learnt last week? We learnt that *God is love*. He loved us so much that he sent Jesus, to die on the cross for our sin. We can love others because he first loved us.

Today we are going to learn more about the fruit of the Spirit called, "Joy."

For younger children, get ready a round smiley face and a sad face on the opposite side. As you go through the following situations ask the children whether they feel happy/joyful (show the smiley face) or sad (show the sad face).



With older children, ask them how they will feel in these situations.

1. Your parents bought you a new toy.
2. Your teacher praised you in class, saying your drawing is the nicest.
3. You got a chance to meet your favorite actress/actor or football player.
4. Someone broke your new toy.
5. Your teacher scolded you in class, in front of your classmates.
6. Your best friend and her family are going to live in Australia. You don't know when you will see her or him again.

It is easy to feel happy or joyful in the first 3 situations, but what about the last 3. Is it possible to still have joy when something bad or not nice happens?



Galatians 5:22-25

TNCC
CHILDREN'S
CHURCH

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: JOY

STORY: Paul & Silas have Joy in Prison (Acts 16)

Let me tell you about 2 friends, Paul and Silas.

Paul and Silas loved to tell people about Jesus. One day, as they were telling people about Jesus' finished work on the cross, a young girl kept following them and shouting at them for many days. She was a slave girl who had a bad spirit in her. Her owners used her to tell people what was going to happen to them in the future, and people would pay a lot of money to the owners.

Finally, Paul just commanded the evil spirit to come out of a slave girl. And suddenly, the girl started to behave like a normal person. She could not tell the future anymore. She could not earn money for her owners anymore. So of course the owners were very angry. They dragged Paul and Silas before the judges, who then ordered them to be beaten up and put in prison.

So Paul and Silas were now in a smelly, dirty, Roman prison. Their bodies were hurting because earlier, they were beaten with rods. Their feet were bound fastened in stocks. They couldn't move freely. They were in this condition although they didn't do anything wrong.

(Idea: Make "stocks" out of cardboard boxes and get 2 volunteers to sit at the front with their legs "locked up")

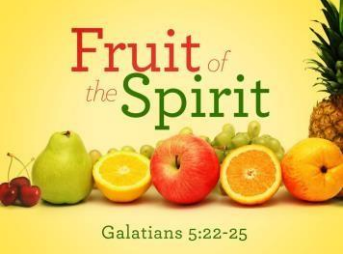


Do you think that was fair? How do you think Paul and Silas felt? How would you feel?

Do you know ... Paul and Silas could have sat there in the darkness, sulking and blaming each other. Silas could have blamed Paul for getting them into trouble. Paul could have blamed God for letting them get arrested.

Instead, as recorded in Acts 16:25, Paul and Silas were praying and singing songs to God in the prison! In the midst of difficulties, they had joy in their hearts because they knew they had Jesus and they looked to him. And all the other prisoners were listening to their joy.

But that's not all. Suddenly there was a violent earthquake that shook the entire prison. All the doors flew open. All the chains came loose. When the jailer woke up and saw the doors open, he thought everyone had escaped and he was going to kill himself with his sword.



TNCC
CHILDREN'S
CHURCH

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: JOY

But Paul shouted out, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!”

The jailer turned on the lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved — you and your household.” They told the jailer and his family about Jesus. That night, the jailer took them, washed their wounds, and then he and his whole family were baptized! The jailer gave them a meal at his house.

And he was filled with joy! The joy that Paul and Silas had spread to the jailer and the household.

This joy was Jesus!



TNCC
CHILDREN'S
CHURCH

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: JOY

LESSON

Remember, we have Jesus in us. He is the vine, and we are the branches; if he has joy, so do we.

Do you know what Jesus was like when he was on earth?

Jesus has more joy than anyone else

When Jesus was on earth, he was full of joy and life. Many people would invite him to go to their houses and even mothers would bring their children to see him. Hebrews 1:9 says that God has anointed Jesus with the oil of joy above anyone else.

Jesus had joy even during the most difficult time

We know that Jesus was badly beaten before he was nailed on the cross. His flesh was torn, he lost so much blood, he was so badly beaten that he didn't look like a human being anymore. Soldiers made fun of him and told him to save himself.

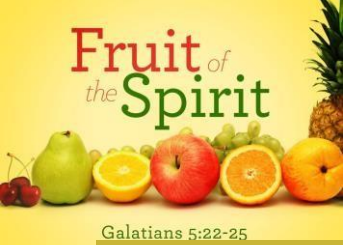
Hebrews 12:2 says that Jesus endured the cross, scorning its shame because of the joy set before him. He took all the beating, the shame and humiliation because of the joy he had knowing that because of what he did on the cross, He will have us and we will have Him forever.

We have joy because we have Jesus

Before Jesus was arrested, during his meal with his disciples, he told them, *"These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full"* (John 15:11).

Jesus knew that he would leave his disciples soon, but yet he said they will have joy. Didn't he know that they will feel sad because he was going to die on the cross? But before Jesus told them that they will have joy, he said that He was the vine, and they were the branches (John 15:5). This was the secret to their joy! They will have joy because they had Jesus' life in them, just like now, anyone who has received Jesus as their Savior has Jesus' life in them.

Because Jesus is in us, we can have His joy — even though we are facing a situation that is sad, scary or we don't know what to do. So when you are feeling down, look at Jesus, remember you have His life in you and so you can have His joy, no matter what situation you are in.



ACTIVITY SUGGESTION

Song: Fruit of the Spirit (by Steve Green) — revision

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLJt_85MNLY

Song: I got joy that is down in my heart

I got joy that is down in my heart

Deep, deep down in my heart

J-O-Y that is down in my heart

Deep, deep down in my heart

Jesus put it in there

And nothing can destroy,

Destroy? Destroy? Destroy? Phooooo.....

J-O-Y that is down in my heart

Deep, deep down in my heart

Song: Yesus pokok dan kita cabangnya

Yesus pokok dan kitalah cabangnya tinggalah di dalamnya (3x)

Pastilah kau akan berbuah

Yesus cintaku, ku cinta kau kau cinta dia (2x)

<http://www.kidung.com/2010/08/12/lirik-chord-lagu-sekolah-minggu-yesus-pokok/>

Craft:

Related craft with the verse: *"These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full"* (John 15:11).

Invite children to accept Jesus in their life to receive His everlasting joy.

Thank you Jesus, I have your life so I have joy that cannot be taken away from me.