

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Have you ever seen an apple tree?

What kind of fruit comes from an apple tree?

That's right. Apples!

Paul talked about fruit in his letters. But he didn't mean apples and oranges. That wasn't the kind of fruit he was talking about.

Paul talked about the fruit of **SIN**. *What grows out of sin?* Bad things. Selfishness. Anger. Greed. All the bad things in the world are the fruit of sin. Yuck.

But then Paul talked about the fruit that comes from the Spirit of God. When we follow Jesus and we're filled with God's Spirit, the fruit that grows out of us changes!

Instead of anger, we show **LOVE**. Instead of selfishness, we help others. Instead of being greedy, we **SHARE**.

Paul said, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

Wow. That's some good fruit!

FAITHFULNESS





There was one person who showed all of this fruit perfectly. He was perfectly loving, perfectly kind, perfectly good . . . the whole list!

Do you know who it was?

It was **JESUS**.

That's why people loved to be around Him!

And here's the really good news. If we follow Jesus, the Spirit of God will turn us into people who are like Jesus too. We can be filled with love and joy and peace! *Why was Paul filled with joy even while he was in prison?* Because the Spirit of God was **CHANGING** Paul to be like Jesus!

Isn't that awesome?

When Jesus was on Earth, He told His friends that if they loved Him, they would **FOLLOW** His commands. They would live like He lived. You might think He was saying, "You **HAVE** to do what I do."

But that's not it at all.

What Jesus was really saying was this: "If you love Me, you'll **WANT** to do what I do. What you want will **CHANGE** by the **POWER** of the Holy Spirit!"

This is really great news. Sin can whisper in our ears, telling us to do more and more bad things. Jesus breaks the **POWER** of sin. Sin can't boss us around anymore!

How does this work? If we make a decision to follow Jesus, do we wake up the next day and start acting just like Jesus?

Not exactly. Becoming like Jesus takes time. In fact, it will take your **WHOLE** life! We become more and more like Jesus, little by little, every day.

How?

By practicing. There are some things we do together with other Christians, and some things we do on our own every day.

Together, we're part of the **CHURCH**. We meet together, sing together, praise God together, and work to help others together.



On our own, we read the Bible. We **PRAY**. We set aside time to think about God, talk to God, and listen to Him.



When we ask God to help us, and then practice **EVERY DAY**, we become more and more like Jesus. More loving. More joyful. More patient. The forever-kind-of-life shows up in us!

Following Jesus doesn't mean we focus on God's rules. It means we focus on **GOD**. And when we focus on God—when we walk with Jesus—the Holy Spirit changes our hearts.

We become more like Jesus and grow good fruit every day!

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

FAMILY CONNECTION

GALATIANS 5:22-23



EVERYDAY TRUTH

When God's Spirit changes me, good fruit comes out of my life!

TALK

Can you name the fruit of the Spirit?

Which of them are especially hard for you?

Dear God ...

PRAY

Dear God, thank You for giving us Your Spirit to help us grow to be more like Jesus every day. Amen.



THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Have you ever seen an apple tree?

What kind of fruit comes from an apple tree?

That's right. Apples!

Paul talked about fruit in his letters. But he didn't mean apples and oranges. That wasn't the kind of fruit he was talking about.

Paul talked about the fruit of **SIN**. *What grows out of sin?* Bad things. Selfishness. Anger. Greed. All the bad things in the world are the fruit of sin. Yuck.

But then Paul talked about the fruit that comes from the Spirit of God. When we follow Jesus and we're filled with God's Spirit, the fruit that grows out of us changes!

Instead of anger, we show **LOVE**. Instead of selfishness, we help others. Instead of being greedy, we **SHARE**.

Paul said, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

Wow. That's some good fruit!

FAITHFULNESS





There was one person who showed all of this fruit perfectly. He was perfectly loving, perfectly kind, perfectly good . . . the whole list!

Do you know who it was?

It was **JESUS**.

That's why people loved to be around Him!

And here's the really good news. If we follow Jesus, the Spirit of God will turn us into people who are like Jesus too. We can be filled with love and joy and peace! *Why was Paul filled with joy even while he was in prison?* Because the Spirit of God was **CHANGING** Paul to be like Jesus!

Isn't that awesome?

When Jesus was on Earth, He told His friends that if they loved Him, they would **FOLLOW** His commands. They would live like He lived. You might think He was saying, "You **HAVE** to do what I do."

But that's not it at all.

What Jesus was really saying was this: "If you love Me, you'll **WANT** to do what I do. What you want will **CHANGE** by the **POWER** of the Holy Spirit!"

This is really great news. Sin can whisper in our ears, telling us to do more and more bad things. Jesus breaks the **POWER** of sin. Sin can't boss us around anymore!

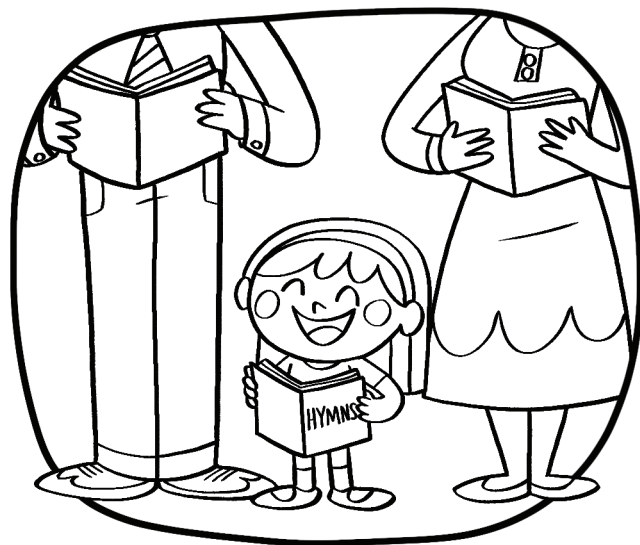
How does this work? If we make a decision to follow Jesus, do we wake up the next day and start acting just like Jesus?

Not exactly. Becoming like Jesus takes time. In fact, it will take your **WHOLE** life! We become more and more like Jesus, little by little, every day.

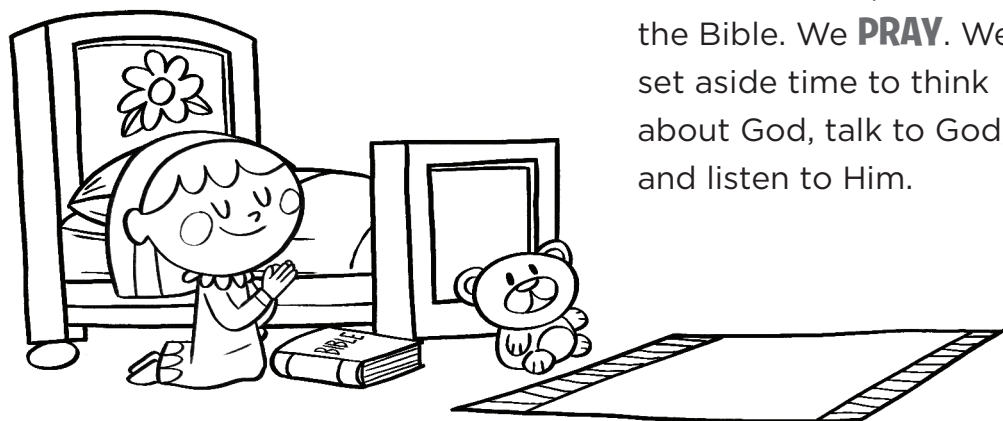
How?

By practicing. There are some things we do together with other Christians, and some things we do on our own every day.

Together, we're part of the **CHURCH**. We meet together, sing together, praise God together, and work to help others together.



On our own, we read the Bible. We **PRAY**. We set aside time to think about God, talk to God, and listen to Him.



When we ask God to help us, and then practice **EVERY DAY**, we become more and more like Jesus. More loving. More joyful. More patient. The forever-kind-of-life shows up in us!

Following Jesus doesn't mean we focus on God's rules. It means we focus on **GOD**. And when we focus on God—when we walk with Jesus—the Holy Spirit changes our hearts.

We become more like Jesus and grow good fruit every day!

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

FAMILY CONNECTION

GALATIANS 5:22-23



EVERYDAY TRUTH

When God's Spirit changes me, good fruit comes out of my life!

TALK

Can you name the fruit of the Spirit?

Which of them are especially hard for you?

Dear God ...

PRAY

Dear God, thank You for giving us Your Spirit to help us grow to be more like Jesus every day. Amen.



PAUL'S LETTERS

Paul wrote letters while he was in prison.

He also wrote letters when he wasn't in prison. Paul wrote **LOTS** of letters. We don't know exactly how many he wrote, but thirteen of his letters are in the Bible, and we can read them whenever we want. Let's take a look at them.

ROMANS is Paul's longest letter. It was written to the Christians in Rome to explain how the world is broken and how Jesus came to fix it. If you want to learn what Christians believe, the book of Romans is a great place to start.

FIRST AND SECOND CORINTHIANS are two letters written to the Christians in the city of Corinth. Corinth was a big city with mean people, and some of the meanness was creeping into the church. So in his letters, Paul reminded the Corinthians how Christians should live. "Live like this, not like that. Don't be mean!" Paul explained what **REAL** Christian love looks like—not the mushy, gushy kind you see on TV. Christian love is patient and kind and puts other people first.

GALATIANS and **EPHESIANS** are letters written to the churches in Galatia and Ephesus. Galatians explains how Christians are free from the Jewish law. *Remember all the laws about what to eat and how to dress? The laws practiced so carefully by the Pharisees?* Paul wrote in Galatians that Jesus **FREED** us from those laws. Instead, Jesus asks us to love God and love others. Having a heart that loves God and loves others is much more important than what we eat and what we wear!

Ephesians talks all about **RECONCILIATION**. *Reconciliation* is a fancy word that means “to fix a broken relationship.” Remember Adam and Eve? Their relationship with God was **BROKEN** by sin. Our relationship with God is broken by sin too. That’s what Jesus came to fix, Paul says. Jesus came to reconcile the **WHOLE WORLD** to God, and to help us reconcile with each other. Fixing broken relationships is really important to God!



PHILIPPIANS is a letter all about joy. When he thought about God’s love, Paul was so happy he couldn’t stop smiling. Even though he was in prison! God showed Paul how to be happy no matter what was going on in his life. *Wouldn’t you like to have joy like Paul?* Reading Philippians is a good place to start!

COLOSSIANS is a letter Paul wrote to fix some bad teaching that was popping up in the church in a city called Colossae. Sometimes people got confused about how to follow Jesus or about who God is and what He wants from us, so Paul wrote letters to remind them.

FIRST AND SECOND THESSALONIANS are letters written to the Christians in Thessalonica. Some of the Christians there were confused about Jesus coming back. *When would He return? What would it be like?* Paul wrote to encourage them that Jesus **WOULD** come back someday to make everything right and good, even though we don’t know when.



FIRST AND SECOND TIMOTHY and **TITUS** are letters written to two young men, Timothy and Titus, who were learning how to lead churches and be pastors. Paul wrote to give them lots of advice. He told Timothy to always trust in God and to run away from evil. He told Titus to be honest so he would set a good example for others.

And finally, **PHILEMON** is a tiny little letter written to a man named—you guessed it—Philemon. Philemon had a servant named Onesimus who ran away from Philemon and took some things that didn't belong to him. Onesimus had met Paul and had become a follower of Jesus. Paul helped Philemon and Onesimus reconcile, or fix, their broken relationship. He asked Philemon to forgive Onesimus and take him back, not as a servant, but as a brother in Jesus!



No matter what you're going through in your life, Paul's letters can help you. From how to live worthy of Jesus to how to stand up for Jesus even when it's **HARD**, there's encouragement and instruction in these thirteen letters for everyone!

PAUL'S LETTERS

FAMILY CONNECTION

ROMANS-PHILEMON



FUN FACTS

Epistle is a fancy word for “letter.” It comes from the Greek word *epistole*, which means—you guessed it—“letter.” Of the thirteen epistles we’ve learned about, nine were written by Paul to encourage the churches he visited in different cities.

TALK

What does Corinthians say real Christian love looks like?

What does Ephesians say about our broken relationship with God?

Dear God ...

PRAY

Dear God, thank You for showing us how to be followers of Jesus through Paul's letters. Help us to live out the truth we find in the Bible. Amen.



PAUL'S LETTERS



Paul wrote letters while he was in prison.

He also wrote letters when he wasn't in prison. Paul wrote **LOTS** of letters. We don't know exactly how many he wrote, but thirteen of his letters are in the Bible, and we can read them whenever we want. Let's take a look at them.

ROMANS is Paul's longest letter. It was written to the Christians in Rome to explain how the world is broken and how Jesus came to fix it. If you want to learn what Christians believe, the book of Romans is a great place to start.

FIRST AND SECOND CORINTHIANS are two letters written to the Christians in the city of Corinth. Corinth was a big city with mean people, and some of the meanness was creeping into the church. So in his letters, Paul reminded the Corinthians how Christians should live. "Live like this, not like that. Don't be mean!" Paul explained what **REAL** Christian love looks like—not the mushy, gushy kind you see on TV. Christian love is patient and kind and puts other people first.

GALATIANS and **EPHESIANS** are letters written to the churches in Galatia and Ephesus. Galatians explains how Christians are free from the Jewish law. *Remember all the laws about what to eat and how to dress? The laws practiced so carefully by the Pharisees?* Paul wrote in Galatians that Jesus **FREED** us from those laws. Instead, Jesus asks us to love God and love others. Having a heart that loves God and loves others is much more important than what we eat and what we wear!

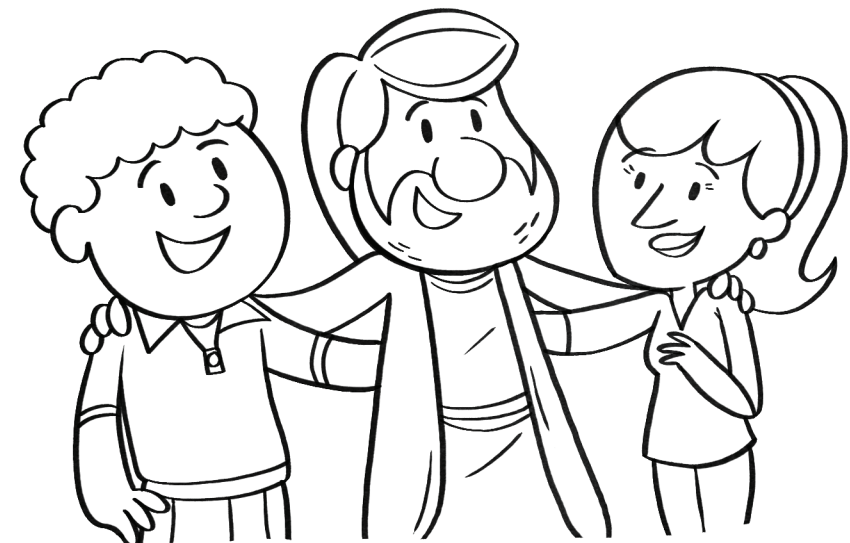
Ephesians talks all about **RECONCILIATION**. *Reconciliation* is a fancy word that means “to fix a broken relationship.” Remember Adam and Eve? Their relationship with God was **BROKEN** by sin. Our relationship with God is broken by sin too. That’s what Jesus came to fix, Paul says. Jesus came to reconcile the **WHOLE WORLD** to God, and to help us reconcile with each other. Fixing broken relationships is really important to God!



PHILIPPIANS is a letter all about joy. When he thought about God’s love, Paul was so happy he couldn’t stop smiling. Even though he was in prison! God showed Paul how to be happy no matter what was going on in his life. *Wouldn’t you like to have joy like Paul?* Reading Philippians is a good place to start!

COLOSSIANS is a letter Paul wrote to fix some bad teaching that was popping up in the church in a city called Colossae. Sometimes people got confused about how to follow Jesus or about who God is and what He wants from us, so Paul wrote letters to remind them.

FIRST AND SECOND THESSALONIANS are letters written to the Christians in Thessalonica. Some of the Christians there were confused about Jesus coming back. *When would He return? What would it be like?* Paul wrote to encourage them that Jesus **WOULD** come back someday to make everything right and good, even though we don’t know when.



FIRST AND SECOND TIMOTHY and **TITUS** are letters written to two young men, Timothy and Titus, who were learning how to lead churches and be pastors. Paul wrote to give them lots of advice. He told Timothy to always trust in God and to run away from evil. He told Titus to be honest, so he would set a good example for others.

PAUL'S LETTERS

FAMILY CONNECTION

ROMANS-PHILEMON

And finally, **PHILEMON** is a tiny little letter written to a man named—you guessed it—Philemon. Philemon had a servant named Onesimus, who ran away from Philemon and took some things that didn't belong to him. Onesimus had met Paul and had become a follower of Jesus. Paul helped Philemon and Onesimus reconcile, or fix, their broken relationship. He asked Philemon to forgive Onesimus and take him back, not as a servant, but as a brother in Jesus!



No matter what you're going through in your life, Paul's letters can help you. From how to live worthy of Jesus to how to stand up for Jesus even when it's **HARD**, there's encouragement and instruction in these thirteen letters for everyone!



FUN FACTS

Epistle is a fancy word for “letter.” It comes from the Greek word *epistole*, which means—you guessed it—“letter.” Of the thirteen epistles we've learned about, nine were written by Paul to encourage the churches he visited in different cities.

TALK

What does Colossians say real Christian love looks like?

What does Ephesians say about our broken relationship with God?

Dear
God ...

PRAY

Dear God, thank You for showing us how to be followers of Jesus through Paul's letters. Help us to live out the truth we find in the Bible. Amen.

