

Junior Soldiers

Unit 5 : Lesson 7



The Holy Spirit can help me be more like Jesus!

PURPOSE : For the children to explore and understand the practical outworking of the Holy Spirit—what does that look like and what impact does it have in someone's life?

'God's Spirit has given us life, and so we should follow the Spirit.'
Galatians 5:25

Consider & Prepare

Read:

Galatians 5
Matthew 4:18–20
Matthew 16: 13–20
Acts 2: 1–5
Acts 9:36–42

Lesson 7 is part of a short three-lesson series on the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Lesson 5 explores at the theology of the fruit of the Spirit. Lesson 6 considers the nature that is developed within us - who we are as we live in the Spirit. Lesson 7 looks at how the Holy Spirit impacts what we do and how we live our lives more like Jesus.

As Christians, we all want to experience the fruit of the Spirit, but how can we know if we truly have it? Even those with no faith can, at times, show these admirable qualities. The fruit of the Spirit is not what we do but who we are and how we act.

Everyone goes through rough times, but those who are filled with the Spirit do not lose his fruit because of their situation: they keep their joy even when experiencing difficult times. When others speak harshly, they respond with kindness. Because the Holy Spirit is in control, he is free to produce his fruit no matter what the circumstances are.

No one produces these qualities in themselves. Working harder to be godly will never work. Amazing life transformation only occurs when we submit to God, and give him control of our lives. It's then that the Spirit is free to produce fruit that lasts.

We look at the life transformation that occurred in Simon Peter during this lesson. It would be good to read the above passages of scripture to familiarize yourself with this amazing story of the life-changing power of the Holy Spirit.

What you will need:

For 'Connecting In'

- A blindfold or scarf for the obstacle course
- Easy accessible items to set up an obstacle course e.g. chairs, shoes

For 'The Main Thing'

- Bibles
- Paper
- Textas or pencils for art
- Scripture reference and questions for each group
- Pens or pencils

For 'Tying In'

- Scenario match template for each child
- Pens or textas
- Scenario cards
- If you choose to do the song you will need access to the internet, a computer and data projector (*depending on the size of your group*)

For 'Home & Beyond'

- Print off the Home & Beyond cards for each child.



Connecting In

(For some extra choices for a Connecting In activity, you may like to choose an activity from lesson 5 or 6.)

Blind Obstacle Course...

You will need to set up an obstacle course for this activity. Use easily available props such as chairs, shoes and even children to set the course.

Blindfold one member of your group and have someone lead them by voice commands through a simple course you have set up. Make slight changes each turn to add some excitement. Let as many children as possible have a turn at being the blindfolded person or the one giving instructions.

Link: Today we have had some fun trying to navigate our way through the obstacle course blindfolded, only listening to the voice of someone we trust. When we are not sure where we are going or can't see clearly, it is important to listen to someone's clear instructions. This can be difficult at times, especially when there are other people trying to butt in and also give us instructions. In our day-to-day lives we need to be stopping and listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit who helps guide us and make wise choices, especially when we can't see where we are going. Today we are going to explore this a little bit more by looking at how the Holy Spirit can impact our lives and help us to live more like Jesus.

Choices, Choices Game...

Call out a series of items or activities and ask the children to make a choice about whether they like or dislike them e.g. run to this side of the room if you like ice cream or run to the other side if you don't. Keep the children moving using different topics.

- Football
- Roller coasters
- Pickles
- Chocolate
- School
- The beach etc.

Link: Today we have had some fun with making choices to show the things we like and the things we don't. Our lives are full of choices everyday both big and small. Some choices we make are easy and others can be trickier. Today we will explore how the Holy Spirit can help us with some of our choices. The Holy Spirit is ready to help guide us to make wise choices and to impact our lives to help us live more like Jesus.

The Main Thing

The amazing life of Simon Peter...

Depending on your group's size and dynamic you might like to choose one of the following options when exploring the scripture today.

Option One: Divide the children into four groups and give each group one of the scripture passages below. As a group, read the passage together, discuss and answer the questions. (*It would be good to provide them with some butcher paper and textas as they explore their passage.*) Have each group share what they have discussed with the whole group.

Option Two: Divide the children into groups and ask them to read the scripture and then act out that part of the story for the rest of the group. Ask questions for the whole group to answer.

Option Three: Have some paper and markers or pencils and ask each group to read the scripture together and then draw the main events of the story (*like a story board/comic strip*). When finished, share the art with the whole group and have the children read the scripture as they show their work. Ask questions to the whole group for each section after the art work is displayed and scripture read.



Read:

- **Matthew 4:18–20 – The calling of the first disciples**
 - What was Peter doing when Jesus met him?
 - What was Peter's response to Jesus?
- **Matthew 16:13–20 – Peter's confession of Christ**
 - What did Peter say about Jesus?
 - How did Jesus respond?
- **Acts 2:1–4 – The Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost**
 - What happened when the Holy Spirit came into this place?
 - Which followers were there together?
- **Acts 9:36–42 – Peter and Dorcas**
 - Who was Dorcas?
 - What did Peter do for Dorcas?
 - Why did they ask Peter to do this?

Peter was a humble fisherman when Jesus called him to be a disciple. He had no real education or skills other than those of fishing. He chose to follow Jesus and became a believer. At Pentecost, Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit and went on to give his first message to a very large crowd. Thousands heard the message that Peter gave that day and became believers too. With the Holy Spirit living with him, Peter was an amazing example of how the fruit of the Spirit can transform us and impact how we think, speak and act. Peter continued doing amazing things because he had the power of the Holy Spirit, e.g. he raised Dorcas from the dead and performed other miraculous tasks.



Tying In

Scenario Match...

For this activity you will need to print off a grid template for each child (attached to the lesson). You will also need to have a copy of the scenarios to read out to the children.

In preparation for the activity, the children will need to write all of the 'fruit of the Spirit' into the nine squares on the template provided. Encourage them to put the fruit in whichever box they like so that everyone's board is different.

Read the scenarios and have the children decide the 'fruit' that was displayed. When this is decided the children need to colour in that square on their board.

Ask each child to make a statement (*if you have a large group you might like to choose a couple of children each time*) about when they have displayed that 'fruit of the Spirit' as they colour in their grid. The winner is the first to have three in a row. You could play a few times to cover all the fruit.

Link:

- How do you make decisions? (*e.g. ask questions, flip a coin, sleep on it*)
- Who helps you make decisions? (*e.g. parents, friends, teachers*)

Not all decisions or choices we have to make are ones that need us to ask the Holy Spirit for guidance. Sometimes we have to make choices on our own. If you are making some toast for breakfast and can have either jam or Vegemite on it, you're allowed to decide without praying first!

The Spirit, however, helps us make decisions when we need to display the fruit of the Spirit. When our actions need to be like Jesus we can ask the Holy Spirit to help us be Christlike. We can pray and ask for the Spirit to let his 'fruit' show in our lives. The Bible teaches us in Galatians 5:25 that we should follow the Spirit.

If our life reflects the fruit of the Spirit and we are living like Jesus as best we can, then all of our decisions and attitudes and living should be consistent with what pleases God. That is, if I live according to the 'fruit of the Spirit' (i.e. I'm joyful, kind, loving, patient, gentle, etc.) then I won't ever have to double-check every time if my living is Christlike...it will just be that way! This is the aim of all Christians.

Lead the children in prayer asking for the Spirit to ripen and develop the 'fruit' in their lives until they occur as part of our nature.

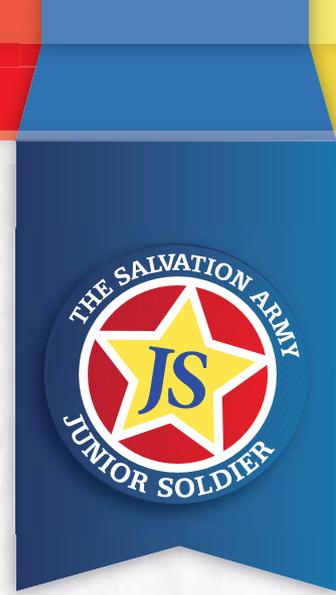
If you have time finish today's lesson with the Coconut Song (*or another song that you have used in this series about the fruit of the Spirit*) from YouTube (www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Bq1LIUwgZc).

Home & Beyond

Print off the 'Home & Beyond' cards attached. The children might like to keep these in their journals or notebook where they could write or stick the challenges, reflect, answer questions or complete activities each week.

'God's Spirit has given us life, and so we should follow the Spirit.'
Galatians 5:25

- Memorise the above verse.
- Repeat the verse to someone in your family or to your Big Bud.
- Write a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to help you show his 'fruit' in the way you think, the words that you choose and the way that you behave. (*You might like to write this in your journal.*)



Scenario Match Questions:



1. Your little brother or sister has been bothering you all morning and you are angry. You finally get to do something without them bugging you...and your mum asks you to brush their hair. (Gentleness)

2. You join the school choir with a few of your friends but after a few weeks they stop coming. You keep going every week without your friends. (Faithfulness)

3. During Junior Soldiers/Kids Church your friend is talking about their birthday party when you have been asked to work quietly. You move to another table to finish your work off. (Self-control)

4. Things at home have been a little tough and everything seems to be going wrong. You are not worried and know that it will all be okay. (Peace)

5. Your friend at school is sick for the fourth day in a row. You are lonely but you are not sad. (Joy)

6. Your elderly neighbor needs some help in the garden. You offer to water the garden each afternoon. (Kindness)

7. You love God. You can't explain it but you just love him. (Love)

8. You really want the new Xbox game but you're happy to wait until your birthday. (Patience)

9. Your friends are all doing something that you know is wrong, so you choose to do the right thing and tell them that they should do it too. (Goodness)

**Love, Joy, Peace, Patience,
Kindness, Goodness,
Faithfulness,
Gentleness and Self Control.**



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