

# FRUIT FOR THOUGHT

*by Rebecca A. Egbert*



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# **FRUIT FOR THOUGHT**

**By Rebecca A. Egbert**

**CAST****Mark**

**Apple #1** (*Love*)

**Orange #1** (*Joy*)

**Banana #1 and Banana #2** (*Peace*)

**Lemon #1** (*Patience*)

**Peach #1** (*Kindness*)

**Berry #1** (*Goodness*)

**Grapes #1** (*Faithfulness*)

**Pear #1** (*Gentleness*)

**Apricot #1** (*Self-control*)

**Extras**

*An unlimited number of children may participate  
as the support cast, representing the  
above categories of fruit.*

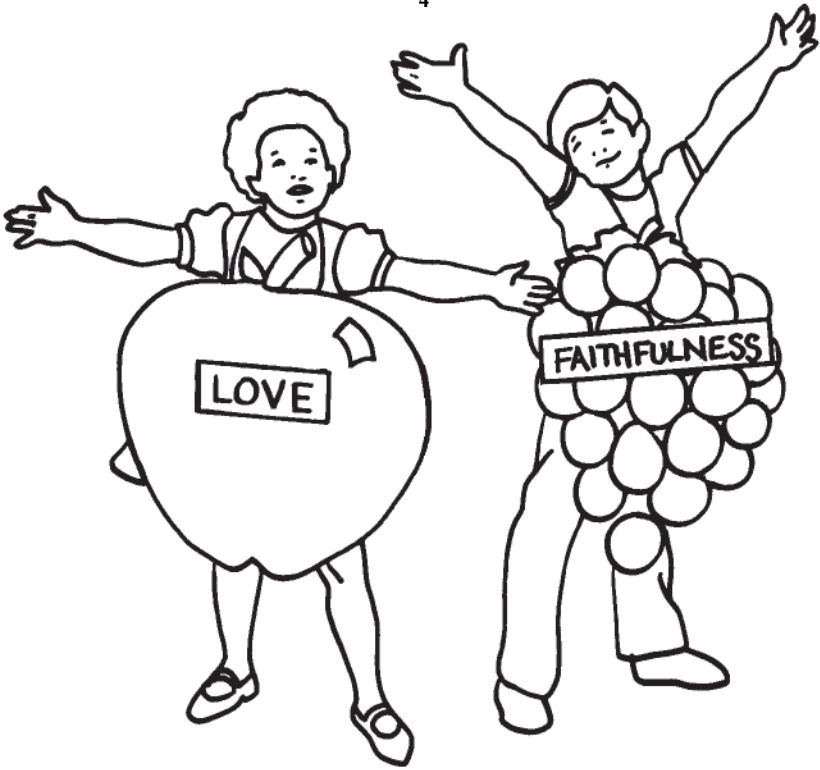
## ***PRODUCTION NOTES***

*Fruit for Thought* is based on Galatians 5:22, the Fruits of the Spirit. Costumed children present each of the "fruits" by reciting rhymed verse. Even very young children have the capacity to learn rhymes through repetition. Everyone gets a chance to participate because the script can accommodate an unlimited number of children of many ages (4-10 years). This program is well suited for Children's Sunday, a Bible school program, a Sunday school presentation, etc. If your group of children is small, some of the "fruit extras" can double as more than one kind of fruit.

**COSTUMES:** Using the drawings provided as a guide, cut out fruit shapes from poster board, cardboard, or a product called Fome-Cor®, which is available from art supply stores. Cord should be attached on top of each fruit cutout in a loop to go around the child's neck. The children may wish to help paint their fruit costumes with tempera paint. The signs on the front of the main cast's costumes, showing the attribute symbolized by each kind of fruit, should be large enough to be easily read by the audience. The "fruit extras" do not need signs on their fruit costumes. Mark should wear pajamas and a robe, to suggest that he is having a dream, or just regular clothes, as if he was taking a midday nap.

**STAGING/PROPS:** The setting for the play is the dining room of Mark's home. At the minimum, set pieces required are a table (placed off to the side) and a rocker for Mark to sit on at Center Stage. A "basket of fruit" (oversized and made out of cardboard so it is clearly visible to the audience) and a Bible should be placed on the table. Other optional touches (lamps, pictures, an end table, etc.) may be used to achieve a home-like atmosphere.

**MUSIC:** The addition of soft background music by a pianist is optional, however, it provides a smooth transition for the entrances and exits of the children. The pianist should play music that matches the mood of each quality. For example, "joy" would require a bright, bouncy tune, while "peace" would suggest a soft, soothing number.

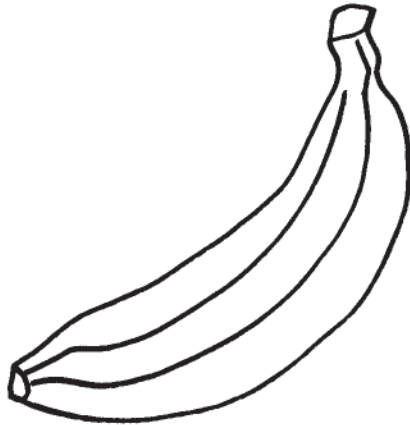


*Apple #1*  
*LOVE*

*Grape #1*  
*FAITHFULNESS*

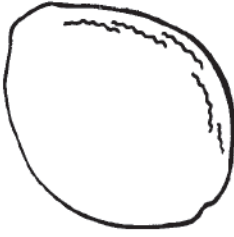


*Orange #1*  
*JOY*



*Banana #1 and Banana #2*  
*PEACE*

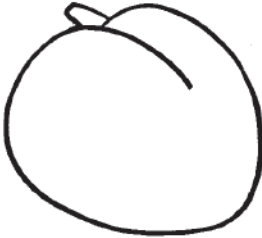
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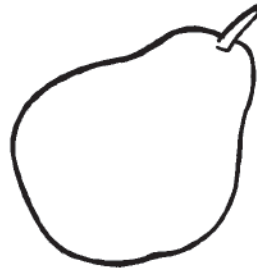
*Lemon #1*  
**PATIENCE**



*Peach #1*  
**KINDNESS**



*Apricot #1*  
**SELF-CONTROL**



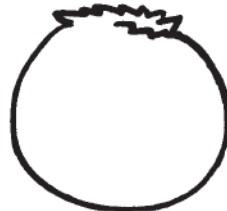
*Pear #1*  
**GENTLENESS**



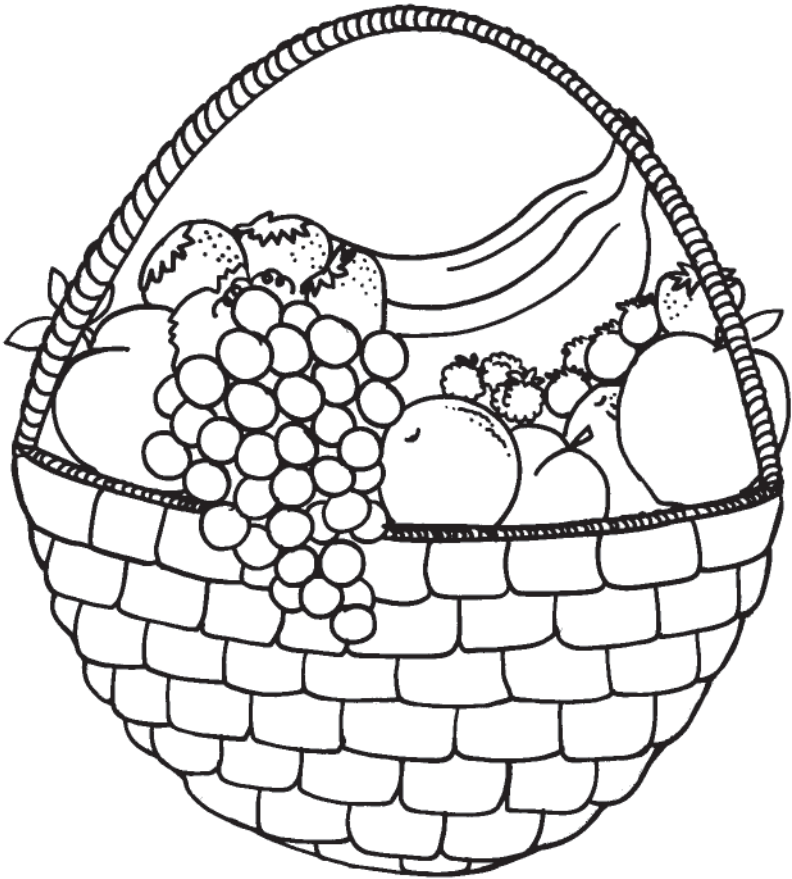
*Berry #1 – Strawberry*  
**GOODNESS**



*(Support cast of fruit extras)*  
*Raspberry*  
**GOODNESS**



*(Support cast of fruit extras)*  
*Blueberry*  
**GOODNESS**



*On the backside of the fruit basket drawing, tape or glue a folded piece of sturdy cardboard to serve as a stand, (as pictured above). Or you can lean the drawing against another object.*



(MARK is dozing in the rocker. Soft music may be playing in the background.)

## LOVE

(APPLE #1 appears from behind the fruit bowl and tugs at MARK's arm. MARK awakens in surprise.)

**MARK:** What's happening? Why aren't you in the fruit basket where you belong? (APPLE #1 dances around the table.) Hey — apples aren't supposed to be dancing around. (APPLE #1 picks up the Bible from the table.)

**APPLE #1:** Don't you know one of the Fruits of the Spirit when you see it, Mark? The pastor read Galatians 5:22 and 23 in church last Sunday. Remember? The verses tell how the Holy Spirit helps us develop the characteristics God wants us to have.

**MARK:** Yes, I remember that, but I still don't understand what's happening here.

**APPLE #1:** Well, Mark, one of the Fruits of the Spirit is love. Know what? Love is just like a delicious apple — firm on the outside and mellow on the inside. Love is something you see a lot of in this house. Your dad kisses your mom good-bye before he goes to work each day. And your mom gives you a big hug whenever you feel sad. These things are expressions of love. (APPLE EXTRAS enter.)

**ALL APPLES:** (In unison) Love is all around us, smiles and hugs surround us,

From the Lord above that's where we get love.

**APPLE #1:** Firm on the outside, mellow on the inside,  
From the Lord above, that's where we get love.

**ALL APPLES:** (In unison) Love is always kind, and is not puffed up,  
Rejoices in the truth, and is not corrupt,  
Is satisfied no matter what it's got,  
Is willing and is able to put up with a lot,  
It never is jealous, it's always glad,

1 It thinks good things and doesn't get mad.

2 Love bears all things and believes all things,

3 It hopes all things and endures all things.

4 **APPLE #1:** Love never fails — it always prevails.

5 With Jesus in your heart, love changes every part.

6 **ALL APPLES:** *(In unison)* Firm on the outside, mellow on the inside,

7 From the Lord above, that's where we get love.

8 *(APPLE EXTRAS exit. APPLE #1 moves to far Stage Left.)*

9

10 **JOY**

11

12 *(ORANGE #1 enters and takes MARK by the arm and skips*  
13 *around the room with him.)*

14 **ORANGE #1:** Hi, Mark, I represent joy. Joy is like an orange

15 — refreshing and delightful. There's a lot of joy in your

16 home. Your dad whistles in the shower, you mom sings

17 while she cleans the house, and your grandma smiles

18 when you give her flowers or mow her lawn. Joy

19 brightens everyone's day! *(ORANGE EXTRAS enter. If*

20 *using transitional music, make sure it is lively.)*

21 **ORANGE #1:** Merry and happy with hearts full of liveliness,

22 Laughing and singing and thankful for blessedness,

23 Joyfully singing and bringing a cheerfulness,

24 Pleasant and smiling and full of refreshingness.

25 **ALL ORANGES:** *(In unison)* Like tempting oranges so sunny

26 and sweet,

27 Joy is contagious to others you meet.

28 Merry and happy with hearts full of liveliness,

29 Laughing and singing and thankful for blessedness,

30 Joyfully singing and bringing a cheerfulness,

31 Pleasant and smiling and full of refreshingness.

32 **ORANGE #1:** Like tempting oranges so sunny and sweet,

33 Joy is contagious to others you meet.

34 *(ORANGE EXTRAS exit while chanting the refrain again.*

35 *ORANGE #1 joins APPLE #1 Stage Left.)*

## PEACE

- 1  
2  
3       (BANANA #1 enters.)  
4   **MARK:** A banana! Bigger than I am! And what do you stand  
5       for?  
6   **BANANA #1:** I represent peace, Mark. Can you think of times  
7       when you have been especially aware of peace in your  
8       family?  
9   **MARK:** *(Pauses.)* Well, I remember the time Dad was laid off  
10       from his job. We were really worried, but inside we knew  
11       that God would help us through it. I guess maybe that's  
12       what it means to have peace.  
13   **BANANA #1:** Exactly!  
14       Banana, banana, this is what I am.  
15       Peace, peace, this is where I stand.  
16       Though things outside get rough,  
17       Still my skin is tough,  
18       I always have enough  
19       'Cause I have peace, peace, peace.  
20       *(BANANA #2 and BANANA EXTRAS enter.)*  
21   **BANANA #2:** Bananas, bananas, we all represent,  
22       The peace, the peace, that God alone has sent.  
23       Take off our tough skin  
24       And the softness lies within.  
25       In a rough time, you will win  
26       If you spread peace, peace, peace.  
27   **ALL BANANAS:** *(BANANA #2 and EXTRAS exit, chanting in*  
28       *unison.)* Bananas, bananas, we all represent  
29       The peace, the peace, that God alone has sent.  
30       Though things outside get rough,  
31       Still our skin is tough,  
32       We always have enough  
33       'Cause we have peace, peace, peace.  
34       Bananas, bananas, we all represent,  
35       The peace, the peace, that God alone has sent.

1       **Take off our tough skin**  
2       **And the softness lies within.**  
3       **In a rough time, you will win**  
4       **If you spread peace, peace, peace.**  
5       *(BANANA #1 joins APPLE #1 and ORANGE #1 at Stage Left.)*

6  
7                                   **PATIENCE**

8  
9       *(LEMON #1 enters and stands quietly beside MARK's chair.*  
10      *MARK looks up and notices LEMON #1.)*

11      **MARK:** Well, Lemon, don't tell me, let me guess. Are you  
12              **patience?**

13      **LEMON #1:** You got that right. That's exactly who I am.

14      **MARK:** And I suppose you're going to tell me how patient my  
15              **parents are when I do something I'm not supposed to do.**

16      **LEMON #1:** No, Mark, I was thinking of the time you broke  
17              **your leg.**

18      **MARK:** Oh! Well, I don't know why you'd think of that. I don't  
19              **remember being very patient.**

20      **LEMON #1:** I remember your grandfather bought you a  
21              **model plane and you spent hours putting it together**  
22              **while all your friends were outside playing ball. And you**  
23              **didn't complain about how much your leg hurt, either.**  
24              **I'd say that was patience, wouldn't you, Mark?**

25      **MARK:** Well, I remember praying a lot . . .

26      **LEMON #1:** Exactly! That's how we get patience, Mark — by  
27              **asking for God's help.**

28              **When life gives you lemons,**

29              **Please don't be afraid,**

30              **Just take those sour lemons**

31              **And make some marmalade.**

32              **Add a little sweetness,**

33              **And a little spice,**

34              **And you will find that lemons**

35              **Are really very nice.**

**1** (LEMON EXTRAS enter, chanting in unison.)

**2 ALL LEMONS:** It's just the same with patience.

**3 As you can plainly see,**

## 4 You can solve your problems.

**5 With God's own recipe.**

**6 Take a cup of problems.**

**7 Dilute them down with prayer.**

**8 And you will find the problems**

**9 Are easier to bear.**

10        It just may be the problems

**11 That God has given you**

**12 Will help to teach you patience, and**

**13 Improve your attitude.**

14 (LEMON EXTRAS exit. LEMON #1 joins other FRUIT at Stage  
15 Left.)

## 16

## 17

## KINDNESS

## 18

19 (PEACH #1 enters. MARK sneezes. PEACH #1 hands MARK  
20 a tissue.)

**21 MARK:** Thank you! You must be kindness.

22 PEACH #1: That's right. Can you think of times when you've  
23 done something kind, Mark?

24 MARK: No, I guess I'm not very good at being kind.

25 PEACH #1: What about the time you unloaded the  
26 dishwasher and put the dishes away without being  
27 asked? I'd say that was kind.

28 **MARK:** Oh yeah! I remember. Mom sure was surprised. (If  
29 using transitional music, make sure the musician plays softly as  
30 the PEACH EXTRAS enter. PEACHES join arms, swaying  
31 slightly as they chant.)

32 PEACHES: Kindly and tenderly, Lord let me teach,  
33 Your sweet love and mercy, fresh like the peach.  
34 Kindly and tenderly, Lord, help me show  
35 Your loving compassion to people I know.

1           Peaches for kindness, so sweet and true,  
 2           Lifting life's burdens so friends won't be blue.  
 3   **PEACH #1:** Kindly and tenderly, Lord, let me teach,  
 4           Your sweet love and mercy, fresh like the peach.  
 5           *(PEACH EXTRAS exit quietly on tiptoes. PEACH #1 joins others*  
 6           *at Stage Left.)*

## GOODNESS

7  
 8  
 9  
 10           *(BERRY #1 and BERRY EXTRAS enter, hopping across stage.)*  
 11   **MARK:** More fruit! Who are you?  
 12   **ALL BERRIES:** *(In unison)* We're goodness, for goodness'  
 13           sake!  
 14   **MARK:** So, OK, what are you going to tell me about being  
 15           good? I'm afraid I don't always measure up when it comes  
 16           to that.  
 17   **BERRY #1:** Well, nobody's perfect. That's why God sent  
 18           Jesus — to take away our sins. But we can remember  
 19           something good you did last week, Mark.  
 20   **MARK:** Really? I guess that's what I need to hear. Tell me!  
 21   **BERRY #1:** Do you remember when you broke your Mom's  
 22           best vase?  
 23   **MARK:** Do I ever! But that wasn't good, that was *bad*.  
 24   **BERRY #1:** But you did something good afterward, Mark;  
 25           you told your Mom about it as soon as she came home.  
 26   **MARK:** Yeah, I thought she'd really be mad, but she just  
 27           hugged me and said she was happy I hadn't lied about it.  
 28   **BERRY #1:** That's because telling her the truth was a good  
 29           thing to do.  
 30   **ALL BERRIES:** *(In unison)* Strawberries, blueberries,  
 31           raspberries, too,  
 32           To demonstrate goodness, here's what you must do.  
 33           Be considerate, tolerant, generous, kind,  
 34           Pleasant, sympathetic, and gracious of mind,  
 35           Agreeable, honest, cordial, polite,





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