

FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

by Gail Gaymer Martin



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FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

There are twelve characters (or twenty-three, as explained later) plus an unlimited number of children as choir members and distributors of the fruits. Each attribute may be divided, if desired, to have one child represent the “fruit” and another to read the accompanying Bible verse.

Narrator

Love

Joy

Peace

Patience

Kindness

Goodness

Faithfulness

Gentleness

Self-Control

Humility

Generosity

PRODUCTION NOTES

Pentecost is the season of the Holy Spirit, of witness and mission, filling workers with the excitement of the Good News of Jesus Christ, Savior and King. Pentecost is also a time to focus on the *Fruits of the Spirit*. In Galatians 5:22 we read, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." These attributes, along with generosity and humility, are the focus of this children's presentation.

This program may be used as part of the Pentecost worship service or as the basis for a complete Children's Day school or Sunday school program. By adding additional instrumental and choral music performed by the children, as well as additional Bible readings, the presentation may be lengthened.

The speaking parts are brief and may be memorized or printed on cards and attached to the back of the paper fruit, explained later. A large number of children may participate by singing in the choir and distributing fruit to the congregation as they recess from their presentation. This simple program requires no costumes. Only a minimum of rehearsal time is needed in order for your performance to run smoothly.

The construction of the paper fruit is an excellent post-Easter activity for the children, preparing them for the celebration of Pentecost. As they create the fruit, the children may focus on and study the Fruits of the Spirit.

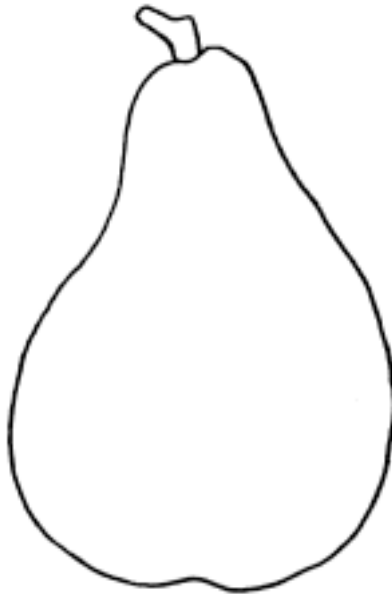
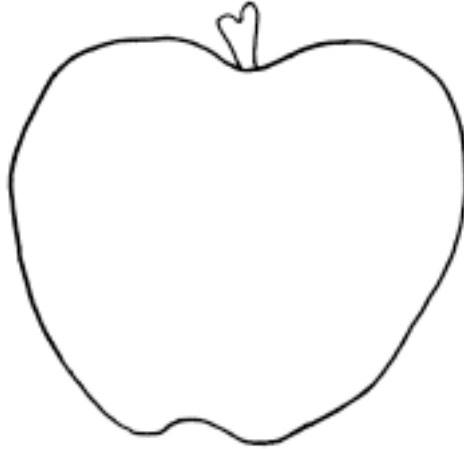
Staging

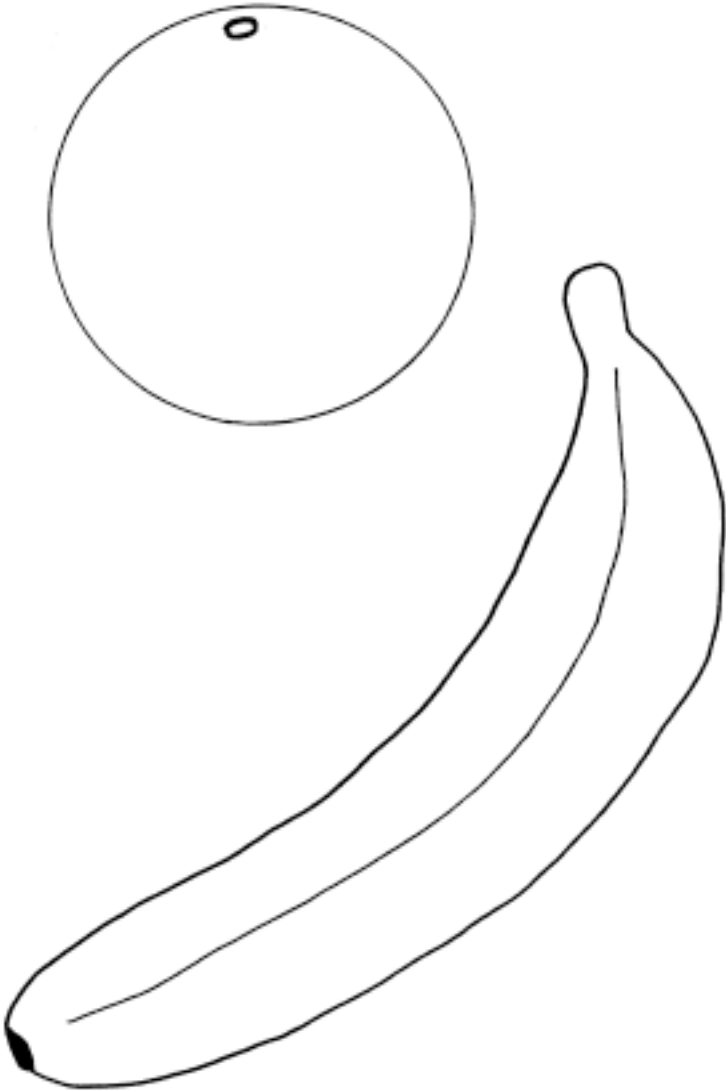
Whether on a small stage or in the chancel, the children may enter from various sides of the performance area, stepping to a central microphone. A small, central table will hold the "fruit basket." After each child speaks, he or she will step back to allow the next speaker to use the microphone. The narrator should remain nearby for the final reading. Children may remain On-stage, displaying their fruit that bears the "attribute" word. When all speaking parts are complete, other children may join the assembled group to sing the final song. As they leave the area, "keeping in step with the Spirit" (Gal. 5:25), they can pass down the center and side aisles through the audience or congregation, distributing paper or real fruit as desired. Additional fruit may be distributed to those attending as they exit.

Props

A basket of real fruit *and* paper fruit is placed on a small table at Center Stage for this program. The paper fruit should be arranged so that each child knows which piece of fruit is his. The fruit, made of appropriately colored construction paper or duplicated and colored, should be large enough to be seen by the audience or congregation. The fruit will bear the word designating an attribute or "Fruit of the Spirit." Smaller versions of the same fruit may be made to distribute to those in attendance. Patterns are included and may be enlarged for proper sizing. The words, designating attributes, should be printed boldly on each piece of fruit. Another option is to distribute real apples or other in-season fruit as the children recess from the program and at the exit.

Fruit Patterns





1 *(NARRATOR steps center and speaks into the microphone.)*

2 **NARRATOR:** Today is Pentecost, and we celebrate the Holy
 3 Spirit coming down from heaven. But today, instead of
 4 tongues of fire, God makes our lives shine with the Fruits
 5 of the Spirit. In Galatians 5, Jesus said, “You [are to]
 6 serve one another in love [and] live by the Spirit. The
 7 fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,
 8 goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” Jesus
 9 asks each of us to use these gifts every day. *(NARRATOR*
 10 *steps aside. LOVE enters and selects a piece of paper fruit bearing*
 11 *the word LOVE from the basket. The fruit is held so it may be*
 12 *seen.)*

13 **LOVE:** The first Fruit of the Spirit is *love*. Love means to adore
 14 and cherish. The Bible tells us, “Love is patient, love is
 15 kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It
 16 is not rude, it is not [selfish], it is not easily angered, it
 17 keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil
 18 but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always
 19 trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.
 20 (1 Cor. 13:4-8). Jesus says we should love God and one
 21 another, even our enemies. *(LOVE steps aside. JOY enters*
 22 *and selects a piece of paper fruit bearing the word JOY from the*
 23 *basket. The fruit is held so it may be seen.)*

24 **JOY:** The second Fruit of the Spirit is *joy*. Joy means
 25 happiness and fun. The Bible says that joy is...being like-
 26 minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and
 27 purpose (Phil. 2:1-2). Jesus said, “If you obey my
 28 commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have
 29 obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I
 30 have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that
 31 your joy may be complete” (John 15:10-11). *(JOY steps aside.*
 32 *PEACE enters and selects a piece of paper fruit bearing the word*
 33 *PEACE from the basket. The fruit is held so it may be seen.)*

34 **PEACE:** The third Fruit of the Spirit is *peace*. Peace means
 35 knowing how to get along with others. Jesus tells us how

to behave peacefully. “Don’t have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord’s servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone (2 Tim. 2:23-24). Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid” (John 14:27). “In me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). (*PEACE steps back. PATIENCE enters and selects a piece of paper fruit bearing the word PATIENCE from the basket. The fruit is held so it may be seen.*)

PATIENCE: The fourth Fruit of the Spirit is *patience*. Patience means to be tolerant and fair to others. It also means to face hardships without grumbling. Jesus said, “But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. God works for the good of those who love him” (Rom. 8:25, 28). (*PATIENCE steps back. KINDNESS enters and selects a piece of paper fruit bearing the word KINDNESS from the basket. The fruit is held so it may be seen.*)

KINDNESS: The fifth Fruit of the Spirit is *kindness*. Kindness means to have charity and serve others. God showed us his kindness and love when he sent Jesus down from heaven to save us so we could have eternal life. In the book of Titus we read, “But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us...[so] we might have the hope of eternal life. I want to stress these things, that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good” (Titus 3:4-8). (*KINDNESS steps back. GOODNESS enters and selects a piece of paper fruit bearing the word GOODNESS from the basket. The fruit is held so it may be seen.*)

GOODNESS: The sixth Fruit of the Spirit is *goodness*. Goodness means to be pure and honest, to do everything that makes God happy. The Bible says, “Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness,



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