

A CHURCH DIVIDED

Galatians 3:1-9, 23-29

KIDS
3RD-6TH

NL

Key Verse:

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28

The Point:

God's grace is a gift for all.

Making Connections:

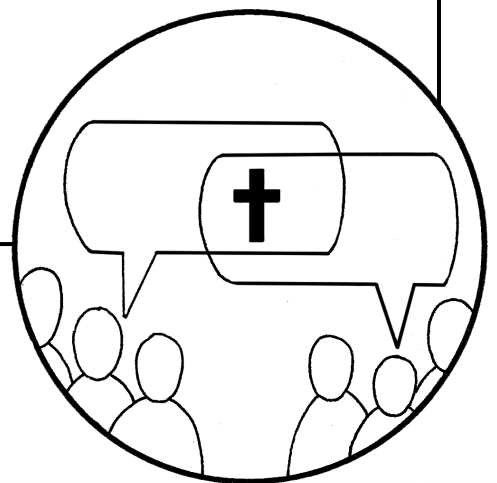
Birth of the Church

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Paul's Travels and Bible Maps

Spiritual Practice:

Fellowship



BACKGROUND

Making Connections

The last two lessons looked at the question of the Jewish law and faith in the building of the church. While Jewish followers of Christ continued to keep the Law of Moses, the Gentiles did not, and the apostles struggled with how to bring these two groups together in community. They concluded again and again that being a Christian was about trusting in Jesus and not about performing certain actions. In today's story, Paul continues to remind the Galatians of the power of the Spirit, and clarifies that those things that make others different do not make them any farther from a relationship with God.

Story Summary:

A Church Divided

As today's story opens, Paul is chastising the Galatians. What is his concern? The Galatians have been turning their focus back to the Jewish laws and have been measuring people by how well they follow them. Paul writes to remind them of the power of the Spirit, and how they began their faith by embracing this Spirit.

The letter highlights that the promise to Abraham in Scripture also included the Gentiles. The blessing Abraham received and passed down through ancient traditions has always been intended for all people.

Before Jesus, the law helped people to navigate their relationships with others and with God. Paul celebrates that in Jesus Christ we have freedom and that all are children of God. There are no barriers to keep us from God; instead we are all part of the blessing of Abraham.

The Point

God's grace is a gift for all. It is easy to draw lines between others and ourselves. It can be comforting to be on the inside, confident in our relationships and place in our community. There will always be differences between communities. There will be people who make a line between who is on the inside and who is on the outside. Paul reminds us that in spite of distinctions that exist, none of them keeps us from a relationship with God! God's grace is for each and every one of us.

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Paul's Travels and Bible Maps

To understand Paul's use of letters and his relationship with the people of Galatia, as well as with many other churches throughout the New Testament, it is helpful to understand the geography affecting these relationships. In the Bible Nuts & Bolts, students will look at a map and see where these different churches were beginning, and how Paul traveled among them.

Spiritual Practice: Fellowship

We are reminded in this Scripture about the importance of understanding and bringing others into our community. The church must be a community where all are allowed and encouraged to participate. As we fellowship with each other, we give opportunities for people to encounter God.





“But the fruit of the Spirit is _____,
_____, _____, longsuffering,
_____, goodness,
faithfulness,
_____, self-control.”

Galatians 5:22-23

WORD SEARCH

G	E	N	T	L	E	N	E	S	S	P	H
L	T	D	R	M	Q	J	Y	T	S	A	L
G	A	L	A	T	I	A	N	S	E	T	O
N	O	L	E	R	K	R	Q	K	N	I	R
L	Z	O	M	C	T	L	I	G	L	E	T
K	M	X	D	I	A	N	G	K	U	N	N
D	L	W	U	N	D	E	L	K	F	C	O
V	C	R	L	N	E	X	P	K	H	E	C
J	F	V	E	J	B	S	C	K	T	V	F
O	T	S	E	V	O	L	S	D	I	P	L
Y	S	T	R	F	K	M	F	B	A	M	E
F	J	M	C	Y	B	P	X	N	F	J	S

FAITHFULNESS

FRUIT

GALATIANS

GENTLENESS

GOODNESS

JOY

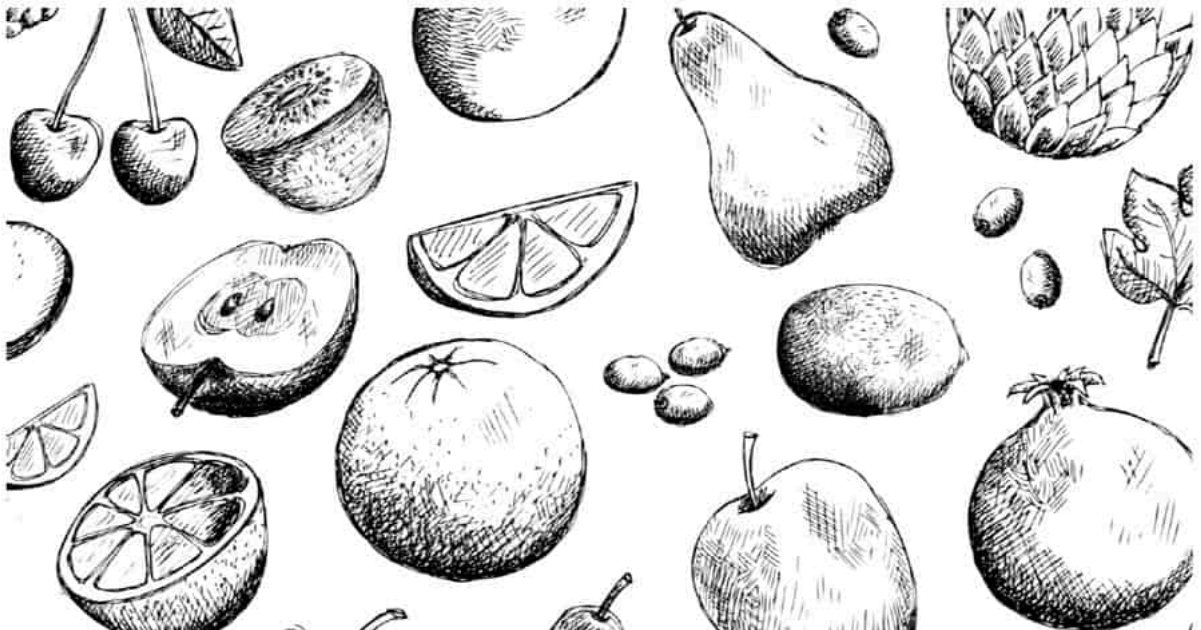
KINDNESS

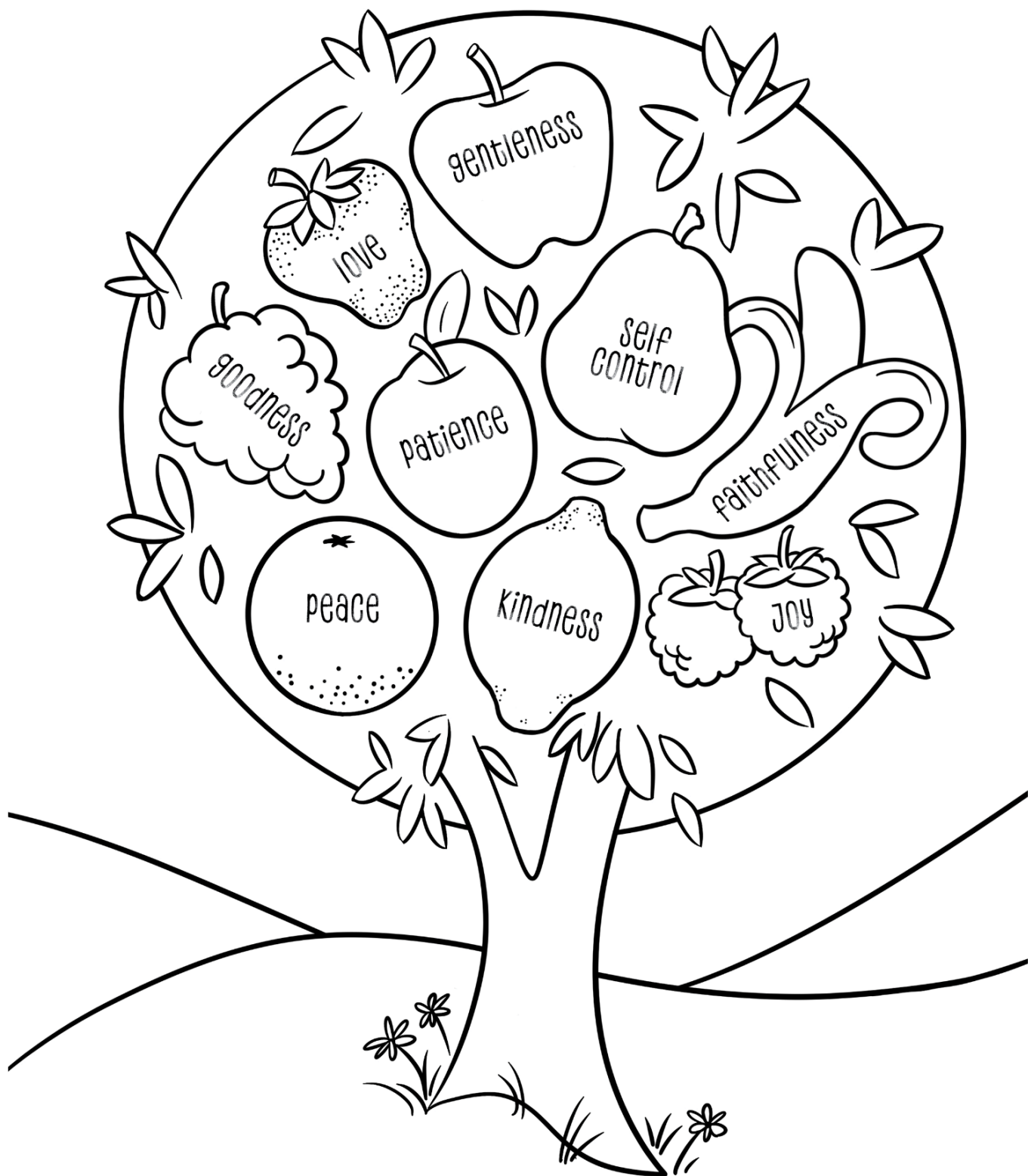
LOVE

PATIENCE

PEACE

SELFCONTROL

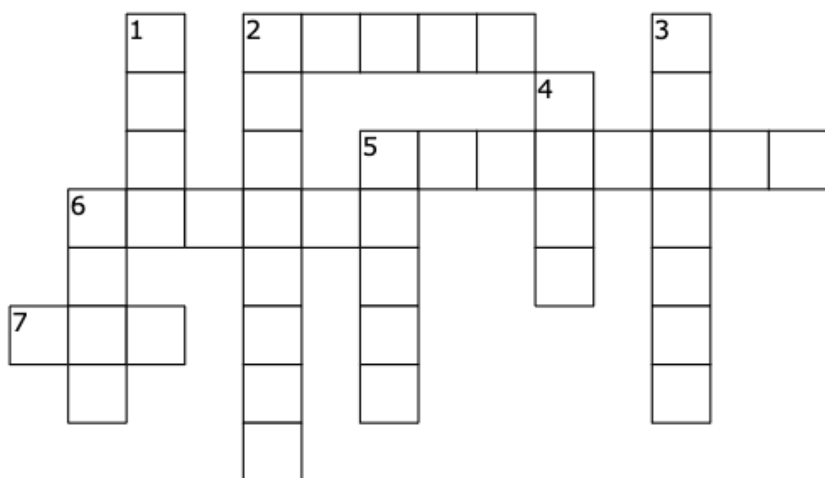




The Fruit of the Spirit

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. Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

Puzzle is based on Galatians 5:22-23



ACROSS

2. The usually sweet part of a plant or tree which is good to eat
5. Calmly waiting for something to happen
6. To be kind and tender toward others
7. A feeling of happiness.

DOWN

1. A strong feeling of caring for another person
2. To be loyal and true
3. Being in charge of your feelings actions (self-_____)
4. Treating others with respect
5. Not angry or fighting with another
6. Showing kindness toward others.

GOOD	FRUIT	JOY	CONTROL	FAITHFUL
PATIENCE	KIND	LOVE	PEACE	GENTLE

The Fruit of the Spirit

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Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



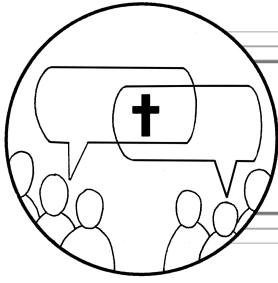
A	W	S	G	H	T	Y	U	I	J	F	O	V	R	K	N	P	L	Q	M	X	B	E	Z	D	C
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 11-14-8-9-6 _____
- 18-12-13-23 _____
- 10-12-7 _____
- 17-23-1-26-23 _____
- 17-1-6-9-23-16-26-23 _____
- 15-9-16-25-16-23-3-3 _____
- 4-12-12-25-16-23-3-3 _____
- 11-1-9-6-5-11-8-18-16-23-3-3 _____
- 4-23-16-6-18-23-16-23-3-3 _____
- 26-12-16-6-14-12-18 _____

KINDNESS	JOY	FRUIT	GOODNESS	PATIENCE
FAITHFULNESS	PEACE	LOVE	GENTLENESS	CONTROL

FIND THE STAR IN THE HAYSTACK!





THE STORY @ HOME

**KIDS
3RD-6TH**

NL

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story
Narrative Lectionary, Year 3 (2024-2025)

Lesson #3-37
Galatians 3:1-9; 23-29

LAST WEEK

In a letter, Paul writes about how he became a follower of Jesus. He proclaims that a relationship with God comes from trusting Jesus, not what we do (Galatians 1:13-17; 2:11-21).

THIS WEEK

Paul continues writing to the Galatians that they become right with God based on faith, not what they do. He declares that everyone is united in Jesus Christ with no divisions (Galatians 3:1-9 23-29).

THE POINT

God's grace is a gift for all.

STORY SUMMARY

A Church Divided

Paul is frustrated with the Galatians. They have been turning their focus back to the Jewish laws and have been judging people by how well they follow them. Paul writes to remind them of the power of the Spirit, and how they began their faith by embracing this Spirit. God's promise to bless Abraham was for everyone, including the Gentiles. Before Jesus, the law helped people to navigate their relationships with others and with God. Paul celebrates that in Jesus Christ we have freedom and that all are children of God. There are no barriers to keep us from God; instead we are all part of the blessing of Abraham.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

Paul's Travels and Bible Maps

To understand Paul's use of letters and his relationship with the people of Galatia, as well as with many other churches throughout the New Testament, it is helpful to understand the geography affecting these relationships. Maps of the region, whether in a Bible, atlas, or online can help us make sense of the various places and travels that are described in the Bible.

PRACTICE: FELLOWSHIP

The church must be a community where all are encouraged to participate and there are no outsiders. As we build relationships with each other, we give opportunities for people to encounter God's love. As a family, what can you do to connect with someone new, to break down barriers between people?

NEXT WEEK

The Holy Spirit comes in power to the apostles on Pentecost. Paul writes to the Galatians that we are made children of God through this same Spirit (Acts 2:1-4; Galatians 4:1-7).

Family Discussions

Use the questions below or other questions you think of to discuss today's Scripture reading (listed above) with your family.

- ✚ Where do you see the message that "It is GOOD" in this Scripture?
- ✚ What does this Scripture have to do with our lives today?
- ✚ What part of this Scripture is the most interesting to you? Why?

Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

<p>Sunday—Read Galatians 3:1-9; 23-29</p> <p>Paul tries to refocus the Galatians onto the power of Spirit, and the inclusion of all people in the promise of Abraham. Do a neighborhood walk, asking for blessing on each home as you walk by.</p>
<p>Monday—Read Genesis 15:1-6</p> <p>God promises Abram that his descendants will be as many as the stars in the sky. Go stargazing with your family or find pictures of the night sky. Can you count the stars?</p>
<p>Tuesday—Read Galatians 3:15-18</p> <p>The promise to Abraham is older than the commandments given to Moses, and the commandments do not stop the promise. Talk about what rules or expectations you have in your home. Are some more important than others?</p>
<p>Wednesday—Read Galatians 3:19-22</p> <p>The law was not intended to replace God's promise to Abraham but to help people navigate their relationships with each other and God. Decide on one new family or household rule that will help each member show God's love.</p>
<p>Thursday—Read Galatians 4:8-20</p> <p>Paul lets the Galatians know he is disappointed in their behavior, and concerned they are trying to take the easy way out instead of following Jesus. Write a letter to someone to remind them that God loves them and so do you!</p>
<p>Friday—Read Galatians 4:21-31</p> <p>Paul tells the story of Hagar and Sarah. Look through family pictures, talk about who your ancestors are.</p>
<p>Saturday—Read Galatians 5:1-15</p> <p>Paul reminds the Galatians that their freedom should be focused on learning to fully love each other. Say a prayer together at mealtime, asking for help in always loving your neighbors.</p>