



### PARENT GUIDE

### WHAT IS THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT?

#### Adult Spiritual Growth Series

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### GOD-CENTERED CHARACTER FORMATION



L.I.G.H.T. Kingdom Kids



## FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

#### Adult Spiritual Growth Series

The Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) are qualities or characteristics that should naturally grow in us as the Holy Spirit guides us to follow Jesus. These are essential characteristics of a Christian and are central to planting seeds in a child's formative years to teach character development. These qualities are like the "fruits" that grow from a good tree rooted in a relationship with God. They show that a person lives a life influenced by the Holy Spirit. These qualities are:

- 1. LOVE: Wanting what is best for others by putting their needs above yours, speaking the truth to others, (even when the truth is not easy), and helping them avoid wrongdoing.
- 2. **JOY:** Joy is a permanent condition inside you (different than a changing feeling) that comes from knowing you are okay, even if your circumstances are not.
- 3. **PEACE:** A confidence and trust in God's control of your life and a calm heart, free of trouble and fear.
- 4. **PATIENCE**: Continuing to love while not being selfish, jealous, or angry, and not complaining or giving up when we don't get our way.
- 5. **KINDNESS**: Extending compassion, empathy, and goodwill toward others with gracious words and actions.
- 6. **GOODNESS:** Being kind, gracious, generous, and loving toward others while respecting them.
- 7. FAITHFULNESS: Being steadfast, loyal, trustworthy, reliable, and true to your word.
- 8. **GENTLENESS:** Being kind and respectful toward others using a mild tone and attitude in your speech and actions.
- 9. **SELF-CONTROL:** The ability to control your emotions, desires, and actions in a way that honors God and benefits others over yourself.



# I AM THE VINE

You are the branches. Whoever abides in me bears much fruit. Apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)

The Fruit of the Spirt has three parts that are interdependent and will be present in different measures in every Christian life:

- 1. Our essential nature (love, joy, peace)
- 2. Our relationships with others (patience, kindness, goodness)
- 3. Our character before God (faithfulness, gentleness, self-control)

God promises that His followers will bear fruit. Fruit in the life of a Christian comes from abiding in Jesus.

# Christlike Character LOVE

Wanting what is best for others by putting their needs above yours, speaking the truth, and helping them avoid wrongdoing.

# Christlike Character JOY

Joy is a permanent condition inside you (different than a changing feeling) that comes from knowing you are okay, even if your circumstances are not.

# Christlike Character Peace

A confidence and trust in God's control of your life and a calm heart, free of trouble and fear.

# Christlike Character Patience

Continuing to love while not being selfish, jealous, or angry and not complaining or giving up when we don't get our way.

# Christlike Character Kindness

Extending compassion, empathy, and goodwill toward others with gracious words and actions.



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# Christlike Character Goodness

Being kind, gracious, generous, and loving toward others while respecting them.

# Christlike Character Faithfulness

Being steadfast, loyal, trustworthy,

reliable, and true to your word.

# Christlike Character Gentleness

Being kind and respectful toward others using a mild tone and attitude in your speech and actions.

# *Christlike Character* Self-control

The ability to control your emotions, desires, and actions in a way that honors God and benefits others over yourself.