

The Adventures of Lily & Noah

Do You Have a Gift? What are the Fruits of the Spirit?

The last time we saw Lily and Noah, they were headed to the Children's Museum in Memphis with their family. Now, fast forward to a hot July Sunday afternoon in Memphis. The family attended Sunday School and Church together, with Mama and Daddy. Grannie and Papa came to church but did not make it to Sunday School. Afterward, Grannie went straight to the kitchen to start Sunday supper.

As the morning church finished and Grannie set to work in the kitchen, the rest of the family shifted into their regular Sunday afternoon activities. Mama needed to do laundry and asked Lily and Noah to help. Noah wanted to play with Aria and Ezra next door, but replied, "Yes, ma'am," with a sad face. Lily went to her room to prepare for week seven of Street Reach Bible Club—only two weeks left this summer. She loves Bible Club. The afternoon was busy: Daddy and Papa napped, and Noah got to play with cousins, knowing he'd need to help soon.

After a restful nap, Daddy got up and went in to speak with Mama. "What do you think about a field trip to the Pink Palace next Saturday for the kids if they're good at Bible Club?" He asked. Mama looked at him. She thought that was a grand idea.

Later that night, at supper, as everyone enjoyed Grannie's special meal, Daddy brought up the Pink Palace to the kids. They were so excited. Lily knew it would be fun. Daddy's boss gave the family passes to the Pink Palace for use all summer. The only requirement: the kids must earn excellent marks at Bible Club all week!

After a restful Sunday evening, Monday morning arrived bright and hot. Of course, it's Memphis in the summer; what else would there be? Lily and Noah got ready for the day and headed for the kitchen to see what the breakfast would be. Mama and Daddy had already left for work. Papa was sitting at the kitchen table. "It's about time you lazy bones got up," he chuckled. "Eat your breakfast; I'll see you out front." The kids finished and helped clear the table for Grannie before going out to the porch. Papa sat

there with his coffee just waiting. "Hope you kids behave today." He said. "Wouldn't want a bad report on the first day!"

A little while later, the church people came down the road. The church leader paused for a moment to speak with Papa, then Lily rolled down her ramp with Noah right behind her. They joined the group and headed for their Bible club site. In short order, they were sitting under the big tree waiting for the story leader to appear. Then she stood up and began to speak. "Welcome, everyone. We are so happy to be here with you all this week. All week, we will be talking about gifts! No, not the kind wrapped up with a bow, but the kind that come from your heart – that are given by God!" The kids looked curious. "Let's just dive into this fruit basket, shall we?"

Today's story goes like this...

Today we are going to talk about fruit. Do you like fruit? What's your favorite? All fruit is different in taste, appearance, and texture (crunchy, soft, or juicy). The Bible talks about a different kind of fruit: the fruit of the Spirit. Like real fruit, each is unique. When we ask Jesus to live in us, His Spirit remains with us and gives us this special fruit. As we grow, the Spirit helps us gain more of these qualities and become more Christ-like. I'll tell you about this fruit, but first, I want to explain how God, Jesus (His son), and the Spirit are all God.

The fruit of the Spirit includes love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These are all good, and the Spirit wants us to have them. We need help from the Spirit to truly live them out. Let me explain each: Love is caring for someone no matter what. God loves us even more than our parents and helps us love others. Joy is an inner happiness, even when life is hard. Only God can give true joy. Peace isn't just about no fighting; God gives us calm and forgiveness when we get to know Him. Patience is waiting—sometimes for presents, sometimes for answers to prayers. Kindness means helping others, even those who aren't kind to us. Sometimes God urges us to do small acts, like writing a letter to a grandparent who might need cheering. Goodness is being honest and turning from wrong, showing God's goodness to others. Faithfulness is keeping promises, being loyal, and doing what you say you'll do. I think of my grandma, who prayed for me every single day. Gentleness is handling situations—like holding a baby—with care, even

when you must speak up for what's right. Finally, self-control means managing what we say and do, like not hitting a sibling when they annoy us. To live as God wants, we must ask Him in and rely on His Spirit for these gifts.

Stick up for ourselves. If someone is doing something you know is wrong, you should still tell an adult or tell them to stop. Just do it in a gentle way, as Jesus would do it. The last fruit is self-control, which is very important; it means being in control of what we say and do. Without self-control, we can't do the things we should. To live the way God wants, we have to be in control of what we do. Just like when a brother or sister bugs you so much you just want to hit them, we know that we must control ourselves and not hit them. We know we just can't do whatever we feel like, sometimes, because it's not right, and we'd be punished. Just remember that, with all these gifts, we need God's help to use them properly. We need to remember that God made us, and he is perfect. If you want the fruit of the Spirit first, you need to ask God to live in you. Then, as you get to know Him, the more fruit or gifts He will help you have.

After the lesson, Lily thought that was a lot of fruit! She wasn't familiar with this. She had heard the term before, but never a discussion about it. This would need some thought and discussion with Grannie. The kids finished their rotations and had a snack before starting home. When they arrived, Grannie was sitting on the porch waiting. The church leader gave her a thumbs-up before they went on down the road. Lily rolled up her ramp with Noah behind, giving her a gentle push.

Group Discussion Questions:

How many fruits of the Spirit are there?

Can you name one of the Fruits of the Spirit we talked about?

Who helps us use the fruit of the Spirit properly?

Bible Verse:

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, kindness, patience, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, and self-control." Galatians 5:22-23

Word of the Day: Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the one who speaks to people's hearts and helps them know they should receive Jesus as their Savior.

The Adventures of Lily & Noah

Do You Have a Gift? Love and Joy

As soon as the kids got to the house, Noah announced he was hungry. Lily replied that he should be, as he had just had a snack at Bible Club. They all went inside as it was so hot out. Papa invited Noah to a game of checkers. Lily sat with Grannie. She was learning how to crochet. It was fun, and Grannie was so good at it. Lily hoped to learn how and make some stuff. It was a nice way to spend a hot afternoon.

Later in the day, Lily was helping Grannie with dinner. While they were making the salad, Lily asked Grannie about the Fruits of the Spirit. "That's what we are talking about all week," Lily said. Grannie replied, "Pay attention to that one, child. You'll learn a lot." They talked some more about the various fruits and what they meant. It was fun talking about the Bible with Grannie. She knew so much.

Tuesday morning is as hot as Monday morning was. But that was no surprise. The kids got dressed and headed for the kitchen, where Papa was having coffee. Grannie had scrambled eggs, sausage, and toast for the kids. They enjoyed that and helped to clean up afterwards. Then they went out to the porch with Papa to wait for the church people. It wasn't long before they were coming up the road. This was a lively group. They were singing a fun song. Lily and Noah waved bye to Papa and joined the group. Their club site was not far, and soon they were sitting under the big tree waiting for the story leader. Then suddenly she stood up and started talking to the kids. "We continue talking about the Fruits of the Spirit today. Today we have Love and Joy. So, let's dive right in."

And today's story goes something like this...

LOVE

Our story about Love is a parable. Does anyone know what a parable is? Well, this one is called The Good Samaritan. It started with a man asking Jesus a question. The man who asked Jesus a question was very smart. Maybe he was trying to trick Jesus and see if he was a good teacher. This is what he asked: "Teacher, what should I do so I can go to Heaven and

live forever?" Jesus replied, "What is written in the Bible? What do you think?" The man answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength, and love your neighbor as yourself."

"That is right!" Jesus said. "Do this, and you will live forever in Heaven." But the man wanted to know more, so he asked Jesus, "And who is your neighbor?" Jesus decided to answer this question with a parable to help everyone who was listening understand.

Jesus said, "There once was a Jewish man walking along a road. He was coming from Jerusalem and was heading to Jericho, which was a full day or two of walking. The road was rocky, with small hills on either side. The man was just humming to himself and enjoying the nice day when suddenly a group of men jumped out from behind a hill. They took all his belongings and tore most of his clothes off. They didn't want him to follow them, so they beat him up very badly and left him lying and bleeding on the side of the road.

A few minutes later, a priest (do you know what a priest is?) was walking down the same path and noticed the man lying on the side of the road. Do you know what he did? You'd think he would run over and help the man. Instead, he crossed the road and walked on the other side and acted like he didn't see the man.

About an hour later, another man, a Levite, was walking down the road. (Do you know what a Levite is?) Maybe he would help the man. But you know what he did? He slowed down and walked a little closer to the man, but then kept walking without helping him at all.

You might be thinking that the man lying by the side of the road looked like he was resting, which is why the priest and the Levite didn't stop to help. The trouble is, it was easy to tell he was badly hurt. The man was bleeding, had most of his clothes ripped off him, and he was hardly breathing.

Just a few minutes later, another man came walking. He was a Samaritan. You should know that Jews didn't like Samaritans very much. The man lying on the road was a Jew. So, what do you think the Samaritan did? Well, as soon as he saw the man, he went over to him and felt compassion for him. He put bandages on his sores and poured oil and wine on the sores to help them heal. Then he lifted the man on his own donkey and took him to a hotel.

The next day, the Samaritan took out enough money so the man could stay at the hotel until he was well enough to leave. He paid the man at the front desk and asked him to take care of the man."

After Jesus finished the story, he asked, "Which of the three men do you think was a neighbor to the man who was left beaten on the side of the road?"

The man who asked him the question at the beginning replied, "The one who had compassion and helped him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do the same."

JOY

Our story about love is about Paul and Silas. This is how the events took place.

Paul and Silas were arrested. Then, city officials ordered them to be beaten and thrown in prison for disturbing the peace and telling people to break the law. Actually, Paul was preaching about Jesus to the people, and the city officials didn't like it.

While in prison, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and other prisoners were listening.

All of a sudden, an earthquake shook the prison, opening the doors and loosening all the prisoners' chains. The jailer woke up to find the open doors and was afraid the prisoners had escaped. Paul assured him that everyone was still there. The guard asked Paul and Silas how he could be "saved". The teacher taught the guard and his family the gospel, and they were baptized that night.

The next day, the city leaders released Paul and Silas, who then continued their missionary work in another city.

Paul and Silas showed joy in their mission and in preaching and teaching.

Lily thought that was a lot to pack in for one day. She would definitely be chatting with Grannie about this one. They finished their rotations and snack before heading home. When they arrived, Grannie was sitting on the porch. The church leader gave her a thumbs-up before they went on down the road. Lily rolled up her ramp with Noah right behind, offering support. Noah said Now I need food! Grannie just sighed, "Of course you do, son. Let's go in and feed you!"

Group Discussion Questions:

What is a Samaritan?

What is a Levite?

What is a priest?

Bible Verse:

"Yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation." Habakkuk 3:18

Word of the Day: Compassion

Showing kindness, caring, and a willingness to help others

The Adventures of Lily & Noah

Do You Have a Gift? Peace and Kindness

They all went inside. Papa was taking a nap, so they went to the kitchen where Grannie pulled out a bowl of watermelon she had cut up that morning. Noah's eye lit up. He loves watermelon. The kids sat in the kitchen snacking with Grannie. They were talking about the Bible Club and the different fruits. Grannie had Lily roll back to her room and grab her bible. They were going to look up the Fruits of the Spirit for the week. When Lily got back, they turned to Galatians 5:22-23. Grannie read them out loud. There are lots of them! They covered Love and Joy today, and we will see what they cover tomorrow.

In the meantime, Grannie told Lily it was time to start supper. It was not long before Mama and Daddy got home from work. Mama called for Noah to come home. He was next door playing with Aria and Ezra. He came home, and they washed up for supper. During supper, Daddy asked how Bible Club was. Lily told him they talked about fruit. She laughed when he looked at her with a curious face. "Not real fruit, Daddy." She said. "The Fruit of the Spirit in the Bible." Then he understood and nodded. "And what had you covered so far?" He asked. "Love and Joy," Lily replied. We all looked them up this afternoon in the Bible to see the rest of them – there's a lot!" Daddy told Lily that by Friday, he wanted to know what her favorite "fruit" was!

Wednesday has arrived. It's still hot in Memphis. But that's no surprise – way too soon for cold weather! At least it's not raining during Bible Club time. Lily and Noah got dressed for the day and headed to the kitchen, where they knew Papa would be sitting with his cup of coffee and whatever breakfast item Grannie had prepared. Today, there were pancakes. Lily and Noah loved Grannie's pancakes. Sometimes she put blueberries in them. And today was one of those days. Lily was excited. The kids ate their fill and helped to clean up. Then they went out with Papa to wait for the church people to show up. That didn't take long. Here they

Come down the road. The kids waved bye to Papa and joined the group going to Bible Club. Very soon, they were there and sitting under the big tree just waiting for the story leader.

She stood up. "Well, kids, we continue exploring the Fruits of the Spirit. Today, we will look at Peace and Kindness. Let's get right into our story."

And today's story goes something like this...

PEACE

There was a very rich man named Nabal living in the desert. He had a thousand goats and 3,000 sheep. David and the men in his army were hungry after running from King Saul, so David sent a messenger to ask Nabal for food. If you were a rich man like Nabal and David asked you for some food, would you give it to him? God likes it when we help other people, especially when they're hungry. But Nabal said he would not give David and his army any food. The messengers came back to David and told him that Nabal wouldn't give them any food.

David was angry that Nabal wouldn't give him any food. He was so angry, he said, "I'm going to go kill Nabal!" God doesn't like us to lose our temper and hurt people. It's not nice when people are mean to us, but God wants us to forgive them and not hurt them back. So, David was doing the wrong thing. He was going to kill Nabal. But then, Nabal's wife came to see David. Her name was Abigail. Abigail said, "David, please forgive Nabal. He didn't mean to give you any food. Look, I brought some food for you and your army. Please don't kill Nabal." Then, David was happy, and he said, "Abigail, thank you. I didn't want to kill Nabal. I just lost my temper. Now that you were nice and brought us some food, I feel better. I won't hurt Nabal."

KINDNESS

Naomi grew up in the promised land, which was also called Israel. But now she lived far away in a place called Moab. Elimelech, his wife Naomi, and their two sons moved there because there was more food there than where they had lived. This was because of a famine in Israel. Ruth was married to one of the sons. The other son was married to Orpah.

After a while, Elimelech died, but Naomi wasn't alone as she still had two sons and their wives. After about 10 years, the sons also died. At least Naomi still had Orpah and Ruth. Naomi considered them her daughters. One day, Naomi called her son's wives to her and told them, "The famine in Israel is over. I am going back to where I used to live, and I would like

you to go back to your family there. May God show you kindness as you have shown me." All the women hugged each other because they were such good friends.

Orpah didn't want to leave Naomi, but Naomi told her not to worry, she would be fine. So Orpah left to go back to her family. But no matter what Naomi said to Ruth, she would not leave. Ruth loved Naomi so much. "I will go wherever you go," Ruth said. "Your house will be my house. Your God will be my God."

So, Ruth and Naomi returned to Bethlehem together. (Bethlehem is a town in Israel.) It was a good thing Ruth went with Naomi because Bethlehem was very far away, and Naomi couldn't have traveled all that far by herself. Notice that Ruth never complains but is a good friend to Naomi. She wasn't expecting anything in return. She just wanted to help. (ask the kids, "Do you think helping others is being a good friend?")

When they got to Bethlehem, Ruth decided she should do some kind of work because they needed food. It was harvest time, so she worked in the fields following behind the harvesters and picked up any barley that they had dropped.

The owner of the field came by to greet the harvesters and noticed Ruth in the fields. He asked one of the harvesters who she was. "She came back from Moab with Naomi, that's all I know," the harvester replied. Lucky for Ruth, the owner of the field was Boaz, who was a kind man who believed in God. He was also related to Elimelech (Naomi's husband who had died). Boaz went to talk to Ruth. He said to her, "Don't go work in any other field, but stay here with the other servant girls. I will make sure you are safe, and whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars." When Ruth heard this, she bowed down to Boaz and asked, "Why are you being so nice to me? I'm not even from your land?" (ask the kids, "Do you think Boaz is a nice man and a good friend?") Boaz told Ruth he knew what she was doing for Naomi, that she had left her own family behind and moved to a place she'd never been. Boaz told her, "May the Lord reward you for your kindness."

Ruth thanked Boaz and continued with her work in the hot sun. Boaz even ordered his workers to drop extra barley so Ruth could have more for herself. Ruth took all the barley home and shared what she had with Naomi. And after a time, Ruth married Boaz, and everyone was happy. Ruth and Boaz had a baby boy named Obed. God had blessed Ruth and Grandma Naomi with a brand-new family.

Ruth's faithfulness and friendship to Naomi are a great example of love and loyalty. Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz are also faithful to God and his laws.

Being a good friend takes a long time to learn. A good friend is loyal, which means you keep your promises, and sometimes, when you don't feel like being a friend, you are anyway. Sometimes our friends aren't perfect, and they make mistakes, but we make mistakes too, and we don't want our friends to leave us when that happens.

God gives us friends when we need them, and we should treat them like a gift from God. Just like in the story, Naomi could've insisted the women come with her, but she was an unselfish friend and wanted them to be free to go home to be with their families. Ruth had a good attitude and showed everyone how kind she was.

Kindness makes all the difference.

Lily was going to have to make a list! She couldn't keep them straight. But she would try. They finished their rotations and had a snack before heading home. When they arrived, Grannie was rocking in her chair just waiting. The church leader gave her a thumbs-up before they continued down the road. It's a good week!

Group Discussion Questions:

What is barley?

How did Ruth show kindness?

How was Boaz kind?

Bible Verse:

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32"

The Adventures of Lily & Noah

Do You Have a Gift? Patience, Goodness, and Gentleness

So many fruits, Lily thought. She needs a poster! "How about a sandwich in the meantime?" she said. "Maybe that will help you to keep up!" Lily had to laugh. But deep down, she was thinking, maybe a poster might help her figure it all out. Lily went to her room, got her Bible and a pad and pen, and returned to the kitchen table. While Grannie was working, Lily handed the Bible to Noah. "Here," she said, "Look up Galatians 5:22-23 and read me the fruits of the spirit." Noah looked them up. Lily made a poster of the fruits. "Well, it looks like the next one on the list is going to be goodness. I wonder if they will do just that one or more tomorrow." Noah was impressed. Lily took the paper and stuck it to the fridge so she could watch it.

Later that evening, everyone sat down to a yummy supper. Daddy looked around the table and asked how Bible Club was today. Noah told him it was great. They were learning more fruits! Daddy laughed. He knew about the Fruits of the Spirit, so it was not a surprise. Then Daddy asked Aria and Ezra if they would like to go to the Pink Palace on Saturday. Their Mom and Dad were very surprised. Daddy told them he had some extra tickets and they were welcome. Their Mom said they had been very good at Bible Club and would love to.

Thursday has arrived. It was the usual hot, sunny day. The kids were up and ready for another day of fruit! They got dressed and headed to the kitchen for breakfast. Papa was in his chair with coffee and munching on some French Toast. They enjoyed breakfast and then helped clear up before going to the front porch to wait for the church people. Here they come now down the road, singing and skipping along the sidewalk. The kids waved bye to Papa before Lily rolled down her ramp with Noah close behind, joining the group. They get to their club site quickly and settle under the big tree. Then the story leader steps forward and begins speaking. "Good morning, kids!" She said. "We will continue this week on our journey through the Fruits of the Spirit. Let's join right in on today's adventure."

And today's story goes something like this...

GOODNESS

The Bible story of Mary anointing Jesus' feet with perfume is told in John 12:1-8. The story goes that while Jesus was visiting his friends, Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha, in Bethany, Mary brought out a jar of expensive perfume and poured it on Jesus' feet. She then rubbed it in and wiped his feet with her hair. Mary's actions were considered humble and worshipful, as wiping someone's feet was a sign of submission and servanthood. Mary also went against Jewish cultural norms by touching a man who wasn't her husband in public and letting her hair down. Mary's actions were motivated by her gratitude to God for sending Jesus to them. However, some of Jesus' disciples, including Judas, were upset by Mary's actions, believing the perfume could have been sold and the money given to the poor. Jesus defended Mary, saying that she had kept the perfume for the day of his burial. Jesus also told Mary that her sins had been forgiven because she had shown him love.

PATIENCE

Once there was a man named Abram. One day, the Lord came to talk to Abram, and Abram asked, "Who will have all my things when I die?" God promised Abram and his wife, Sarai, that they would one day become parents, even though they were old and had no children. God wasn't sure that Abram understood. So that night, he took him outside and said, "Do you see all the stars that are in the sky?" When Abram looked up, the whole night sky was full of stars, so many in fact that he would never be able to count them. Then God said, "That is how many children you will have". Quite a few years later, when Abram was ninety-nine years old (older than even your grandparents), the Lord decided to change Abram's name to Abraham, which means "father of many." He also changed Sarai's name to Sarah. God told them again that they would be parents and that they would have a boy. This time Abraham laughed so hard he fell on his face! It was hard to believe that he and Sarah would have a child in their old age. One day, three visitors came to Abraham's house. He hurried to meet them. "May I get you something to eat and drink?" Abraham asked. "Please come in and join us and have a rest on the couch. While the visitors were eating, they asked Abraham, "Where is your wife Sarah?" Abraham thought this was a little strange, but he replied, "She's in the other room". Then one of the men spoke and said, "I will come back to see you at this time next year, and Sarah will have a son. "Now, Sarah was

listening behind the living room door. She started to laugh, but covered her mouth and laughed to herself because she didn't want to be heard. Then she said to herself, "How can I have a child? I'm almost one hundred years old?" Later, when the visitors had left, Abraham and Sarah realized that the man who had told them this was indeed God. A year later, Sarah did have a son. She and Abraham named him Isaac, which means "he laughs." They were very excited and remembered to thank God for Isaac.

GENTLENESS

One day, some important people, called scribes and Pharisees, brought a lady to Jesus. They said, "Teacher, this lady was caught doing something terribly wrong. The law says we should throw stones at her. What do you say?" But they weren't really asking what Jesus thought. They just wanted to test him and make him look bad.

Jesus bent down and began writing with his finger in the dirt. They kept asking him the same thing over and over, but he didn't say anything.

Finally, Jesus stood up and said to them, "Let the person who has never done anything wrong throw the first stone at her." Then, he bent down and started writing on the ground again.

After hearing this, the scribes and Pharisees slowly went away one by one, starting with the older ones. Soon, only Jesus and the lady were left. Jesus stood up and asked the lady, "Where did they go? Did no one punish you?"

She replied, "No one, Lord."

Jesus said to her, "I don't punish you either. Go and don't do anything wrong again."

Lily was excited. She had three more fruits to add to her poster on the fridge. Something for this afternoon! They finished their rotations and snack before heading home. When they arrived, there was Grannie as usual, in her rocking chair. The church leader gave her a thumbs-up before they continued down the road. Noah was thinking about the fun they would have at the Pink Palace!

Group Discussion Questions:

Why did Mary wash Jesus' feet?

What did God promise Abraham?

How was Jesus gentle with the lady?

Bible Verse:

**"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me, all the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever." Psalm 23:6**

The Adventures of Lily & Noah

Do You Have a Gift? Faithfulness and Self-Control

They all went inside, where it was cool. Lily got her Fruits poster off the fridge and wrote down the latest fruits on it...patience, goodness, and gentleness. One more day this week with the fruits. Lily was really enjoying this week.

It wasn't long before Mama and Daddy got home from work. They all sat down for supper. Papa was very happy. Daddy asked the kids how Bible Club was going. Lily told him she had a poster on the fridge about all the fruits of the spirit they were learning. Daddy smiled. He liked seeing the kids involved in the Bible Club activities. "Are you ready for the Pink Palace on Saturday?" He asked. Noah and Lily both clapped and said yes! It was going to be a great day.

Friday has finally arrived. Lily was lying in bed, thinking it was great that it was Friday, but a little sad that next week would be the last week of Summer Street Reach Bible Club. She loves it so much. She finally got up and dressed for the day. She and Noah went to the kitchen for breakfast.

Soon they could be heard coming down the road, singing again as they had yesterday. Lily and Noah waved bye to Papa, then rolled down the ramp to join the group. They got to their club site and settled under the big tree for story time. The story leader stood up and started talking. "I can't believe it's already Friday." She said. "We have really enjoyed our time this week with all of you. Maybe we can come again next year. In the meantime, let's dive into our last day with the Fruits of the Spirit!"

And today's story goes something like this...

FAITHFULNESS

Job lived in a country called Uz. Job lived somewhere around 2200 BC (that's a very long time ago!). The land of Uz was probably somewhere near Syria or Jordan (have a map to show). He had a large number of cattle, numbering in the thousands. He had three daughters, seven sons,

and even more servants. Job was considered a rich man. Job was also a Godly man who trusted God for everything. He regularly prayed, asking God to bless him and forgive him for his sins. He built altars and made offerings to God.

When Job's sons grew up, they would hold large feasts (like a really big party with a lot of food!). The morning after each feast, Job would place offerings on the altar for all his children.

Satan knew that God loved Job, and that Job loved God. God blessed Job with many friends, with wealth, and with happiness.

Satan did not like this (are you surprised?). One day, he complained to God about Job. Job serves only because he is blessed. Satan also said that if Job had a lot of trouble, he would turn away from God.

Even though God knew that Satan was wrong, he allowed Satan to send Job a lot of trouble. And that is just what happened! Job's troubles began.

As Job's children were having a feast, a messenger brought bad news to Job. The messenger told Job that people came, stole all his donkeys and oxen, and killed all his servants. He was the only one who got away. Just then, another servant came to tell Job some more bad news. He told Job that lightning had killed his sheep and more servants. He barely escaped, too. Along came another servant to tell Job even more bad news. Some other people stole his camels and killed those servants. Then the worst news of all. The last servant came and told Job that a great wind had blown down the house where his children were, and they all died.

As you can imagine, Job was very upset with all of this bad news. He tore his clothes and fell down on his face (that was a custom in Bible times).

Even though he was very upset, he never turned away from God like Satan thought he would.

Since all of these bad things did not make Job turn away from God, Satan made life miserable for Job. Satan thought that if he made life even harder for Job, he would surely turn away from God.

Back when Job lived, people believed that bad things happened to people because God was punishing them for their sins. God was known to punish those who did not trust and obey him. Satan thought that Job believed this too, so he caused ugly sores to break out on Job's body.

Everyone was horrified, including his wife. She even told Job to curse God and die.

Job had three friends who came over to help him feel better. Even they thought that Job must have done something wrong. They thought God was punishing Job. Then one day God spoke to Job. God told Job that he

was upset with his three friends because they were wrong. Job had not done anything wrong. Job was not being punished by God. God began to bless Job again. His sores went away. He grew richer than he was before. In fact, he soon had twice as much! God gave Job more children, servants, and animals. Even when times were hard, he remained faithful to God.

SELF-CONTROL

After Jesus was baptized, he went away to the desert to be alone. He decided to pray and think about God for 40 days. Jesus did not want to be distracted by anything, so he fasted. Satan did not like it because Jesus only thought about God. Satan hated it that Jesus was so good all the time. He decided to tempt Jesus and try to make him do bad things. Satan came to Jesus and tempted him in three ways.

Temptation 1: Satan knew Jesus was really hungry, so he tempted Jesus to use his powers in a selfish way, all for himself. Satan said, "If you are really the Son of God, then use your special powers to turn these stones into bread." Jesus was hungry, but he knew that God wanted him to use only his special powers to help people. His power was not just for feeding himself! Jesus wanted to do the right thing. He knew the best way to answer Satan was to use God's words. Jesus had memorized many scriptures, so he knew exactly which to quote to Satan. He said this verse from the Bible, "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Temptation 2: Next, Satan took Jesus to Jerusalem to the temple. Both Jesus and Satan knew that the temple was a special place for God. They stood at the highest point of the temple. Satan wanted to get Jesus to doubt God's power. He told Jesus that he should give God a test to see if his power worked. Satan told Jesus to jump off the temple and see if God's angels would catch him. But Jesus did not need to put God to the test. Jesus already knew that God's power was stronger than anything in the world. Jesus told Satan another Scripture from God's word: "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

Temptation 3: You would think that Satan would have learned his lesson, but he REALLY wanted Jesus to mess up. Maybe Satan thought, "If only I can get Jesus to do things MY way, then I will be more important to him than God is." So Satan had one more thing he could do to tempt Jesus.

Maybe this time, he could get Jesus to sin. Satan took Jesus to the top of a very high mountain. They could see the whole world from the top of the mountain. So, Satan said, "You say you love all the people of the world. You say you want them to go to heaven. How about a deal? I will help all the people of the world go to heaven if you will just do one simple thing. All you have to do is bow down and worship me instead of God. "Do you think Jesus gave in to this temptation? No! Jesus had had enough. He told Satan to go away. Of course, he would never worship Satan! Jesus loved God. He would only worship God. Jesus quoted from the Old Testament one more time, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only. "Then Satan left Jesus. Angels came and helped take care of Jesus after that.

So now, Lily has all her Fruits of the Spirit to finish her poster. They did their rotations and had a snack before heading home. When they arrived, Grannie was right there in her rocker waiting for the kids. As Lily and Noah rolled up her ramp, the church leader gave her a thumbs up and hollered, "You have some great kids there!" Grannie waved back as the church people started off toward home.

Lily and Noah were a bit sad to see them go, but excited about tomorrow. See you all next week!

Group Discussion Questions:

What kind of man was Job?

What is temptation?

What are temptations for kids?