

Women In God's Service Bible Study

Series: "Growing Through Prayer"

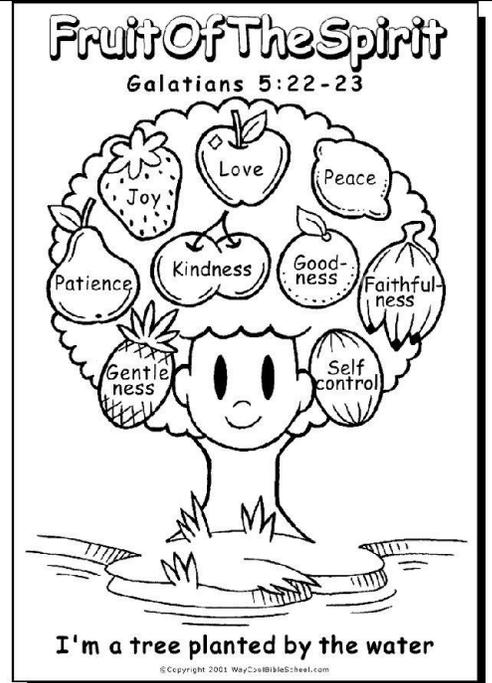
Rev. Robert Hodges, Pastor * Sis. Delores Hodges, First Lady

P. E. (Ret.) Ella Samuels, Teacher * Rev. Barbareta McGill, Assistant to the Teacher

Teleconference
Women's Bible Study
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Phone #: 712-775-7061
Code: 506451
July 17, 2021 @10:40AM



Today's Lesson: "Fruit of the Spirit: Joy"



Morning

Prayer

Sis. Daphne Wright

Scripture #s 1 & 2 Read By:

Sis. Lillie Harris

Matthew 28:1-8

1 John 1:1-4

Please be prepared to read
other scriptures in case I need
you to do so.

Scripture #s 3 & 4 Read By:

Sis. Shirley Staton

Galatians 5:22-25

John 15:8-11

Please be prepared to read other
scriptures, in case I need you to
do so.



Do You Remember...

From Last Week's Lesson

- Who is the god of this world?
- Complete the following sentences:
 - The Fruit of the Spirit is the _____ of _____
- _____ produced in the lives of the saints by the _____.
 - The Fruit of the Spirit is the _____ of a Christian's _____.
 - The _____ of the _____ is the evidence of a true Holy Spirit filled Christian.
 - The "Fruit of the Spirit" is _____ Fruit with _____ qualities.
- What does Paul tell us to eagerly desire?
- What scripture tells us that Jesus is the True Vine?

5. What does He call us?
6. What did Paul say was the reason for many of the problems in the Corinthian Church?
7. Complete this sentence: Love can be divided into three categories
 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
 One means what makes Love what it is. Two means how Love behaves. Three means with Love comes assurance.
8. Which of these is "Love is kind" listed under? _____
9. Which of these is "Love is not rude" listed under? _____
10. Which of these is "Love hopes" listed under? _____



The world has a terrible shortage of joy and a surplus of fear, worry, discouragement and depression. Surveys have been conducted by General Social Survey since 1972, which collected data on American attitudes and behaviors and less than 29% of Americans have ever called themselves very happy in that survey.

There is a difference between Joy and Happiness. Happiness is a glad feeling that depends on something good happening. God never intended for us to be on an emotional high all the time. There is "a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance." (Ecclesiastes 3:4) God wants us to experience happy times as long as He approves of what is happening. However, He wants us to be Joyful always. (1Thessalonians 5:16)

In preparing for this lesson, one resource gave several things that people chase after to bring them joy or happiness. I want to share three of those things that some of us may recognize.

1. **The Next Relationship.** Don't get me wrong, God designed us for relationships and there is joy in healthy relationships – however too many want relationships on selfish terms. What we must realize is, relationships require humility and selflessness.
2. **The Next Purchase.** Too often joy is sought in a bigger house, a nicer car, the next cool technology, or more fashionable clothes. Sadly, the person searching for joy in the next purchase will find that "Things" lose their appeal and that makes us have to search again, again, and again...Purchase again, again, again...

3. **The Next Paycheck.** Money is not the secret to joy. Zig Ziglar is quoted as saying: “Money won’t make you happy, but everybody wants to find out for themselves.” Many rich people have committed suicide because they were depressed.

God’s greater desire is that we have unconditionally joy. When Paul lists the “Fruit of the Spirit,” Joy is second to Love. If we are filled with Godly Love, it will produce Joy. God is Love, and Jesus said, “If you keep My commandments, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and remain in His love. ***I have told you these things so that My joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.***” (John 15:10-11) Now, let us hear more about how this complete Joy can be ours.



*Lesson Taught by (Ret.) Presiding Elder Ella M. Samuels
Foundation Scriptures: Galatians 5:22-25; John 15:10-11*



Closing Prayer: Sis. Linda Wright

The Departing Blessing:

Leader: The peace of God be with you

Response: And also with you.

