

DAY 6

Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.

Matthew 7:20 NLT

Apple trees do this wild and crazy thing! During apple season, they produce apples! And you'll never believe this: grape vines do this crazy thing where they produce grapes! Okay, so that's not actually crazy. In fact, it's totally expected that a plant produces the type of fruit that it's supposed to, isn't it? Well, the same is true for you! If you follow what Jesus teaches, your life will produce evidence of that. You'll produce good things like love, patience, kindness, and more. Just like apples on trees and grapes on vines, God's Spirit will produce good fruit in your life!

Today, take a picture of a cool plant you see. Use it as a reminder to look for the good kind of fruit that the Spirit of God is producing in your life!

DAY 7

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23

What's important to God should be important to us. When we follow God, we value what God values. And Scripture helps us know what that is! So work to memorize this verse to help you value the things that are important to God.

Commit to saying this verse in your head as you change classes this week. See how many days it takes you to be able to say the entire thing from memory!

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN
everyday faith.

STEP BY STEP / WEEK 3

MIDDLE SCHOOL

DAY 1

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 1 John 4:8 NIV

Each one of us has different ways that we feel or experience love. For some, it's kind words. For others, it's having someone help you out when you need it most. Well, what's cool is that Scripture tells us that God is love. So when we feel love from others, we're experiencing a little bit of God's love through them. And when we show love to others, we're showing them that same little bit of God's love, too!

Today, ask God to give you opportunities to share love with the people you see and interact with throughout your day.

DAY 2

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. Colossians 3:14 NLT

There's one thing we all have to do every day, and that is get dressed. Just like you can choose what clothes you wear, you can choose to put on love each day. You can "wear" love in a way that shows that caring about others, treating people with kindness, and helping when you see a need is important to you. When you choose to put on love every day, you live in a way that shows that love to others around you.

Today, do one thing to love someone else. Maybe it's playing with your younger sibling, or telling your friend you care about them, or helping out at home. Pick one thing and do it as a way to show love today!

DAY 3

When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.
John 15:8 NLT

There's a process for how fruit grows: Seeds are planted, plants grow, and then those plants produce fruit. In the same way, we produce fruit in our own lives. Okay, not actual fruit, but the qualities that can help us become more like Jesus. These are things like love, patience, kindness, peace, joy and more. How does that happen? By staying connected to the Holy Spirit. When we do, that fruit will continue to grow in us as followers of Jesus.

Say a prayer today, asking God to continue to let the Spirit work in you to produce the kind of qualities that will transform you into someone more like Jesus, step by step!

DAY 4

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.
John 15:16 NIV

Fact: Fruit doesn't last long. There's a very small window from the time you get it at the store to the time it can't be eaten any more. If you're not careful to eat it, you'll end up with a bunch of rotten fruit left on the counter! What's cool about the fruit the Spirit of God produces in our lives is that it never goes bad. It never runs out, or rots, or stops being good.

Which fruit of God's Spirit do you need more of in your life today? Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, or self-control? Write that word somewhere you'll see it throughout the day as a reminder to let God's Spirit work in you!

DAY 5

"Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we urge you in the name of the Lord Jesus to live in a way that pleases God, as we have taught you. You live this way already, and we encourage you to do so even more."
1 Thessalonians 4:1 NLT

Written by Ryan, age 20, from Gilbert, Arizona, USA

I remember the first time I ever took a Spanish class. I was a seventh grader, and on the first day of class, we were asked to say two sentences in Spanish. I failed big time because I simply did not understand the Spanish language. But as time passed and I became more familiar and understood Spanish more, my speaking and listening skills improved.

My Spanish class and our faith are similar in a way. Just as learning Spanish starts with understanding, so does becoming the qualities of the fruit of God's Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Understanding what these qualities truly are is what help us become more like Jesus. He was the greatest example of these qualities! And as we become more like Him, living our lives in a way that honors and pleases God.

So today, pick one of these qualities that you want to understand more: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Then ask God to help grow that quality in you this week to help you become more like Jesus.