

“Fruit of the Spirit” Crafts

Day One: Option #1 Apples—The Definitive Fruit!



Make these cute little apple ornaments to hang in a window or on a wall, or to lean up on a little shelf. Apples are in many ways the definitive fruit when it comes to spiritual metaphors... easily recognizable skin, meat, and core makes apples wonderful when teaching kids about the Holy Trinity! To have a simple apple hanging in the campers' homes might just remind them that within them lie 9 fruits of the spirit!

Supplies needed:

6x6" pieces of paper cut from brown paper bags—doesn't have to be precise.
Apple-shaped templates cut out of cardstock for tracing.
Liquid tempera paint...green, yellow, & red (Put a small amount into separate small paper plates.)
Small pieces of sponge
Scraps of brown and green construction paper
Scissors, glue, pencil
Red, yellow, and green yarn
Big plastic needles
Cotton balls
Newspaper to cover the table during painting

Give each child a couple pieces of the brown paper bag squares. Have them use the sponges and the paint to print on the paper... encourage them to leave some brown showing through... it looks cool that way! Keep the paint layers to a minimum to ensure drying time. Be sure that if they want to mix the colors that they don't mix green and red—no one wants a brown apple.

Once dry—and that should be fairly soon—have the kids put their two pieces of paper together—back to back so that the painted sides are both showing. Put a little roll of tape in the center between the papers so they don't slide. (You'll remove the tape later.) Using the apple pattern on the cardstock, have the kids trace a shape of an apple on ONE side of the painted papers. Then, keeping the two papers taped together, cut the apple shape out of both sides at once. This will give you two back-to-back apple shaped pieces of painted paper.

Keeping the two apples taped (temporarily) together, give the kids a plastic needle threaded with the yarn color of their choice. Starting at the top of the apple, show them how to “sew” around the apple. You might need to draw dots onto the apple with a sharpie for younger kids.

When about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way around the apple, remove the tape and stuff a few cotton balls into the apple's pocket. Continue to sew until you reach the top. Tie off both ends of the apple and tuck in the yarn. Add a stem and leaf cut from the construction paper.

Use as an object lesson when talking about the seeds within the apple, the holy trinity, the connection between the vine and the branches, or any number of other lessons!

“Fruit of the Spirit” Crafts

Day One: Option #2 Simple, Simple, Simple Fruit Rainbow



Supplies needed:

Photocopied paper rainbows
Crayons
Scissors
Liquid Glue
Fruit Loops

Be sure to put names on the back first... otherwise these will look a lot alike. Have the kids color their rainbow, then cut out, and finally glue the fruit loops onto the corresponding color. You can add cotton balls at the ends of the rainbow if desired.

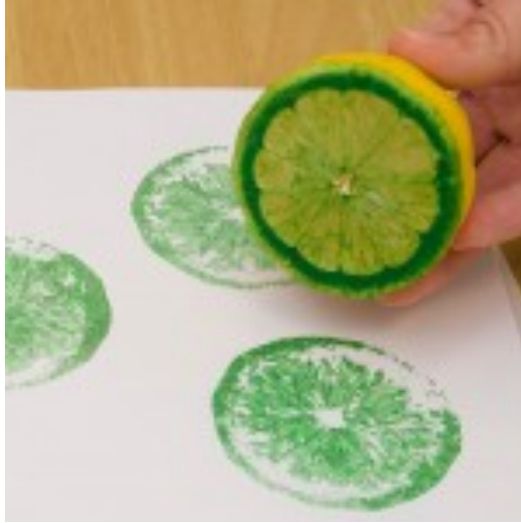
While doing this project, talk about how we don't just have one fruit of the spirit within us, but we have all of them within us. And having all those fruits together, it is as if we have a rainbow growing in us... a rainbow that will grow inside us for our entire lives that we can share with others.

Review love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

“Fruit of the Spirit” Crafts

Day One: Option #3 Fruit Prints— Very Cool And Quite Beautiful!

(You could also use fruit shaped sponges.)



You will need:

12”x12” white construction paper, divided into 9 separate 4”x4” boxes (tic-tac-toe style). Use a ruler for this... make it look uniform.

Assortment of fruits, cut in half with a sharp knife. Make sure the cuts produce a FLAT surface of fruit.

Assortment of paints, in fruit colors, poured onto paper plates.

Markers

Practice paper

Newsprint to cover the work space

Using a small amount of paint in each paper plate, allow the kids to practice using the fruit halves to print images onto the practice paper. They will find that the best images are created when using a small amount of paint. Talk about the difference between stamping and smearing. Smaller amounts of paint show more detail in the fruit.

When they are ready, give them the 12x12” piece of paper that has been divided into 9 parts using a sort of tic-tac-toe design. Have the kids print a different fruit image in each of the nine boxes. These will dry quickly.

When dry, have the kids use markers to write the names of the 9 fruits of the spirit, one in each box. Again, let them practice first, so that their spelling is correct and they can estimate how large they will want to make their letters.

Another way to do it: If you are not excited about the separated, 9-box look, just do a fruit stamping collage... put the words in randomly... or, cut letters out of magazines (ransom note style) to indicate the fruits of the spirit.

“Fruit of the Spirit” Crafts

Day Two: Option #1 Love!

The first fruit of the spirit named in Galations is LOVE! Here is a simple, inexpensive, yet lovely craft to represent this “fruit!”



Supplies needed:
Toilet paper rolls
White construction paper
Red paint
Other paint or colored chalk

First give each child time to decorate the “background” of his or her project. It can be with done with paint, fingerpaint, or chalk. Just be sure that the background colors are more pastel, and that they will make a nice contrast to the red of the hearts. Encourage the kids to make the background all the way to the edge of their paper.

Give the kids a toilet paper roll that has been bent into the shape of a heart. You might want to let them practice dipping the roll into the red paint and printing an image before they try it on their actual project. When they feel ready, let them go for it on their project paper. They can make their heart prints randomly all over their paper, or they can make a chain of hearts, or even a big heart shape made out of little heart prints. Any which way, it will be a neat project! And cheap!

Alternative: Try it on a T-shirt! Only use tie-dye first, then acrylic paint! Or--- skip the colored background and just have them use a variety of colors for the hearts on a t-shirt! That could look really great! Always practice first, before going on to the actual project!!!!!! (If you do a t-shirt, be sure to put newspaper inside the shirt so that the paint doesn’t seep through to the back of the shirt.

“Fruit of the Spirit” Crafts

Day Two: Option #2 Joy Grows



When talking about joy with kids, you can tell them that the Spirit allows joy to grow in our hearts every day! It is not about being “happy,” but rather, it is about knowing that we are loved beyond measure by the very same God who created the stars and the planets! So joy grows within us on good days, and on bad ones! To remind the kids about how joy is constantly growing, why not paint a pot to grow some flowers in? Depending on your budget, the size of the pot can vary greatly.

Supplies needed:

A Terracotta pot for each child, as well as a terracotta dish for under the pot
Acrylic paints – Stick with bright colors, otherwise the paints might turn muddy
Paint Brushes
Paper to cover the work space

Extra! If you want to go the extra mile, get potting soil and seeds... or potting soil and starter plants.

If you are wise, you will talk with the kids before giving them the paint... help them to come up with a plan for their pot. Show them various painting techniques with different brushes...encourage them to take their time!

“Fruit of the Spirit” Crafts

Day Two: Option #2 Let There Be Peace On Earth!

Although the picture shows the John 3:16 verse, this project would go nicely with the lyrics from the old song, “Let there be peace on earth.” This project would be quick, easy, and inexpensive.

Supplies needed:

Blue construction paper

Something to trace around -- like a plate -- and some pencils

A second, *slightly* smaller plate

Scissors

Green and tan tempera paint—other colors if desired

Sharpie markers

Trace around the plate on the blue paper. Cut out the circle. Then have the kids trace around their circle a second time with a smaller plate. That will give them a line upon which to write their words.

Once the plate is done being used for tracing, put green tempera paint in it and smear it around. Take the kids one at a time and help them to smear their hands in the paint, then help them press their hands gently onto the blue circles to form “continents.” Have a second adult or helper take each child to wash hands while the next child is painting. By the time they get back from washing, their paint is probably dry enough for them to begin writing. (The kids can also be writing while they are waiting for their turn at the green paint.) They can put the tan cross in the middle at the very end.

Suggested lyrics for writing: Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

“Fruit of the Spirit” Crafts

Day Two: Option #3 Have Patience

This craft will take patience, so if that is the topic of the day, this is your project!



Supplies needed:

Paint store sample cards or wall paper sample books

Construction paper... any color will work. Probably not bigger than 9x9". (The picture shows the design on white, but black or blue or ANY color would be cool, depending upon the color of your dots.)

A simple shape (like a cross or a heart or a star) to fill in with dots... you could get a little trickier by using a simple coloring book design... or the outline of a word... or the outline of a name...

Paper punchers... kids can share these, as the punching takes less time than the gluing.

Glue

Punch a handful of dots, then glue them in place, one by one. Avoid the temptation to put a puddle of glue down and then to dump the dots. Time and patience is the key!

Variation: Use different shapes of punchouts. Paper punches are available in TONS of shapes... snowflakes, hearts, stars, moons, leaves, etc.

To finish, it would be really cool to “frame” the project by gluing a piece of contrasting construction paper to the back that is a couple inches bigger than the first piece. Be sure the framing color looks good with the dots!

“Fruit of the Spirit” Crafts

Day Three: Option #1 Kindness Cootie Catchers



Many of you grew up making “fortune tellers.” This is the exact same idea, but each and every “fortune” contains words of kindness and inspiration. You might use some of the kindness quotes found in day three of the Daycamp study for the inside messages... or have the kids think up messages on their own.

Supplies needed:

Square paper, 8 ½ x 8 ½ inches

Pens or markers

Stickers if desired

Here’s how you make them, in case you don’t remember from when you were in 4th grade!!!

Step 1: Start with a 8 ½ inch square piece of paper.



“Fruit of the Spirit” Crafts

Step 2: Fold the paper in half, first one direction, than the other direction. Crease well and unfold. Be as precise in your folding as possible throughout the project.



Step 3: Make another 2 folds, this time diagonally. Crease well and unfold.

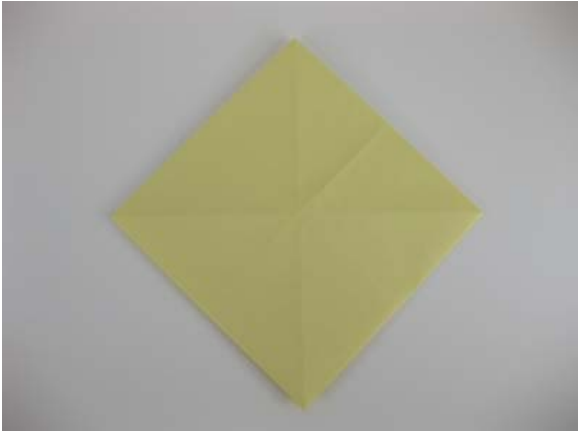


Step 4: Fold all four corners up so that the tips line up with the center folds. Crease, but do not unfold these.



“Fruit of the Spirit” Crafts

Step 5: Flip paper over. This is where you will write your words of kindness. You can write something in each of the 8 quadrants, or you can write something in each of the four corners, combining two quadrants for each message of kindness.



Step 6: Once messages are written, fold each corner again so that they all meet in the center. This fold will hide all messages. It is important to be as precise in your folding as possible.



Step 7: You now have 8 more quadrants. Number each quadrant, 1-8, but do your numbering randomly.



“Fruit of the Spirit” Crafts

Step 8: Flip paper over. This will reveal 4 flaps. Place a colored dot on each of the four flaps. Pry the flaps up in order to create a space for your thumbs and index fingers in the paper, while pushing the center of the other side in. These four flaps should pop out while center of the other side pops in. All four corners will come together.



Step 9: Ta-dah!



Step 10: Holding the Cootie Catcher using your index fingers and thumbs, ask a friend to choose a color. Spell the color as you open and close the Cootie Catcher in alternate directions. This will reveal 4 numbers. Ask the friend to pick a number. Count to that number, opening and closing the Cootie Catcher in alternate directions again. Repeat 2-3 times. Finally, ask the friend to pick one last number. At that point, open the flap of that number which will reveal the words of kindness you wrote there earlier. Bless your friend with these words!

“Fruit of the Spirit” Crafts

Day Three: Option #2 Oh My Goodness!



I'm sure the picture speaks for itself with regard to how to make this project! Use your crafts time to bake/or decorate cookies, and while they are in the oven, make these cute little baskets. It doesn't have to be girly... you could use Bronco colors! Or make cowboy boot shaped cookies! (Just beware of peanut butter.) Have the kids think of someone they could share the cookies with... someone who has been a blessing in their lives... or someone they want to be a blessing TO... maybe an neighbor, maybe a grandparent, maybe someone who works construction and could use a break! Share the goodness!!! Maybe put a note in the basket... "The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience... etc." Make someone's day!

“Fruit of the Spirit” Crafts

Day Four: Option #1

Jesus has been faithful to us... let us be faithful to Him!



Create these beautiful and simple crosses to put in a window. Any age can make these!

Supplies needed:

Waxed paper

Tissue paper scraps... assorted colors

Elmer's glue

Scissors

Cross templates cut out of tagboard... one for each child (or another shape representing Jesus)—The picture shows green tagboard... I think black would be really good looking.

Craft stick (Popsicle stick)

Tear a supply of tissue paper scraps, each about the size of a quarter. Set aside.

Roll out a piece of waxed paper that is twice the size of the cross template you have designed. Pour a supply of glue onto the waxed paper, and use the craft stick to spread the glue evenly onto the waxed paper, making a thin coat of glue on half of the paper. Cover all the glue with the scraps of tissue paper. Put another thin coat of glue on the other half of the waxed paper and carefully fold the glue side to the other side, sandwiching the tissue paper between. You might want to have the kids use a rolling pin or a heavy object of some sort to make the project lay very flat.

Glue the template over the project, being careful to glue all around the edges so that no gaps appear. When dry, cut around the template with a steady hand and display in the window. You might want to use a ruler to draw the lines with a pencil and have the kids do the cutting.

“Fruit of the Spirit” Crafts

Day Four: Option #2 Gentleness! Handle with Care!



Using empty eggshells and a variety of paints, create some beautiful works of art! But be gentle! Eggs are so fragile! Just like people! **Do not do this project outdoors... a slight breeze will take out your whole project!**

Supplies needed:

Empty eggs... blown out. Google “How do I blow out eggs?” if you don’t know how. There are several helpful (some hilarious) videos to aid in this process!

A variety of paint... acrylic, nail polish, food coloring, etc.

Toilet paper rolls cut into 1 inch pieces to use as a base while the eggs are being painted and to use as a drying rack.

A variety of small paintbrushes

Toothpicks for tiny little dots

Sponges for a different textured look

Cups of water for washing out brushes

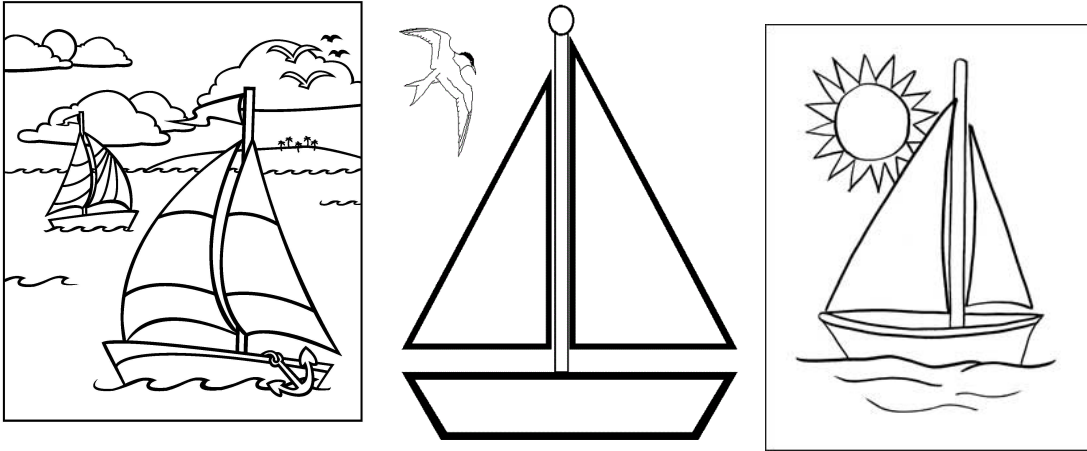
Decide ahead of time whether the kids will be blowing out their own eggs or whether you want to have a supply of empty eggs on hand. Older kids may be able to do it... younger kids, well, probably not so much.

Show the kids the picture above to inspire them. Be sure they make a plan before they proceed. Use the toilet paper rings to steady the eggs and as a holder while their eggs are drying. Remind them that one of the fruits of the spirit is gentleness, and they will need to exercise extreme gentleness as they complete this project. When it is finished, they can create some sort of nest for their project using shredded paper, or even

“Fruit of the Spirit” Crafts

using grass. Have them keep their egg as a reminder to be gentle in their actions, in their thoughts, and in their words.

Day Four: Option #3 Being Carried By The Wind, But Controlled By Our Will



One of the fruits of the spirit for today is self-control. I came across a great quote that says, “We can’t control the wind, but we can adjust our sails.” That made me think that an image of a sailboat would be a great craft to represent self-control. We can’t always control our circumstances, but we can *adjust* to them and we CAN control our attitudes... at least with practice. In any case, this craft is intended to communicate that the sailboat represents self-control. The wind may push us... but we must remain at the rudder, steering our lives in a direction that will be pleasing to God!

Supplies needed:

Attached coloring book pictures of sailboats, enlarged and photocopied onto light blue construction paper

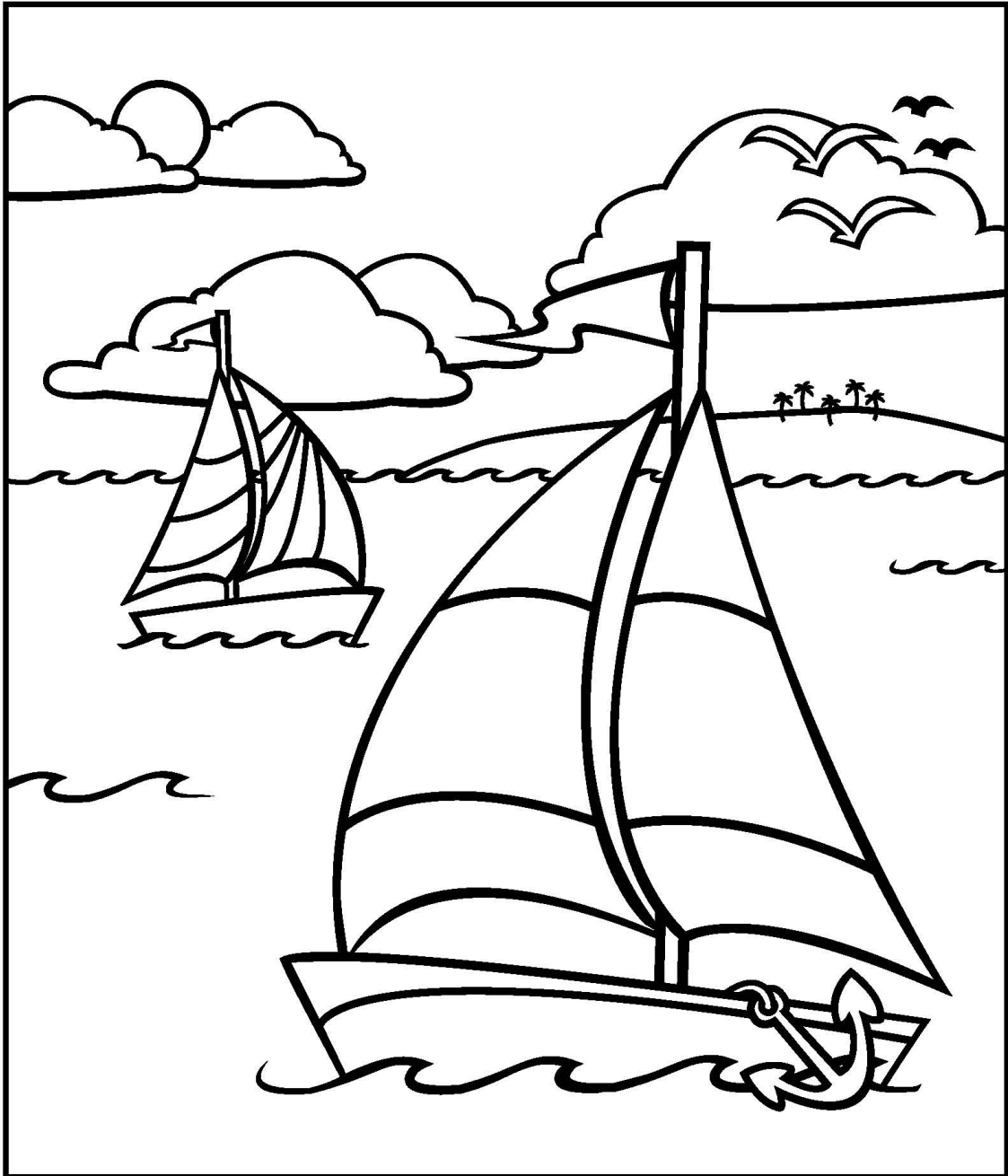
Elmer’s glue and water mixture, 50-50%

Paintbrushes that can get glue on them

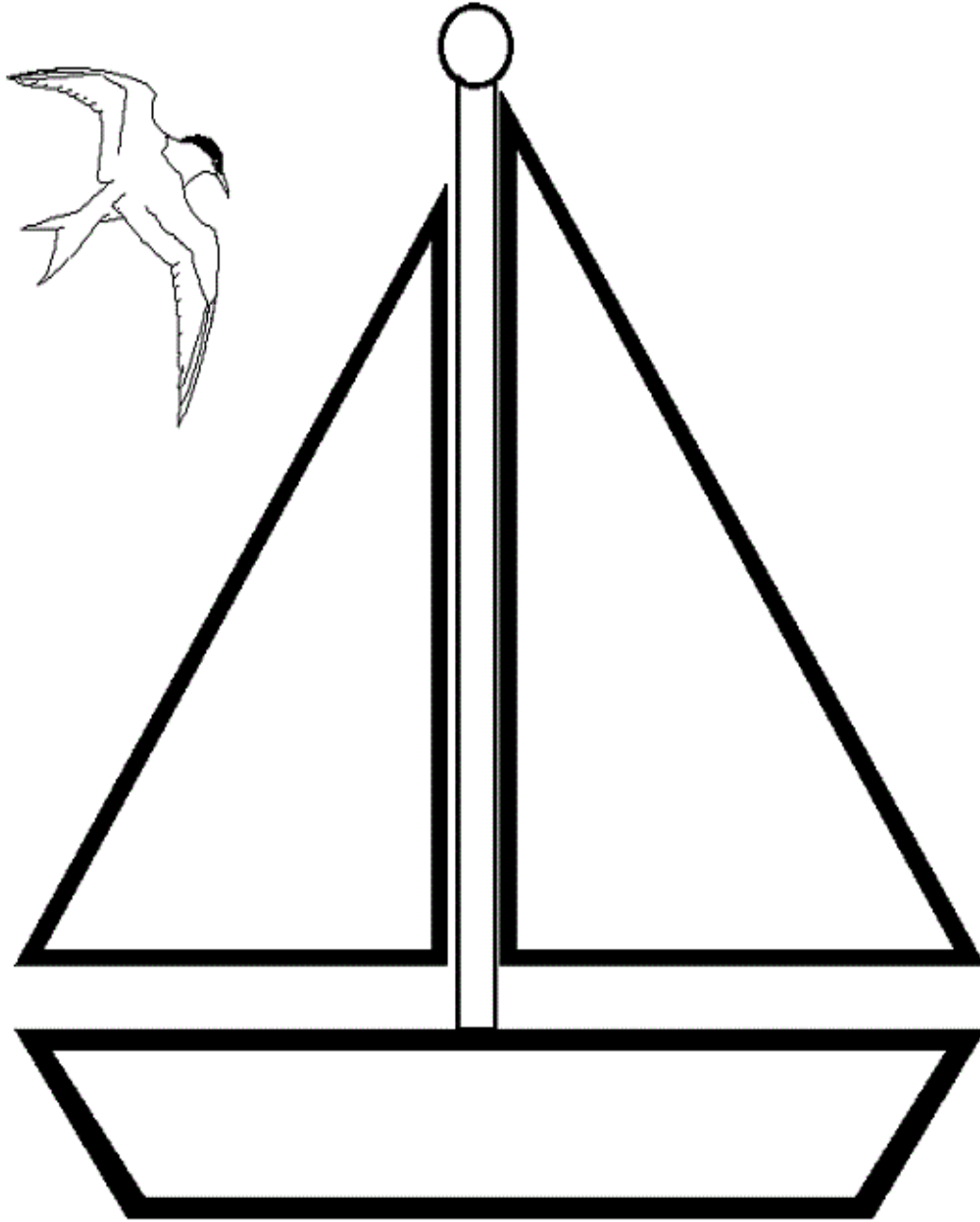
Assorted wrapping paper or wallpaper, cut into quarter-sized, irregular triangles. Keep different kinds of wrapping paper in separate bowls or containers.

Give each child a copy of the sailboat of his/her choice. Paint a small area of the sailboat with the glue water mixture. Choose a color of wrapping paper to stick on the glue, in essence covering the entire area, but keeping all little pieces inside the line. In order to keep glue from drying too soon, work on a small portion of the picture at a time. The wrapping paper pieces can overlap, or kids might want to leave spaces between the pieces. Either way is great. Encourage the kids to select one type of wrapping paper for the boat, another color for the sails, another for the water, etc. Picture can be coated with modpodge to give it a sheen, or just left alone. Frame by gluing to a slightly larger piece of black construction paper.

“Fruit of the Spirit” Crafts



“Fruit of the Spirit” Crafts



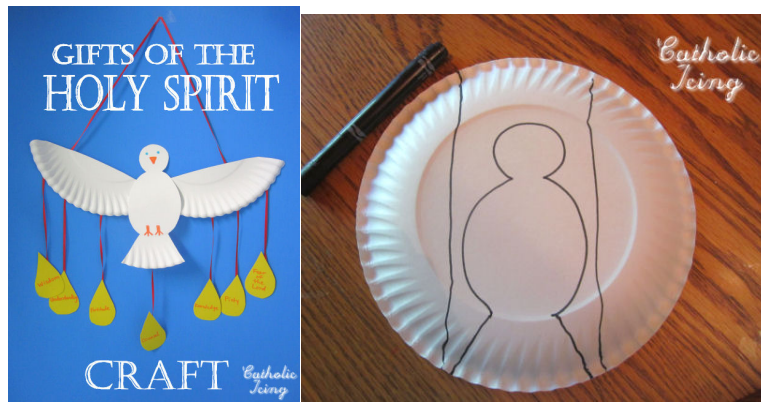
“Fruit of the Spirit” Crafts



“Fruit of the Spirit” Crafts

Day Five: Option #1 Holy Spirit Dove

This is an easy, inexpensive project... little kids can do it successfully, bigger kids can do it beautifully. Although in the picture, this dove is flying upward, I think I would turn it around and make it a descending dove, to go with today’s scripture and the story of Jesus’ baptism. Additionally, the picture shows the GIFTS of the spirit...which are different from the FRUITS of the spirit. You could use the little yellow flames as pictured, but substitute the names of the Fruits of the spirit instead of the Gifts, **or**—and I think this is what I would do—fruit colored droplets! Add clear glitter if you want it to sparkle!



Supplies Needed:

- White paper plate (the cheap kind)
- Markers
- Scissors
- Tape or glue
- String or ribbon
- Yellow Paper (or fruit colored)
- Clear glitter
- You might want a straight edge or ruler of some sort if you tend to be a perfectionist.

Start with a regular, cheap paper plate. First, cut it into thirds in big strips. You may want to draw the lines on ahead of time. (The good thing is, if the kids mess this part up, the plates are very inexpensive and they can start over.) The outside pieces become the wings, and the middle becomes the body of the dove. Cut the dove’s tail and body from the middle section after cutting the wings free. The dove’s body is easy to draw because it’s just shaped like a snowman. You might want to make a template for the kids to trace. Draw the lines you need to cut on the back of the paper plate. That way, when you flip it over the lines won’t show.

Cut on your lines, and then assemble like a dove with one of the big wings on each side. Secure the wings on the back of the dove with tape or glue...or both. Draw on some simple feet, a beak, and 2 eyes with markers.

Decide what shape of objects you want to have hanging down. Droplet shapes are probably the easiest... Gold, as pictured, or fruit colored. Maybe fruit shaped? Tape string or ribbon to the back of each droplet, and then to the back of the dove. Tape one more piece of string or ribbon on the back of each wing so you can hang your dove.

“Fruit of the Spirit” Crafts

Day Five: Option #2 The Baptism Of Jesus



One of the symbols of baptism is the seashell, and our most powerful image of our salvation is the cross. When the two are combined, it makes a sort of complete picture. In our baptism, we were claimed by God as His beloved children...and in his death on the cross, Jesus completes the promise given to us by God at our baptism. Today’s study included the story of Jesus’ baptism... which marked the beginning of His work toward our salvation.

Supplies needed:

Popsicle sticks
Waxed paper
White craft glue
Assortment of tiny seashells (available at most craft stores)
Twine

Use waxed paper as a work surface... it won’t stick to the project as much as newsprint... and this project can get very gluey. Glue two popsicle sticks together to make a cross. Tie the twine around each “arm” of the cross to make a loop from which to hang the cross when it is finished. Starting in the middle, begin to glue seashells to the popsicle sticks, being sure to use plenty of glue. Use a variety of sticks, and try to cover all exposed wood. When finished, it makes a wall hanging for a small space or it makes a nice Christmas tree ornament.

“Fruit of the Spirit” Crafts

Day Five: Option #3 The Vine And The Branches



“Fruit of the Spirit” Crafts

The picture shows a fall tree, but you can make it into an apple tree, lemon tree, orange tree... some type of tree that is full of fruit... or even a grape vine with lots of leaves and grapes...to reinforce the concept of Jesus being the vine, and us being the branches. We cannot produce fruit unless we abide in Him!