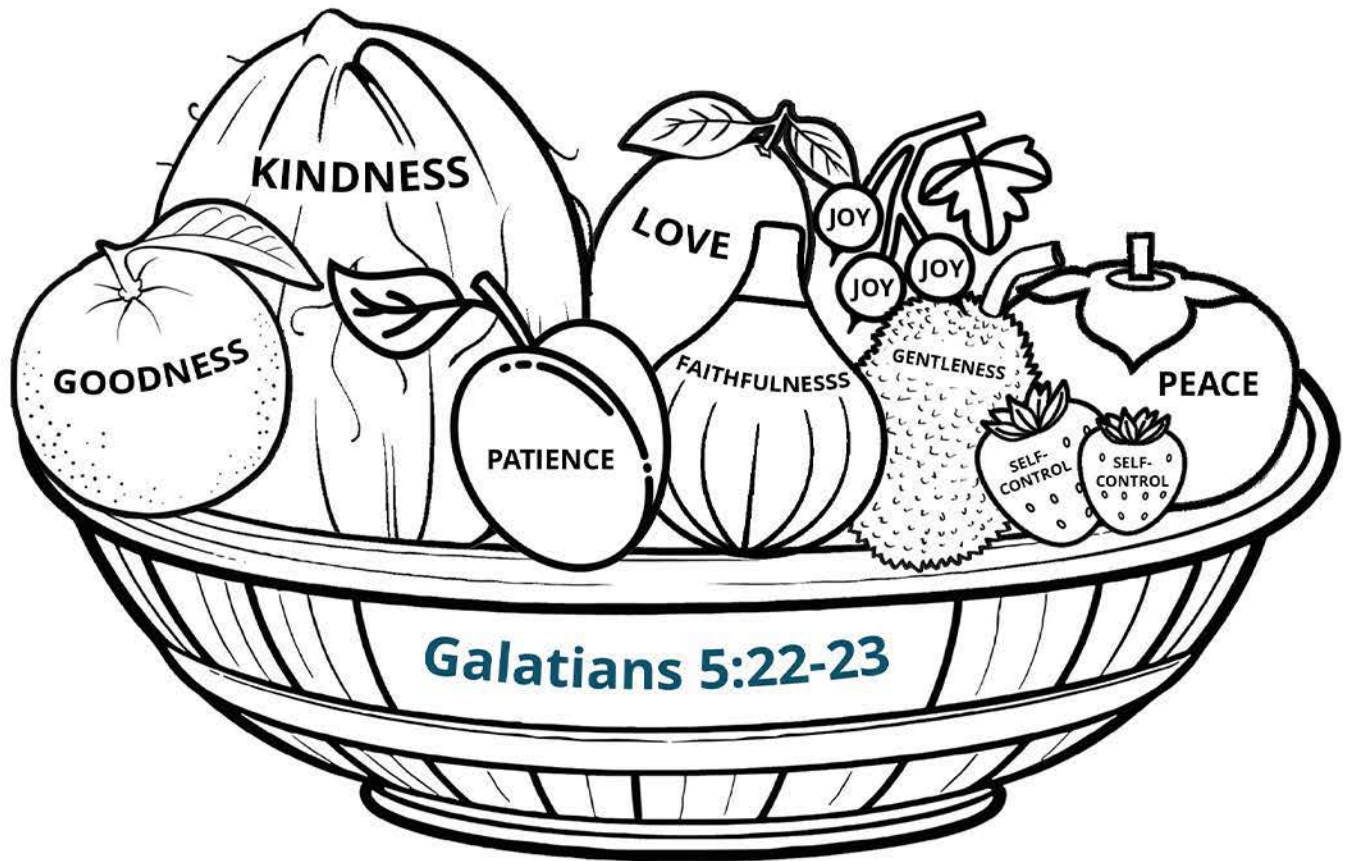


THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Letter *love* onto a lemon and *joy* onto jostaberries. Print *peace* on a persimmon and *patience* on a plum. Carve *kindness* into a coconut and *goodness* on a grapefruit. Form *faithfulness* on a fig and *gentleness* on a jackfruit. Over them all, stamp strawberries with *self-control*.



LIVING OUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

The Fruit of the Spirit is a grace-filled, mercy-rich, steadily-deepening soul growth in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). As we lean into Jesus, His Spirit guides ours, and His fruit flourishes within us. Consider these questions, then let God's Spirit speak.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

1. Do I treat others with the abundant *love* and genuine respect that Christ shows me?
2. Do I choose *joy* daily or does my happiness depend upon my circumstances?
3. Am I frazzled and irritated by frustrations or do I experience the extraordinary *peace* of God?
4. Am I easily frustrated, angered, or agitated, or am I able to remain calm and *patient* in challenging situations?
5. Does the *kindness* of God flow through me to others or am I focused on my own needs, problems, and desires?
6. Does my life reflect the *goodness* of God? Am I willing to help others experience God's goodness too?
7. Am I *faithful* to Christ and those around me, or am I often indifferent or hypocritical?
8. Does the *gentleness* of Jesus flow through me or am I harsh, critical, controlling, or unforgiving?
9. Do I seek what I want, or do I wait on the guidance of God – His answer in His way in His timing?

PRAYER

Lord, plant the fruit of Your Spirit deep in my soul. Let it flourish! Where there is sorrow, let Your joy be a beacon of hope. Where there is strife, still the waves with Your peace. Where there is rush and hurry, let patience show a different way. Where there is malice and spite, let kindness soak deep. Where there is broken trust and unforgiveness, let Your goodness teach. Where there is defiance and infidelity, cultivate Your faithfulness. Where there is bitterness and dissonance, let Your gentleness lead. Where there is haste and impulsiveness, teach me self-control. Infuse me with Your love that knows no bounds. Stir in me a thirst for Your Word and a hunger for You. May the Fruit of Your Spirit flow through me into the lives of all those around me. I am so humbled, Lord, that You would choose me to nourish this lost and hurting world with Your extraordinary Fruit! Amen.