

10 – The Ninth Day of Christmas
Galatians 5: 22,23

Objective: The students will be introduced to the fruits of the spirit.

Materials: cards developed in house that represent the first 8 days of Christmas

Step 1: Review – card match game.

We've been learning the Christmas song called 'The 12 days of Christmas.' Today, before we go on, we are going to play a little review game. This will review the verses we've learned so far.

Lay the cards on the table face up. Put the number cards in one area, the picture cards in another area, and the meaning cards in a third area. Encourage the students to work together to match the day number, picture and meaning. You will have answer strips for them to use to check their progress. Alternative: Use the picture cards and meaning cards to play 'Concentration.' At the end of the game briefly review the meanings.

Step 2: Introduction

Do you like to dance? (wait.) Why do we dance? (wait. To celebrate, to express love, etc.)

Today we will do the ninth day of Christmas. On the ninth day of Christmas my true love gives – how many? (wait. 9) – ladies dancing! Nine ladies dancing happily. What a wonderful gift. Let's see what it means.

Step 3: Motivation

Here is a question to answer from the Bible: What are the 9 ladies dancing? The answer is just one word.

Step 4: Read Galatians 5: 22,23.

Step 5: Answer the question. The answer is 'fruits.'

The nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Spirit. (If you want, and there's time, have them name the nine fruits of the Spirit.)

Step 7: What is the difference between a 'fruit' and a 'gift'? (Don't forget to leave time to sing the song)

Let's think about fruit. Where does fruit come from? For example, apples. (wait. From a tree.) Apples grow on a tree. We call that kind of tree an 'apple tree.'

Do apples always grow on apple trees? (wait. Yes. Although be prepared for someone to know of some rare variety of apple that doesn't grow on a tree....) Do apple trees always have apples? (wait. No. A sick, damaged or dead tree would not have apples.)

As long as the apple tree is healthy, it is normal for it to produce apples. In the same way, these fruits are normally produced in Christians as they grow. Every Christian can expect God to produce all these nine fruits of the Spirit in their lives. It is not an easy process, but the result is love! Joy! Peace! Etc. That kind of life is something to celebrate by dancing.

(If there's time and it seems appropriate)

Three weeks ago we talked about the 'gifts' of God. What is the difference between a 'gift' and a 'fruit'? (wait. The gift is received, but the fruit is produced from within)

The Bible uses words very carefully. Christians receive a spiritual gift from God, but spiritual fruit is produced in the Christian's life. Christians can expect to see the fruit of the Spirit in their lives as long as they are living for Christ and not for themselves.