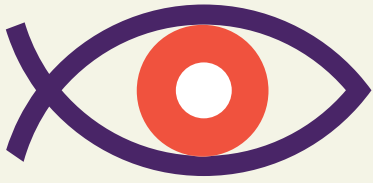


**SEEING  
THROUGH  
THE EYES OF  
JESUS**

**CHILDREN'S  
CURRICULUM  
SESSION 7**

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# SEEING THROUGH THE EYES OF JESUS

Calling us back to  
the central focus of  
our Christian faith:  
**The Risen and  
Living Jesus!**

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## CHILDREN'S CURRICULUM

### SESSION 7 TRANSFORMED

**SCRIPTURE:**

Romans 12:2 and Galatians 5:22-23

**CENTRAL MESSAGE:**

When we know Jesus, we are changed,  
not just in the way that we think, but  
also in the way that we think and feel.



### EARLY ARRIVER ACTIVITY

*Materials: Index cards*

Write down each fruit of the Spirit on  
a separate index card and hide them  
around the room before children arrive.

As they arrive, let them try to find all  
the cards hidden around the room. You  
will use these index cards later for one  
of the rotations.



## GATHERING TIME

Share Highs and Lows (See Session 5 for explanation.)

Take prayer requests (See Session 5 for explanation.)

**Prayer:** Ask for a volunteer to pray. If no one is willing, an adult can pray.

***\*The following is written in a script format, but you are encouraged to make it your own and to avoid reading directly from the lesson.***

Let's make a list of important people in our lives. ***(Make this list on a whiteboard if you have one available, so that all the children can see it.)***

Now I want you to think about this: Did any of these people help make you who you are? Another way of thinking about this is, if you didn't have these people in your life, do you think you would be any different? Why or why not?

Today, we are going to talk about how knowing Jesus should change us. Just like having our mom or grandpa or best friend in our lives has shaped who we are, knowing Jesus should shape us even more!

You might think this is especially difficult, because Jesus isn't walking and talking and living life with you every day in the same way that some of these people that we listed are. BUT, that's where our work as Christians comes in. That's why we have to make time to spend with Jesus daily. What are some ways that we can spend time with Jesus each day?

Suggestions: Reading your Bible; doing a devotional; coming to church; praying; talking about our faith with friends and family.

The more time we with spend with Jesus, the more we will be changed by our relationship with him. The people you listed as important in your life have been able to shape who you are because you let them influence your life. One of the

wonderful things about Jesus is that he doesn't force us to do anything. Like we talked about last week, we are invited to be part of his kingdom and we get to invite others. We get to choose whether to accept the invitation.

Before we break into small groups, we are going to read a short passage of Scripture together. Can someone look up Romans 12:2 and read it for us? ***(Read verse aloud.)***

I want us to think for a moment about the first part of the verse: Do not be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind (NIV). What do you think this verse is talking about?

***Always ask children what they think about something before you introduce your own interpretation. This encourages them to know that they can come up with their own important answers, and allows their creativity and imaginations to help them form answers before they are given an answer.***

I think part of what this verse is saying is that when we are transformed by knowing Jesus, we might think, feel or act differently than other people. For example, there were a lot of times in the Bible that people made fun of Jesus or didn't understand him when he wanted to hang out with the poor, the sick and the outcasts. We can choose to let the world tell us whom to love, or we can look to Jesus and whom he tells us to love. (Hint: It's everyone!)

We are now going to break into small groups and rotate through our different stations.

***Use your best judgment to decide how to divide children into small groups for rotations based on your age range and number of children. I recommend groups of six to eight. You will need one adult to facilitate each rotation, so this may determine how many groups you will have rotating at a time.***



## ACTIVITIES/ROTATIONS

### 1: Bible Explorers

Today we are going to do something called Lectio Divina. It is a special way to listen to and learn from the Bible. Our Scripture today is Galatians 5: 22-23. In these verses, Paul the apostle is talking about the fruits of the spirit. These are qualities that will grow in people who follow Jesus and who are led by the Holy Spirit!

I am going to read our Scripture passage three different times. The first time I read it, I just want you to listen normally. The second time, I want you to pay attention to the different fruits of the spirit that are listed. Which one stands out to you? Which one do you think you are best at?

The third and final time I read it, I want you to listen again to what the fruits of the spirit are and consider which one you may need to work on, with God's help.

After completing Lectio Divina, ask the following conversations starters:

- Which fruit of the Spirit do you think you're good at?
- Which fruit of the Spirit do you think you need to work on?
- Why do you think Paul thought each of these words were important to be included as a fruit of the Spirit?

### 2: The Heart of Jesus

*Materials: Air-dry clay, sequins, glitter, plastic gems, washable paint, paintbrushes*

Give each child a piece of air-dry clay. **(The following is written as a script, but you are encouraged to adapt it appropriately.)**

No matter how hard we try, we can never love like Jesus loves. His love is so big and touches every single person in the world! However, as followers of Jesus we can try our hardest to love as big as he does, and for our love to touch as many people as possible, too! Our hearts are changed as we continue to try to love like Jesus.

You have a piece of clay in your hands that I want you to shape into a heart. And then you can transform it to make it even more beautiful. I have sequins, glitter and gems that you can press into the clay heart. You may also paint your heart. Next week, when the hearts are all dry, you can take yours home and put it somewhere in your house where you can see it every day, and be reminded of our calling to let our hearts be changed by knowing Jesus. If you finish early, you can make another to give to a friend or family member.

### 3: Fruit Salad

*Materials: Nine different types of fruit; nine large bowls; one small bowl for each child; tongs; paper label for each bowl.*

Choose nine different fruits for children to make their fruit salads. My suggestions are fruits that can be easily separated such as: blueberries, strawberries, mango chunks, mandarin oranges, apple slices, sliced bananas, watermelon chunks, raspberries, pineapple chunks. These will need to be pre-sliced and placed in nine large bowls. You will also need tongs for each bowl. Label each bowl with an index card from the ones you used in the Early Arriver activity that tells which fruit of the Spirit that fruit is representing. Set the bowls in a different area if possible, as opposed to all being on one table. That way, children can more clearly see which bowl to go to each time throughout the activity.

***\*The following is written as a script, but you are encouraged to adapt it appropriately.***

There are nine fruits of the Spirit and we are going to make a “fruits of the Spirit” salad! Each of the nine fruits represents one of our fruits of the Spirit. You are going to build a fruit salad in your bowl. But each person is going to add their fruits in a different order. First, pick the fruits you think you’re the BEST at to the fruits you think you need the most work on.

Have children choose their fruits one a time. First, have them go to the bowl of the fruit of the spirit they think they are the best at. Observe which ones the children choose and ask some to share examples of when they show that particular trait. If there is more than one child at a particular bowl, have them make a line behind that bowl and observe which traits people seem to most identify with.

Continue this pattern until everyone has all the fruits. They do not have to add fruits they don’t like, but do have them still stand by that bowl as you discuss. When you are nearing the end of the activity and they are choosing the fruits they need to work on, ask them why they think those are hard for them, and how they might improve upon them.



### CLOSING

Bring children back together in the same space you had your Gathering Time. Play this short game to help them remember the Fruits of the Spirit:

Write all nine Fruits of the Spirit on a dry erase board and give children 60 seconds to study the list. Say the list aloud together several times. Then instruct children to close their eyes as you erase one from the list. Have children open their eyes and try to remember the one that was erased. Continue this pattern until you have erased all the Fruits of the Spirit, and see if they can name all nine.

Before parents arrive, ask someone to close your time in prayer. If children are reluctant to pray, write this simple prayer on a dry erase board and say it aloud together:

*God, thank you for this time together with our church family and friends. Help us to practice all that we learned about being your followers. Amen.*