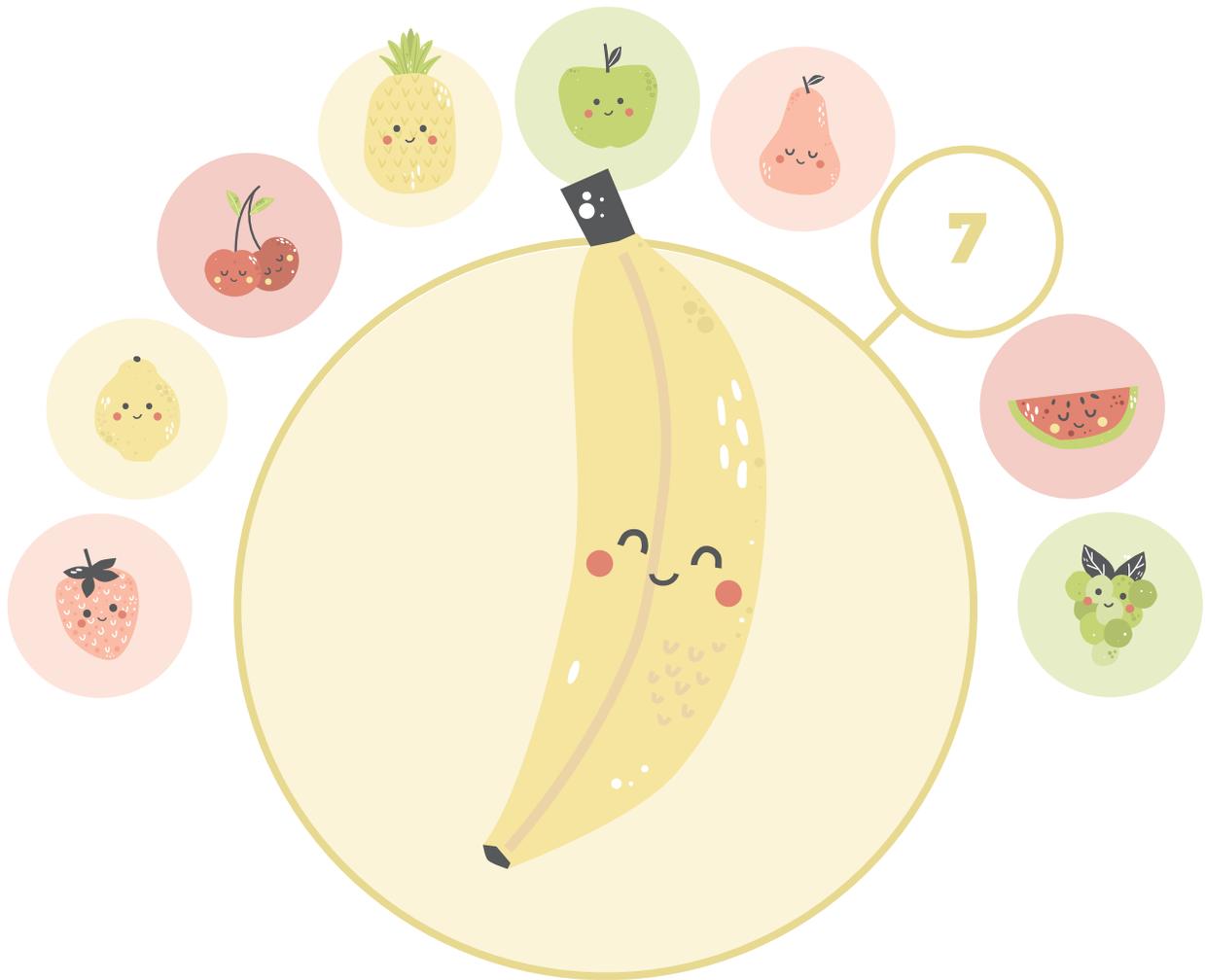


LESSON SEVEN



FAITHFULNESS

**BIBLE READING(S):***Hebrews 11:1**Romans 8:28**Hebrews 4:16**John 3:16**John 20:29***ELEMENTARY LESSON**

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit is also faithfulness. Faithfulness is exactly what it sounds like: it means being full of faith. Faith is also trust. It means that when God says something, we trust that His love for us means that we can trust him. For example, when your mom or dad drops you off at school and promises to be there in the afternoon to pick you up, you have faith and trust that they will come back to pick you up. Let's read a verse in Hebrews that explains faith.

— Read Hebrews 11:1

The author of Hebrews says that faith is two things: the assurance of things hoped for, and the conviction of things not seen. Let's talk about each of these. First, "the assurance of things hoped for." An assurance is a promise, so we could say that this passage means that faith is relying on God's promises. So what are some of God's promises? God promises to "work all things for good, for those who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). He promises that when we "draw near to the throne of grace," that is, draw near to Jesus, we will "receive mercy and find grace to help in a time of need" (Hebrews 4:16). God promises to be close to us. Finally, God promises to save His people through the death of His Son, Jesus Christ (John 3:16). He promises that we don't have to "do" anything to earn God's love, because His Son has already paid for us with His blood. He promises to love us no matter what.

When we are faithful, we are leaning on these promises. The Holy Spirit helps us by reminding us of them, and preaching them to our hearts when we feel scared and hopeless. Notice that God doesn't promise that our life will be easy. But the difference is that our faith



in God will help us endure, no matter what we're going through.

Second, the author of Hebrews says that faith is "the conviction of things not seen." The word "conviction" means a strong belief. This part of the passage means that a conviction of things not seen is a strong belief in God even though we cannot see Him with our own eyes. When Jesus walked on the earth, teaching His disciples, dying in our place, and ultimately rising from the dead, He said, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29). He knew that many people would live on the Earth after He went to heaven to be with His Father. He knew that these people, including you and me, would have faith in what they could not see. In that verse in John, Jesus calls these people "blessed." God knows that trusting in Him when we cannot see Him is hard. That is why the Holy Spirit helps us to have faith.

By listing faithfulness as part of the fruit of the Holy Spirit, the Bible is telling us that it is the Holy Spirit, not our own effort, that gives us the faith we need to rely on God's promises and believe in things we cannot see with our eyes. Hear this: Your faith is not something you have to do all on your own. The Holy Spirit helps you have faith. That is why it is fruit of having the Holy Spirit in your heart. If you're struggling to trust in God and His promises, you can bow your head and ask the Holy Spirit, "help me to have faith."

OBJECT LESSON

You'll need: a friend or family member who you love and trust.

Say, "This is _____. I love and trust them to help me. _____, do you love me?" The friend or family member will say "yes." Say, "Ok, I'm going to wear this blindfold. Will you please catch me if I fall? I won't be able to see if you're behind me to catch me." The friend or family member will say "yes, of course." Proceed to tie on a blindfold and dramatically demonstrate a trust fall. Say, "Faith is like that. Faith is believing that God, who promises to love us, will follow through on His promises. It means that we have faith in Jesus' death for us on the cross, even though we weren't right there to see it in person."



CLOSING PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for our faith. Holy Spirit, we know that our faith is a gift from you. Please give us more and more faith as we grow up. Amen.

FAITHFULNESS CHALLENGE

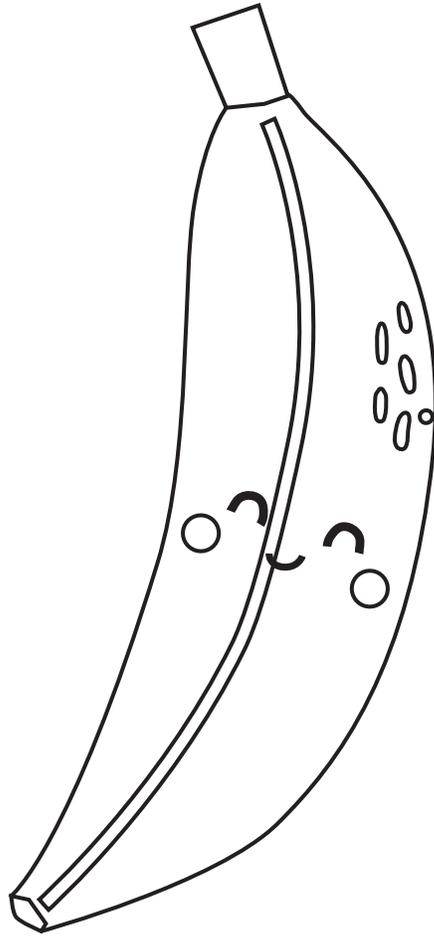
Grab a friend or family member and set up an obstacle course! Have them put a blindfold on you and lead you through the obstacle course using only voice commands. Time yourself to see how quickly you can get through it together.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Where does faith come from? [The Holy Spirit]
- What is an assurance? [A promise]
- What are some of God's promises to us?

SONG RECOMMENDATIONS

- "Give Me Faith" by Elevation Worship
- "By Faith" by Keith & Kristyn Getty
- "Fix My Eyes" by Kings Kaleidoscope



FAITHFULNESS