Lesson 33 Be Fruitful

Picture 39



Aim

To teach that Jesus expects Christians to produce spiritual fruit in their lives.

Teacher Preparation: As you prepare this lesson ask God to help you produce the fruit of the Spirit in your life as you remain in Jesus. Then read and study John 15:1-10, Galations 5:19-23, Mark 14:27-31, 66-72 and the lesson plan.

Memory Verse: John 15:5

I am the vine and you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I in him will bear much fruit.

Lesson Plan

Introduction

Take a branch or small plant to Sunday School. Begin the lesson by talking about taking care of bushes and small trees. They are watered and pruned, that means the old branches are cut out so new growth will come. Any dead branches are cut off. Why is this done? It helps the tree to produce fruit.

Main Points of Lesson

1. *Show picture 39.* Talk about what the gardeners are doing. The old wood is no good. It is cut out and burnt. Jesus was talking about vines on which grapes grow in John 15. The picture shows a big fruit tree not a vine which is a low climbing plant.

2. Teach the spiritual lesson from the picture Jesus gave. Christians are like trees, they have to be pruned. They need to become more like Jesus and cut out the dead wood - give examples: hatred, bad temper, etc. Then the fruit can grow - love , joy, peace, patience, gentleness, etc.

3. Tell the story of Peter denying Jesus, showing how he had to get rid of his boastfulness, Mark 14:27-31. Peter boasted he would never leave Jesus. He was warned he would deny Jesus.

4. Mark 14:66-72 Peter denied he knew Jesus when Jesus was arrested and taken to court. Peter learnt the lesson that he needed to stay very close to the Lord Jesus. John 21:17. Peter became a great servant for Jesus. When he remained close to Jesus his life bore fruit.

Review

Briefly go over the lesson to show that the fruit of the Spirit is not produced by our own determination or effort but is the natural result of the Holy Spirit living in us and our obedience to the Spirit's leading.

Our Response to the Lesson

The branches (Christians), have to remain and feed off the main tree trunk (Jesus) if they want to grow and bear fruit. How can Christians do this? If you have a best friend you like to spend time with him. Christians need to spend time with Jesus. We will know more about him when we learn the memory verses each week.

Teach Memory Verse

We also need to talk or pray to Jesus each day. Encourage the children to spend time each day this week at home saying the memory verse over and praying they will show good fruit in their lives.