

PICTURE **IM**PERFECT

EMBRACING THE MESS AND
MAKING IT BETTER @ HOME

The home gives us an ideal environment for nurturing the fruit of the Spirit as we connect with God and each other on a daily basis.

At home we can...

- Introduce our family to the character of God
- Model what it means to abide in Christ
- Encourage one another toward bearing fruit

The PICTURE **IM**PERFECT Challenge

- Create nine experiences at home over the coming nine weeks with a focus on each of the nine fruit of the Spirit.
- Ideas and resources to help make the process fun and practical can be found at homepointe.spotswood.org/pictureimperfect

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Love

Love is a choice, not a feeling or emotion. It is a choice to meet the needs of others. We can learn about love from the One who is love.

Joy

Joy comes from the Lord—in good times and bad. It is a deep sense of well-being that is not determined by our circumstances. Gratitude and joy go hand in hand as we focus on Him and all that He has done for us.

Peace

Peace is not the absence of conflict, but rather the awareness of the sufficiency of God in every circumstance. Peace is found as we rest and rely on Him. Worry and anxiety often come as we take our eyes off our all-sufficient God. We can have peace even in times of trouble.

Patience

Patience is the ability to wait on God. We can trust God that He is working for our best and His glory in His perfect timing. Patience with others grows as we are reminded that God is patient with us.

Kindness

Kindness is expressing to others the same mercy and grace that God has given to us in Christ Jesus. This can be shown in both words and actions to those around us without merit.

Goodness

God is good! His integrity, moral perfection and character are flawless. His goodness to us is evident through His grace and love. Apart from Him, there is nothing good in us. Although this side of heaven we will never be perfect, through His Spirit, God can begin the process of purifying our lives.

Faithfulness

Faithfulness is the characteristic of reliability and the trait of loyalty. God is faithful and we can always count on Him. A faithful person is one who does what they say.

Gentleness

Gentleness is power under control. It is humility and restraint that derives from a position of true strength in Christ.

Self-Control

Self-control is displayed when we show discipline in our emotions, words and actions. It provides a protection for ourselves and others as we follow God's commands.

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

OVERVIEW

The fruit of the Spirit grows out of an abiding relationship with Jesus Christ. Fruit is produced in us not by us. But we have a part to play by submitting ourselves to God and inviting Him to nurture His character in us.

Our character looks more like God's character when we allow Him to change us. We cannot muster up more joy or patience on our own, and we do not need to. We receive them as gifts that grow in us when we give God control and allow Him to make us more of what He intends us to be.

**I AM THE VINE, YOU ARE THE BRANCHES;
HE WHO ABIDES IN ME AND I IN HIM, HE
BEARS MUCH FRUIT, FOR APART FROM ME
YOU CAN DO NOTHING.**

JOHN 15:5

GOING FURTHER resources

HOMEPOINTE RESOURCES:

The Activity Booklet
Available at hompointe.spotswood.org/pictureimperfect

OTHER SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

Faith Begins at Home by Mark Holmen
Becoming the strong, healthy, joyfilled families God intended begins with parents establishing their homes as the primary place where faith is nurtured. This book is filled with a wealth of practical ideas, inspirational stories and biblical truths. *Faith Begins at Home* will inspire, motivate and equip you to help your family succeed.

The Fruitful Wife by Hayley Dimarco
A guide for young wives looking to cultivate the fruit of the Spirit in their relationships.

Fruit of the Spirit: Learning to Speak Life by Michael and Carlie Kercheval
This fun new 9-week family Bible study is geared for families with young children ages 3-9. It examines the fruit of the Spirit according to Galatians 5:22-23.

The Fruit of the Spirit: Bible Study for Tweens by T.S. Dobson
This study is for anyone, but the target of the study is for what we call the "tween" preteen years, that in between stage in life of growing up. Many questions of how to live the Christian life can be guided by these fruits.

9 Fruits Alive: Discovering the Fruit of the Spirit by Mindy MacDonald
Nine Fruits Alive describes the fruit that comes from God's Spirit. Little ones will learn that just like water and sunlight help oranges grow on an orange tree, loving God and obeying His word will grow in us the fruit of God's Spirit, like joy, goodness, peace and more! God loves to see His fruit in all of us and this book will help young ones understand how it grows!

Pups of the Spirit by Jill Gorey and Nancy Haller
Each of these nine lovable puppies has a special trait to help them grow closer to God. From love and joy to patience and kindness, children will have fun learning about the fruits of the spirit with these playful and cuddly companions.

GUIDE



**BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS
LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS,
GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS,
SELF-CONTROL;
AGAINST SUCH THINGS THERE IS NO LAW.**

GALATIANS 5:22-23