

## 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.  
If you remain in me and I in you,  
you will bear much fruit; apart from  
me you can do nothing.  
John 15:5*

## GOING FURTHER Resources

### HOMEPOINTE RESOURCES:

*The 9 Activity Booklet*  
Available with this kit and at  
[homepoite.org/the9](http://homepoite.org/the9)

### OTHER SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

*The Fruitful Wife*  
by Hayley Dimarco

*Fruit of the Spirit: Learning to Speak Life*  
by Michael and Carlie Kercheval

*The Fruit of the Spirit: Bible Study for Tweens*  
by T.S. Dobson

*9 Fruits Alive: Discovering the Fruit of the Spirit*  
by Mindy MacDonald

*Pups of the Spirit*  
by Jill Gorey and Nancy Haller

*Auto-B-Good Faith DVD Collection:  
Fruits of the Spirit*



## Guide



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

*Galatians 5:22-23*



## THE 9 AT 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

### *Take The 9 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 in the Activity Booklet and at [lifeathome247.com/thenine](http://lifeathome247.com/thenine)

## THE FRUIT

### *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.

## OF THE SPIRIT

### *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.