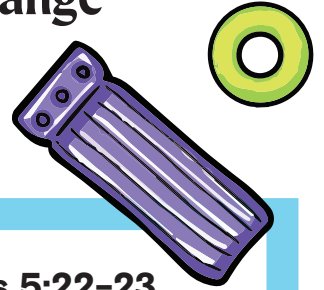




What you do today can change the world around you.



Read Matthew 5:14–16

Grab your flashlight, and head into a room without a window—like a bathroom or closet. Sit down on the floor with your flashlight nearby. Turn off the light and sing your ABCs three times through in the dark. When you’ve finished, click on your flashlight. Ready? Go!

Was it weird to sit there singing in the dark? What did you need? Yes, a light! Just like you wouldn’t enter a dark closet or bathroom without turning on the light, Jesus tells us that we are like a light. When we treat others the way we want to be treated—when we’re kind and patient and loving—we show others what God is like! We help point others to God when we love them the same way He does.

We can make a difference—we can make big waves—in the world around us with God’s help. Remember, when you put your faith in Jesus, God gives us His Holy Spirit to be our helper. The Holy Spirit will help us shine a light to the people around us. And when we do, we can make a big difference. **So, remember, shine your light so God can help you change the world around you!**

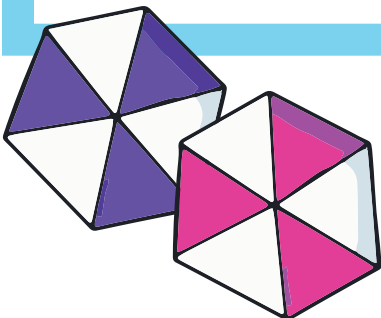
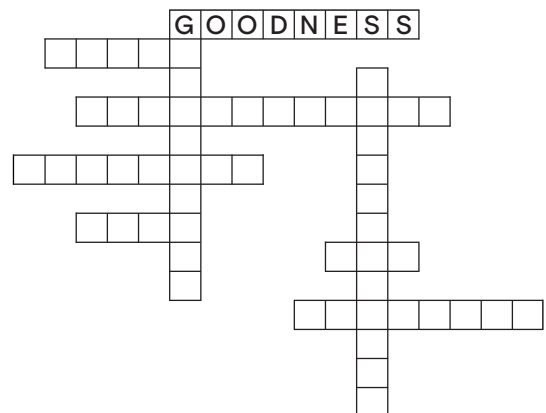
Read Galatians 5:22–23

Did you know that the Bible talks about fruit? It’s true! It’s different than strawberries, bananas, or kiwi. The fruit we read about in the Bible isn’t a tasty treat. The fruit that God wants to grow in us looks like patience, joy, and love. When you put your trust in Jesus, His Spirit will help you so you can show kindness and self-control. And when you do, you can make a big difference in the world around you.

Fill in the boxes below with all the attributes of the fruit of the Spirit listed below. When you’re finished, circle the one attribute of God’s fruit that seems like the hardest to you. Spend some time praying, asking God to help you show that part of His fruit this week. Remember: God can help you change the world around you.

The Fruit of the Spirit Crossword

Goodness	Love	Joy
Faithfulness	Peace	Gentleness
Patience	Self-control	



Read John 15:5

Have you ever seen an apple tree full of bright red apples? What happens if you cut off a branch from that apple tree instead of picking the individual apples? Could that branch you cut off continue to produce fruit? Nope! The branch has to be connected to the rest of the tree in order to keep bearing fruit.

Did you know that God wants to grow certain fruit in you? We're not talking about apples and oranges here. The kind of fruit God wants to grow in you is His fruit, and it looks like patience, kindness, goodness, and self-control. It's the fruit we read about in Galatians 5:22-23 yesterday. But you can't grow that fruit, you can't be patient or kind or loving, if you're cut off from the source.

This is really good news! God doesn't expect you show any of the attributes of His fruit on your own strength. You have help! That's why, when we put our faith in Jesus, He promises to send us a helper. The Holy Spirit will grow God's fruit in you. He will help you make a difference in the lives of the people around you! **Remember, you can make waves when you understand that God can help you change the world around you.**

Read John 15:8

Jesus said that we'll show the world we believe in Him when we *"bear a lot of fruit"* (John 15:8 NIV). That doesn't mean you'll suddenly start growing strawberries from your fingertips. The kind of fruit God wants to grow in you is His fruit, and it looks like patience, kindness, and self-control.

So how can we bear much fruit?

It starts with a relationship with Jesus. When you trust in Jesus, you can have a relationship with God that lasts forever! It starts with understanding what Jesus has done and putting your faith in Him.

Once you have a relationship with God through Jesus, you can start to grow in your faith. When you read God's Word, when you pray and ask God to help you understand how to follow Him, when you talk to friends and leaders in your small group about God, and when you live out your faith by doing what God says, you can make a big difference.

God wants a relationship with you. It's why you were created in the first place. God wants to use you to make waves, to change the world around you by sharing the love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control with others!

God can help you change
the world around you.

