

# the fruit of the spirit

## (part 2 – peace and patience)

### recap

**Read Galatians 5:16-26**

1. From last week, what characterises Christian love and joy?

*Recap question to get them going, and think about the context.*

### peace

2. Brainstorm the different ways in which we hear the word 'peace' often used.

*You might like to do this out loud or on to some sheets of paper.*

3. In groups look at the following passages to see how the New Testament talks about 'peace':

<b>Passages</b>	<b>What do they tell us about 'peace'?</b>
Luke 1:79; John 20:19, 21, 26; Acts 10:36	<i>Peace comes through (and is distributed by) Jesus.</i>
Romans 5:1; Colossians 1:20	<i>Peace with God is achieved through Jesus' death and resurrection.</i>
Ephesians 2:11-18; Ephesians 4:3	<i>Peace between people is part of the purpose for which Christ died, and we are responsible in keeping it.</i>

**Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8**

4. Although Paul does not use the word 'peace' in this passage, what is the 'peace' of which he speaks?

*Paul has peace in the confidence and comfort that he feels as a result of knowing that his salvation is secured. He has a certain hope, which allows him to be content with death.*

5. How certain are you of your salvation? How might a proper understanding of God's peace change the way you look at things?

*A question to get them to really consider if they are certain of salvation. This might provide a good chance to deal with the doubt that many people will naturally have. Use this question to see where your kids are at!*

## **patience**

6. Brainstorm some situations in which you are likely to require 'patience'.

*Again this would probably work well if done on some sheets of paper.*

7. In groups again, look at what the bible has to say about patience:

<b>Passages</b>	<b>What do they tell us about 'patience'?</b>
Isaiah 48:9; 2 Peter 3:9	<i>God is patient with people, in order that they may turn to Him.</i>
Ephesians 4:2; 1 Thes 5:14	<i>Christians likewise are to be patient with other people.</i>
James 5:7-11	<i>We are to be patient in suffering as we await the Lord's return.</i>

8. How then might we give a concise definition for the 'patience' that we should showing as part of the fruit of the Spirit?

*To get them to summarise what they have just learnt. A good definition might be something like – 'Patience is God-given restraint in the face of opposition or oppression for the purpose of being a godly witness'.*

9. Look at the situations requiring patience that you wrote down above. How would you now act in light of what we have just learnt?

*Some 'real' application for situations they have identified that they are likely to face. Encourage them to think through whether or not they actually act in this way, and how they can help one another to do better in this area.*