

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

A 12-SONG BIBLE LEARNING JOURNEY FOR LITTLE HEARTS

INCLUDES



LYRICS
BIBLE LESSONS
ACTIVITIES
& MORE!

The fruit of the Spirit
grows in us as we walk
with God each day.
GALATIANS 5:22-23



LOVE



JOY



PEACE



LONGSUFFERING



GENTLENESS



GOODNESS



FAITH



MEEKNESS



TEMPERANCE



A FAMILY GUIDEBOOK

to Help Kids Learn God's Truth, Grow with the Spirit,
and Live the Fruit Every Day!

THE
SHEPHERD'S MEADOW
Songs for Little Hearts

by Joe Soares

The Fruit of the Spirit

A Family Guidebook for Parents, Grandparents, and Caregivers

Based on the 12-song album from The Shepherd's Meadow

The Heart of This Guide

The fruit of the Spirit is not a list of virtues children manufacture by trying harder. Galatians 5 describes fruit that belongs to the Spirit. We teach children to listen to God's Word, depend upon Him, obey what He says, and understand that real spiritual fruit comes from His work in us.

Love. Joy. Peace. Longsuffering. Gentleness. Goodness. Faith. Meekness. Temperance.

A practical companion for families who want more than generic character education.

The Spirit grows His fruit. We teach, pray, obey, correct, and depend on God for the growth.

Galatians 5:16, 22-23 KJV

Bible lessons | Words to Remember | Real-life scenarios | Activities | Family devotions | Prayers
| Quick-reference tools

Joe Soares

Joe Soares Music & Publishing LLC

joesoaresmusic.com

Copyright and Use

The Fruit of the Spirit: A Family Guidebook for Parents, Grandparents, and Caregivers

Copyright © 2026 Joe Soares. All rights reserved.

Joe Soares Music & Publishing LLC

joesoaresmusic.com

This guidebook is provided as a companion resource to The Fruit of the Spirit from The Shepherd's Meadow. It may be downloaded, saved, and printed for personal or immediate family use. Please do not sell, repost, upload, redistribute, or reproduce the complete guidebook for commercial use without written permission.

Scripture

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the King James Version (KJV).

Educational and Pastoral Use

This guidebook is designed to help families use songs as starting points for biblical teaching. It is not a substitute for the Bible, the gospel ministry of a local church, pastoral guidance, professional counseling, medical care, or the judgment and responsibility of a child's parent or legal guardian.

A Note About Spiritual Fruit

The fruit of the Spirit belongs to the biblical life of the Spirit. We should not give children the idea that love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance are a ladder by which they earn God's favor. Good behavior cannot save anyone. These lessons should point children toward Christ, God's Word, and the need for God's work in the heart.

A Note to Parents and Grandparents

The words in Galatians 5:22-23 are familiar to many Christian adults. Some of them are not familiar at all to preschool children. Longsuffering, meekness, and temperance may sound like very large words for very little people.

That is not a reason to remove them. It is an opportunity to teach them.

The Shepherd's Meadow has always tried to respect the ability of children to begin learning the actual words of Scripture while giving parents and grandparents simple ways to explain those words. A three-year-old may not understand every dimension of biblical meekness, but that child can begin learning that meekness is not weakness and that we do not have to push, shout, or demand our own way.

The most important guardrail for this particular album is equally simple: the fruit is not ours. It is the fruit of the Spirit.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

Galatians 5:22-23 KJV

Throughout this guidebook, we will still talk about choices. Children can choose gentle hands. They can tell the truth. They can wait. They can say no to a wrong impulse. They can obey. But we never want to confuse those choices with the source of spiritual fruit.

A sentence worth repeating

We do not grow the fruit all by ourselves. The Spirit does His work in us as we walk with God.

How to Use This Guide

You do not need a classroom or a long lesson plan. Start with the song. Let your child learn the hook. Then open the Bible, explain one truth, try one activity, and pray together.

A Simple Rhythm

1. Listen to the song together.
2. Read the main Scripture from the Bible.
3. Explain one child-sized truth.
4. Ask one or two Grandpa-and-child questions.
5. Try an activity if it fits the day.
6. Pray simply and move on with normal family life.

Do Not Turn the Fruit Into a Sticker Chart

Rewards can be useful in family life, but the fruit of the Spirit is not a set of badges children earn. A child who had a difficult day is not a child with no hope. A child who behaved beautifully for an afternoon has not graduated from needing God. Keep bringing the lesson back to dependence upon Him.

Use Repetition Without Pressure

Preschool children often learn through repetition. If a child wants the same song again, play it again. If a large Bible word becomes funny simply because it is fun to say, enjoy the moment. Familiarity today can become understanding later.

About the Words From the Songs

This guidebook does not print each song as a word-for-word lyric transcript. The finished recording may divide Grandpa and child parts differently, repeat a phrase, or combine voices. Instead, each chapter includes a short Words to Remember section with the key lines that carry the lesson. The guide uses memory lines rather than full printed lyrics so it remains useful even when the recorded Grandpa and child parts differ from the original song script.

Use those lines as memory hooks. Sing them with your child, say them during an everyday moment, or use them to begin a conversation. The goal is not to match every vocal part on the recording. The goal is to help a little heart remember the biblical truth behind the song.

Why This Guide Uses Words to Remember Instead of Full Lyrics

The finished recordings may divide Grandpa and child parts differently from the original song script, repeat a phrase, or combine voices. To keep the guidebook accurate and useful, each song chapter uses short memory lines rather than presenting a full lyric transcript. Parents and grandparents can use those phrases whether Grandpa, a child, or both sing them on the recording.

Guidebook Road Map

How to Use This Guide

Before We Begin: What Parents and Grandparents Need to Know

Understanding Galatians 5 Before We Begin

Songs 1-12: complete parent and grandparent companion lessons

After the Songs: Helping the Fruit Become Everyday Habits

Parent and Grandparent Quick-Reference Guide

The Nine Fruit Words at a Glance

A Week in The Shepherd's Meadow

Thirty Days of Fruit in Everyday Life

Scripture Memory Time

Family Prayer Page

When the Fruit Seems Hard

The Parent and Grandparent Coaching Toolbox

Family Conversation Cards

A Note From Grandpa Joe

Album Companion Song List, Scripture Index, and Quick Topic Finder

Before We Begin: What Parents and Grandparents Need to Know

Spiritual Fruit Is Not a Salvation Checklist

A child is not saved because he or she successfully demonstrates nine character traits. This guide is not a chart for measuring whether a preschooler has earned God's favor. Salvation is not the reward for behaving well. The fruit of the Spirit belongs to the life of the believer and points us to God's work, not to human boasting.

That distinction matters because children quickly learn what makes adults pleased. If every lesson becomes, 'Be loving so God will like you,' the message has been distorted. We want children to hear that God is good, God's Word is true, we need Him, and His Spirit produces fruit that increasingly shows in the lives of those who walk with Him.

Behavior Still Matters

Avoiding moralism does not mean avoiding correction. Scripture speaks plainly about obedience, truth, kindness, self-control, and how we treat one another. Parents and grandparents should still stop hitting, correct lying, require a toy to be returned, teach apologies, and maintain wise boundaries. The difference is that we do not present good behavior as self-salvation.

Ages Two Through Five Are Not All the Same

A two-year-old may understand only a phrase and an action. A five-year-old may be ready for a short explanation and a simple Bible question. Use the same song differently at different ages. The youngest child may only repeat, 'Gentle hands.' The older preschooler may be able to explain, 'Gentleness means I do not use my strength to hurt.' Both are learning.

For ages two to three

Keep explanations to one sentence. Use movement, repetition, pictures, and immediate examples. Expect to repeat the same lesson many times. When emotions are intense, use fewer words, not more.

For ages four to five

Ask more questions. Let the child explain a choice in their own words. Read the Bible verse aloud even when some words are advanced. Begin helping them connect the verse, the song, and the situation.

Use the Real Bible Words

This album deliberately keeps the King James Version words longsuffering, faith, meekness, and temperance. Children are capable of learning unfamiliar words when adults explain them patiently. We do not need to make Scripture sound ordinary before children are allowed to hear it.

The goal is not to force a preschooler to define every term precisely. The goal is familiarity. A child who has sung 'temperance' for a year will not meet the word as a stranger later.

Do Not Turn Every Moment Into a Lesson

A guidebook this detailed can tempt a conscientious adult to teach constantly. Resist that temptation. Children also need ordinary play, laughter, rest, affection, and unstructured time with the adults who love them. Use this book as a resource, not as a script you must finish.

Parents Lead, Grandparents Reinforce

Grandparents can have a wonderful teaching role, but they should not use the guidebook to compete with or undermine a child's parents. When possible, reinforce the family's expectations and language. A grandparent can say, 'Your mom said it is time to put the toy away. Let's obey and use gentle hands.'

Church and Classroom Use

Teachers can use a song, one verse, one activity, and one short prayer without trying to reproduce an entire chapter. Keep group activities simple and avoid putting individual children on display as examples of who is or is not showing spiritual fruit.

Child Safety Is Never Suspended by a Bible Word

Love, gentleness, meekness, patience, forgiveness, and obedience must never be used to pressure a child to accept harmful behavior, keep a dangerous secret, or remain near someone who is unsafe. A child may say no, move away, tell a trusted adult, and ask for help. Spiritual language should never make a child easier to exploit.

Understanding Galatians 5 Before We Begin

Galatians 5 does not begin with a list of personality traits. Paul contrasts the works of the flesh with the fruit of the Spirit and tells believers to walk in the Spirit.

“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”

Galatians 5:16 KJV

Then, a few verses later, Scripture gives the familiar list of fruit.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

Galatians 5:22-23 KJV

One Fruit, Nine Descriptions

Notice that the verse says fruit, not fruits. For young children we often speak about the nine fruits because that is familiar language, but parents can gently point out that Scripture presents one beautiful cluster of Spirit-produced fruit.

Behavior Matters, but Behavior Is Not the Gospel

Christian parents rightly teach obedience, kindness, self-control, patience, and truthfulness. Yet a well-behaved child still needs Christ. We should never let a lesson about good behavior quietly become a message that good behavior makes us right with God.

The Repeated Question

Throughout the album Grandpa asks a question that becomes the theological anchor for the entire project:

Grandpa asks

Who grows the fruit?

The children answer: The Spirit does.

By the time the album ends, that answer should feel as familiar as the song titles themselves.

Song 1: The Fruit of the Spirit

The Big Truth

The fruit belongs to the Spirit. We can learn the nine Bible words and remember that God is the source of spiritual growth.

Bible Foundation

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

Galatians 5:22-23 KJV

Start With the Song

Listen together before giving a long explanation. Let the melody and repeated hook become familiar. Then return to the song during ordinary family moments when the lesson becomes useful.

Words to Remember

These are the key words to carry into everyday life. They are not intended as a word-for-word transcript of the finished recording.

Love, joy, peace

Longsuffering too

Gentleness, goodness

Faith shining through

Meekness and temperance

God helps us grow

The fruit of the Spirit is what we can show

What Grandpa Is Teaching

Begin by letting the children hear all nine words without requiring them to explain every word. Familiarity comes before mastery.

Point to the phrase “fruit of the Spirit.” Ask whose fruit it is. The answer is right in the name.

The song uses “God helps us grow” as child-sized language. Parents can add that the Holy Spirit changes believers from the inside as we walk with God.

Bring It Into Everyday Life

The strongest lessons usually happen after the song ends. Watch for ordinary moments when one familiar line can become a gentle reminder instead of a lecture.

- Say the nine words at breakfast and ask which one sounds biggest.
- When a child asks what one word means, answer that one question rather than teaching all nine again.

What This Fruit Means

This opening song gives children the map for the whole album. The nine words are not nine unrelated rules. Paul calls them one fruit of the Spirit. The child does not need to master the grammar of Galatians 5 today, but the adult should keep the source clear: the Holy Spirit produces what belongs to Him.

What This Fruit Does Not Mean

This song is not a checklist for deciding whether a child is spiritual enough. It is also not a promise that a child who sings the words will automatically behave well. The purpose is to begin building biblical vocabulary and to connect those words to God's work rather than to self-improvement alone.

Everyday Meadow Moments

At breakfast

Choose one fruit word and ask, 'What do you think this word means?' Let the answer be simple. You are beginning a conversation, not giving an exam.

In the car

Say the nine words slowly and let the child echo them. Longsuffering, meekness, and temperance may sound unusual. That is fine. Familiarity comes before full understanding.

During correction

Use the repeated question from the album: 'Who grows the fruit?' Then answer together: 'The Spirit does.' After that, help the child make the next right choice.

At bedtime

Thank God for one way you saw growth that day. Keep the focus on gratitude rather than scoring behavior.

When This Lesson Gets Hard

A child may remember all nine words and still melt down over a broken cracker. That is normal preschool life. Knowledge and maturity do not grow at the same speed. Keep teaching the words, keep setting boundaries, and keep pointing to God's help.

A Grandpa and Child Coaching Script

Child: I know all the fruit.

Grandpa: That's wonderful. Who grows the fruit in us?

Child: The Spirit does.

Grandpa: Right. And when we need help choosing what is right, we can ask God to help us.

Real-Life Scenarios

A child memorizes the list but uses it as a performance

A child proudly recites all nine fruit words and then announces that a sibling is 'not showing fruit.' This is a good moment to redirect. Say, 'We are not using the fruit to judge everybody else. We are learning what God's Spirit grows in us.' Then ask which fruit might help in the present moment. The goal is not to make the child feel foolish for remembering the list. It is to move knowledge toward humility.

A child asks why the fruit is not apples or oranges

Enjoy the question. Explain that the Bible is using the word fruit as a picture. An apple tree shows what kind of tree it is by the fruit that grows on it. In a much more important way, the Spirit produces qualities that increasingly show His work in a believer's life. Keep the explanation brief. The child does not need to understand every detail of the illustration today.

Questions Adults Often Ask

Should I make my child memorize all nine words?

Memorization can be helpful, especially because the album makes the list musical, but do not turn recall into a spiritual score. A child who forgets 'longsuffering' has not failed. Repeat the words naturally and let familiarity grow.

What if my child asks whether someone without the Spirit can be kind?

You do not need to build a full theology lecture around the question. You can say that many people can do kind things, but Galatians 5 is teaching us specifically about the fruit the Holy Spirit produces in the lives of those who walk with Him.

Grandparent's Corner

Grandparents often have a unique advantage here: repetition feels less like school when it happens during play, a walk, a snack, or a car ride. Use the album in those ordinary spaces. Ask one question, sing one hook, and then enjoy your grandchild.

Practice It This Week

This week, do not try to teach all nine meanings deeply. Pick one word each day and notice it in ordinary life. At the end of the week, say all nine together and thank God for His Word.

Activities

Nine Fruit Echo

Say one word at a time and let the child echo you: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. Do not rush. Celebrate clear effort, especially on the large words.

Fruit Basket Bible Words

Place nine pieces of pretend fruit or nine paper circles in a basket. As you name each Galatians 5 word, move one piece into a second basket. The objects are only memory helpers. Explain that apples and oranges are not the fruit Galatians is talking about.

Grandpa and Child Questions

Grandpa: Whose fruit is it?

Child: The Spirit's fruit.

Grandpa: Who grows the fruit?

Child: The Spirit does.

Grandpa: Can we grow the fruit all by ourselves?

Child: No.

Grandpa: Where do we find the nine fruit words?

Child: In God's Word.

Five-Minute Family Devotion

Ask

Whose fruit is it?

Read

Open the Bible and read Galatians 5:22-23. Keep the Bible visible so the child sees that the song comes from Scripture.

Explain

The fruit belongs to the Spirit. We can learn the nine Bible words and remember that God is the source of spiritual growth.

Practice

Use one line from the chorus as the answer the child can remember today. Do not require a long explanation.

Pray

God, thank You for Your Word. Help us learn what the fruit of the Spirit means. Help us listen to You, walk in Your way, and depend upon Your work in us. Amen.

For Parents and Grandparents

Do not make this first lesson a vocabulary exam. The purpose is orientation. The children will meet every word again in its own song.

A Little Prayer

Pray together

God, thank You for Your Word. Help us learn what the fruit of the Spirit means. Help us listen to You, walk in Your way, and depend upon Your work in us. Amen.

Memory Verse

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

Galatians 5:22-23 KJV

Song 2: Love

The Big Truth

Biblical love begins with God. His Spirit can make love visible in the way we help, share, care, and treat others.

Bible Foundation

“We love him, because he first loved us.”

Galatians 5:22; 1 John 4:19 KJV

Start With the Song

Listen together before giving a long explanation. Let the melody and repeated hook become familiar. Then return to the song during ordinary family moments when the lesson becomes useful.

Words to Remember

These are the key words to carry into everyday life. They are not intended as a word-for-word transcript of the finished recording.

Love can help

Love can share

Love can show somebody care

Love is gentle

Love is kind

God can grow His love inside

What Grandpa Is Teaching

Love is more than saying “I love you.” It becomes visible in action.

A preschool child can understand helping someone who dropped something, sharing a turn, or sitting near someone who is sad.

Keep the order clear: we love because God first loved us. Love is not a way to earn His love.

Bring It Into Everyday Life

The strongest lessons usually happen after the song ends. Watch for ordinary moments when one familiar line can become a gentle reminder instead of a lecture.

- Someone needs help carrying something light.
- Two children want the same toy. Practice a loving turn rather than forced affection.

What This Fruit Means

Love is more than being affectionate or saying nice words. For a young child, love becomes visible through helping, sharing, listening, comforting, and considering another person's needs. The deeper foundation is that we love because God first loved us.

What This Fruit Does Not Mean

Love does not mean giving everyone whatever they want. It does not require a child to accept unsafe behavior, unwanted touch, or unkind treatment. Loving boundaries are still boundaries. Sometimes love says yes, sometimes love says no, and sometimes love gets a trusted adult.

Everyday Meadow Moments

A sibling wants the same toy

Help the child practice love through taking turns rather than grabbing. Love can wait for another person's turn.

Someone drops something

Invite the child to help pick it up. A tiny act of service makes love concrete.

A friend is sad

Ask, 'What could love do?' The answer may be sit nearby, get an adult, share a toy, or offer a hug if the friend wants one.

A family member needs quiet

Love can also mean not demanding attention immediately. Help the child notice that other people have needs too.

When This Lesson Gets Hard

Children often find love easiest when the other person is pleasant. The real lesson appears when a sibling is annoying, a friend has the desired toy, or the adult says no.

Do not demand artificial sweetness. Help the child choose one loving action in the middle of a real feeling.

A Grandpa and Child Coaching Script

Grandpa: What can love do?

Child: Love can help.

Grandpa: What if you want the toy too?

Child: I can still share or wait.

Grandpa: And who helps love grow?

Child: The Spirit does.

Real-Life Scenarios

The child does not want to share a favorite toy

Do not begin by declaring the child selfish. Acknowledge ownership and feeling: 'You really like that truck.' Then explain the boundary for the situation: 'Your friend may have a turn when the timer rings,' or, if the toy does not need to be shared, 'Let's choose something else you can play with together.' Love is not forced loss of every possession. It is learning to consider another person.

The child says, I do not love him

Young children often use love to describe how they feel in the moment. Do not panic. Say, 'You are very angry with him right now.' Then help the child choose loving behavior even while the warm feeling is absent. This is an opportunity to show that biblical love is larger than immediate affection.

Questions Adults Often Ask

Should I require hugs as a way to show love?

No. A child can show love through words, help, kindness, prayer, or appropriate acts of service. Affection should not be forced, especially when a child is uncomfortable with touch.

What if my child is generous only when people are watching?

That is not unusual. Preschoolers are highly responsive to adult attention. Keep teaching quietly. Sometimes notice the good choice without making it a production,

and sometimes let the child do a loving act that remains mostly between the family and God.

Grandparent's Corner

Grandparents can model love by being present rather than constantly entertaining. Let the child help you with a small task. Listen to a long story. Put the phone down for a few minutes. Little children often understand love through attention before they can explain it with words.

Practice It This Week

Choose one small helping job for the week. Let the child carry napkins, help feed a pet with supervision, put a book away, or bring something to someone. Connect the action to love, not to earning praise.

Activities

Love Can Help

Give the child three simple household helping choices. Put napkins on the table, carry a light item, or help put toys away. Afterward ask, “How did love help?”

Share a Turn

Use one favorite toy and a short timer. Practice giving another person a turn, then receiving the toy back. Connect the action with the song line “Love can share.”

Grandpa and Child Questions

Grandpa: Who loved us first?

Child: God did.

Grandpa: Can love help?

Child: Yes.

Grandpa: Can love share?

Child: Yes.

Grandpa: Who grows the fruit of love?

Child: The Spirit does.

Five-Minute Family Devotion

Ask

Who loved us first?

Read

Open the Bible and read Galatians 5:22; 1 John 4:19. Keep the Bible visible so the child sees that the song comes from Scripture.

Explain

Biblical love begins with God. His Spirit can make love visible in the way we help, share, care, and treat others.

Practice

Use one line from the chorus as the answer the child can remember today. Do not require a long explanation.

Pray

God, thank You for loving us. Help us show love in the way we speak, help, share, and care for people. Grow Your love in us. Amen.

For Parents and Grandparents

Do not force affection. A child can show love without being required to hug or kiss someone. Respect appropriate physical boundaries while teaching genuine care.

A Little Prayer

Pray together

God, thank You for loving us. Help us show love in the way we speak, help, share, and care for people. Grow Your love in us. Amen.

Memory Verse

"We love him, because he first loved us."

Galatians 5:22; 1 John 4:19 KJV

Song 3: Joy

The Big Truth

Joy is deeper than getting what I want. Christian joy is rooted in the Lord, whose goodness does not disappear when the day changes.

Bible Foundation

“Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.”

Galatians 5:22; Philippians 4:4 KJV

Start With the Song

Listen together before giving a long explanation. Let the melody and repeated hook become familiar. Then return to the song during ordinary family moments when the lesson becomes useful.

Words to Remember

These are the key words to carry into everyday life. They are not intended as a word-for-word transcript of the finished recording.

Joy, joy, God gives joy

Joy down in my heart

When His Spirit works in me

His joy can grow in me

What Grandpa Is Teaching

Happiness often describes how we feel when something pleasant happens. Joy in the Lord can remain even during a disappointing day.

Do not tell a sad child to “choose joy” as a way of shutting down sadness. Joy and tears can exist in the same life.

The song deliberately says God is still good and near. That gives joy an object: the Lord Himself.

Bring It Into Everyday Life

The strongest lessons usually happen after the song ends. Watch for ordinary moments when one familiar line can become a gentle reminder instead of a lecture.

- A fun plan changes. Acknowledge disappointment, then remember that God is still good.
- During a genuinely happy moment, name joy without demanding that happiness last forever.

What This Fruit Means

Joy is not the same as constant excitement. Children can laugh, play, and enjoy good gifts from God, but biblical joy is anchored more deeply than whether the day is fun. We rejoice in the Lord because He is good and faithful.

What This Fruit Does Not Mean

Joy does not mean a child must smile when sad, pretend disappointment does not hurt, or hide grief. Christian joy can exist alongside tears. Do not use this song to shut down sadness with, 'You should be joyful.' Use it to point the child toward God's goodness while allowing honest feelings.

Everyday Meadow Moments

Plans change

Acknowledge the disappointment first. Then ask, 'Can we still find something good God has given us today?'

A fun activity ends

Help the child say thank you for what happened instead of requiring the fun to continue.

A rainy day

Use the weather picture from the song. Sunny or rainy, God is still good.

Someone else gets the exciting thing

Practice rejoicing with another person without pretending the child never wishes it were their turn.

When This Lesson Gets Hard

Some children are naturally more expressive than others. Do not measure joy by volume, jumping, or smiling. A quiet child can know deep joy. Focus on gratitude, trust, and delight in God rather than personality style.

A Grandpa and Child Coaching Script

Child: I'm not happy because we can't go.

Grandpa: I understand. You were looking forward to it.

Child: Can I still have joy?

Grandpa: Yes. Joy does not mean you like the change. It means God is still good and near.

Real-Life Scenarios

The birthday party is over

The child may cry because something wonderful ended. Instead of saying, 'You should be happy you got to go,' acknowledge the ending: 'You had so much fun and you wish it could keep going.' Then help the child move toward gratitude. 'What was your favorite part? Let's thank God for that.' Joy can look backward with thankfulness without denying the sadness of an ending.

Another child receives praise

Your child may suddenly become quiet or try to redirect attention. You can say, 'It can be hard when someone else gets the special moment. We can still be happy that something good happened to them.' Do not demand a dramatic celebration. One sincere kind word is enough practice.

Questions Adults Often Ask

Is it wrong for a Christian child to be unhappy?

No. Scripture does not command emotional pretending. Children will feel sadness, disappointment, fear, and frustration. Joy in the Lord gives a deeper anchor while those feelings come and go.

How do I teach joy without creating pressure to smile?

Talk more about gratitude, God's goodness, and trust than facial expression. Some children are naturally exuberant. Others are quiet. Joy is not a personality type.

Grandparent's Corner

A grandparent can help a child notice ordinary joys that are not purchased: birds at the feeder, pancakes together, a funny story, a walk with Scout, a song in the car. These moments teach that joy is not dependent on a constant stream of new things.

Practice It This Week

At one meal each day, let everyone name one good gift from God. Keep answers ordinary: food, a friend, Scout, sunshine, a warm bed, a Bible story. Joy grows familiar when gratitude becomes normal.

Activities

Sunny Day, Rainy Day

Draw a sun on one paper and a rain cloud on another. Place them on opposite sides of the room. Call out ordinary situations and let the child stand by either picture, then say together, “God is still good.”

Joy Thank-You Hunt

Walk around the house or yard and name three things for which you can thank God. Keep it concrete and joyful.

Grandpa and Child Questions

Grandpa: Is joy only for sunny days?

Child: No.

Grandpa: Is God still good on hard days?

Child: Yes.

Grandpa: Who gives joy?

Child: God does.

Grandpa: Who grows the fruit?

Child: The Spirit does.

Five-Minute Family Devotion

Ask

Is joy only for sunny days?

Read

Open the Bible and read Galatians 5:22; Philippians 4:4. Keep the Bible visible so the child sees that the song comes from Scripture.

Explain

Joy is deeper than getting what I want. Christian joy is rooted in the Lord, whose goodness does not disappear when the day changes.

Practice

Use one line from the chorus as the answer the child can remember today. Do not require a long explanation.

Pray

God, thank You that You are good on happy days and hard days. Help us rejoice in You and grow Your joy in us. Amen.

For Parents and Grandparents

Avoid teaching emotional performance. A child does not need to smile on command to prove joy. Biblical joy is not pretending everything feels pleasant.

A Little Prayer

Pray together

God, thank You that You are good on happy days and hard days. Help us rejoice in You and grow Your joy in us. Amen.

Memory Verse

“Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.”

Galatians 5:22; Philippians 4:4 KJV

Song 4: Peace

The Big Truth

Peace does not require everything around us to be quiet or easy. We can bring our concerns to God and trust Him when life feels unsettled.

Bible Foundation

“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Galatians 5:22; Philippians 4:6-7 KJV

Start With the Song

Listen together before giving a long explanation. Let the melody and repeated hook become familiar. Then return to the song during ordinary family moments when the lesson becomes useful.

Words to Remember

These are the key words to carry into everyday life. They are not intended as a word-for-word transcript of the finished recording.

Peace, peace, God gives peace

Peace for little hearts

When His Spirit works in me

His peace can grow in me

God is always near

What Grandpa Is Teaching

Peace is not merely a quiet room. A child can be surrounded by normal family noise and still learn to trust God.

Prayer is a natural companion to this lesson. Philippians 4 connects prayer, thanksgiving, and the peace of God.

Peace also does not mean ignoring danger. Children should still tell trusted adults when something is wrong.

Bring It Into Everyday Life

The strongest lessons usually happen after the song ends. Watch for ordinary moments when one familiar line can become a gentle reminder instead of a lecture.

- The house is noisy and the child feels overwhelmed. Move somewhere calmer and pray.
- Plans change unexpectedly. Use a quiet reminder: “God is still near.”

What This Fruit Means

Peace in this album is not merely a quiet room. It is the settled confidence that God is near and trustworthy when circumstances feel noisy, uncertain, or changed. A preschooler cannot explain that doctrine, but can begin learning, 'God is near. I can pray. I can trust Him.'

What This Fruit Does Not Mean

Peace does not mean ignoring danger or teaching a child to stay calm instead of asking for help. If something is unsafe, the right response may be to leave, call an adult, or cry out. Biblical peace and wise action belong together.

Everyday Meadow Moments

A noisy gathering

Move to a quieter place if needed. Peace is not proven by forcing an overwhelmed child to remain in overstimulation.

A schedule changes

Use a calm voice: 'The plan changed. God did not change. Let's decide what we do next.'

Waiting for news

Children notice adult tension. Keep explanations age appropriate and let the child know the adults are handling the situation.

Before sleep

Use a short prayer of trust rather than turning bedtime into a long discussion.

When This Lesson Gets Hard

Adults sometimes expect children to become peaceful because the adult wants the noise to stop. That is different from teaching peace. First help the child regulate and understand what is happening. Then connect the moment to God's nearness.

A Grandpa and Child Coaching Script

Grandpa: Everything feels busy right now.

Child: I don't like it.

Grandpa: Would you like to sit with me for a minute?

Child: Yes.

Grandpa: We can slow down, pray, and remember God is near.

Real-Life Scenarios

The house is tense because adults are worried

Children often sense more than adults realize. If there is a real concern, do not pretend nothing is happening. Give a simple age-appropriate explanation: 'The grown-ups are working on something important. You are safe with us.' Then pray briefly. Peace grows more readily in truth than in vague reassurance a child does not believe.

The child cannot settle after an exciting day

Sometimes the problem is not fear but an overstimulated body. Dim lights, reduce noise, offer water, sit together, and slow the pace. After the child's body has begun to settle, use the song's peace language. Spiritual teaching and ordinary physical care belong together.

Questions Adults Often Ask

Should I tell my child there is nothing to worry about?

Only if you actually know that is true. It is better to say, 'I am here with you. We will handle what happens next. We can trust God.' Peace should not depend on promises the adult cannot guarantee.

What if my child needs more help with anxiety?

A song and guidebook are not substitutes for appropriate medical or mental-health care. Persistent distress, major sleep disruption, physical symptoms, or significant changes in functioning deserve professional attention.

Grandparent's Corner

Grandparents can become a calm place without becoming the place where parents' rules disappear. A steady voice, predictable routines, and a familiar prayer can help a child feel secure while still respecting the parents' boundaries.

Practice It This Week

Create one simple family peace routine: sit close, take a sip of water, say one short prayer, and repeat one truth from the song. Use the same routine often enough that it becomes familiar.

Activities

Busy Room, Quiet Heart

Make gentle household sounds together: tapping, rustling paper, footsteps. Pause and say, “Even when things are busy, God is near.”

Plans Changed

Pretend a simple plan changes: park becomes indoor blocks because of rain. Practice saying, “I am disappointed, but God is still near.”

Grandpa and Child Questions

Grandpa: Does everything have to be quiet for God to give peace?

Child: No.

Grandpa: Can we pray when plans change?

Child: Yes.

Grandpa: Is God near when we feel upset?

Child: Yes.

Grandpa: Who grows peace?

Child: The Spirit does.

Five-Minute Family Devotion

Ask

Does everything have to be quiet for God to give peace?

Read

Open the Bible and read Galatians 5:22; Philippians 4:6-7. Keep the Bible visible so the child sees that the song comes from Scripture.

Explain

Peace does not require everything around us to be quiet or easy. We can bring our concerns to God and trust Him when life feels unsettled.

Practice

Use one line from the chorus as the answer the child can remember today. Do not require a long explanation.

Pray

God, when things feel busy or different, help us remember that You are near. Help us pray, trust You, and know Your peace. Amen.

For Parents and Grandparents

Do not promise that prayer will immediately remove every anxious feeling. Teach children to bring concerns to God while also receiving comfort and appropriate help from the adults who care for them.

A Little Prayer

Pray together

God, when things feel busy or different, help us remember that You are near. Help us pray, trust You, and know Your peace. Amen.

Memory Verse

“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Galatians 5:22; Philippians 4:6-7 KJV

Song 5: Longsuffering: I Can Wait

The Big Truth

Longsuffering is a Bible word for patient endurance. God can help us remain patient when something is hard for a while.

Bible Foundation

“Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;”

Galatians 5:22; Colossians 1:11 KJV

Start With the Song

Listen together before giving a long explanation. Let the melody and repeated hook become familiar. Then return to the song during ordinary family moments when the lesson becomes useful.

Words to Remember

These are the key words to carry into everyday life. They are not intended as a word-for-word transcript of the finished recording.

I can wait, I can wait

God can help me while I wait

When it is hard and takes some time

God can help this heart of mine

Longsuffering is Spirit fruit

God can help me wait

What Grandpa Is Teaching

Waiting for a turn is one toddler doorway into a much larger biblical idea. Longsuffering also includes patience with people and endurance when something remains difficult.

Keep the KJV word. Let children enjoy learning it. Then translate it into a sentence they can use: “God can help me be patient when something is hard for a while.”

Do not demand adult-length patience from a preschooler. Development matters. We teach in small steps.

Bring It Into Everyday Life

The strongest lessons usually happen after the song ends. Watch for ordinary moments when one familiar line can become a gentle reminder instead of a lecture.

- The child waits for food, a turn, or a parent to finish speaking.
- A sibling is irritating. Help the child use words instead of immediate retaliation.

What This Fruit Means

Longsuffering is patient endurance, especially when something difficult continues longer than we would like. Waiting for a snack is a child-sized beginning, but the word reaches beyond a timer. It also includes patience with people and situations that test us.

What This Fruit Does Not Mean

Longsuffering does not mean tolerating abuse, unsafe behavior, or ongoing harm. Patience is not passivity. A child can be patient while still telling a trusted adult, asking for help, or maintaining a safe boundary.

Everyday Meadow Moments

Waiting for a turn

Give the child something concrete to do while waiting: watch, count, hold the next piece, or choose another toy.

A younger sibling is slow

Teach patience with people, not just clocks. 'Your brother is still learning. We can wait without being mean.'

A task takes several tries

Longsuffering can look like trying again without throwing the object.

An adult is busy

Give a clear time marker when possible. 'When I finish this call, I will help you.' Then follow through.

When This Lesson Gets Hard

Waiting skills depend partly on age and development. Do not create unrealistic waits to prove a spiritual point. A two-year-old and a five-year-old will not have the same capacity. Teach within the child's actual stage while still stretching patience little by little.

A Grandpa and Child Coaching Script

Child: Is it time yet?

Grandpa: Not yet.

Child: Waiting is hard.

Grandpa: It is. What can we ask God for?

Child: Help while I wait.

Grandpa: Exactly.

Real-Life Scenarios

The child interrupts every adult conversation

A preschooler may not be able to wait through a long adult discussion, but can learn short waiting. Touch the child's hand and say, 'I hear you. Let me finish this sentence, then it is your turn.' Follow through quickly. Gradually extend the wait as ability grows.

A sibling keeps making the same mistake

This is a good place to teach that long suffering applies to people, not just clocks. Say, 'Your sister is still learning. You may tell me you are frustrated, but you may not insult her.' Patience does not require pretending the repeated behavior is easy.

Questions Adults Often Ask

How long should I expect a preschooler to wait?

There is no single number that fits every child. Age, development, hunger, fatigue, and the situation all matter. Teach waiting in manageable doses and increase gradually rather than creating long waits for the sake of a lesson.

Is a timer helpful?

Often, yes. A visual or audible timer makes an invisible wait concrete. The timer is a tool, not the lesson. The spiritual connection is what the child does while waiting and where we turn for help.

Grandparent's Corner

Grandparents sometimes have more time than hurried parents. Use that gift. Let the child stir slowly, button a shirt, carry something carefully, or finish a small task without taking over immediately. Patient adults create space for children to practice patience.

Practice It This Week

Choose one predictable waiting moment each day and practice there. Keep it short enough for success. Praise the specific choice: 'You waited without grabbing.' Then thank God for His help.

Activities

Long Word Clap

Say "long-suf-fer-ing" slowly and clap the syllables together. Then say the whole word normally.

Wait With a Job

Give the child a short wait and a simple job while waiting: hold the napkins, count three red cars, or watch the timer. Waiting becomes something practiced rather than merely endured.

Grandpa and Child Questions

Grandpa: What is the big Bible word?

Child: Longsuffering.

Grandpa: Can God help us when waiting is hard?

Child: Yes.

Grandpa: Does patience mean we never feel frustrated?

Child: No.

Grandpa: Who grows longsuffering?

Child: The Spirit does.

Five-Minute Family Devotion

Ask

What is the big Bible word?

Read

Open the Bible and read Galatians 5:22; Colossians 1:11. Keep the Bible visible so the child sees that the song comes from Scripture.

Explain

Longsuffering is a Bible word for patient endurance. God can help us remain patient when something is hard for a while.

Practice

Use one line from the chorus as the answer the child can remember today. Do not require a long explanation.

Pray

God, waiting can be hard. Help us be patient when things take time and when people are difficult. Grow longsuffering in us by Your Spirit. Amen.

For Parents and Grandparents

Longsuffering should never be used to tell a child to tolerate abuse, unsafe behavior, or ongoing harm. Patience is not silence in the face of danger.

A Little Prayer

Pray together

God, waiting can be hard. Help us be patient when things take time and when people are difficult. Grow longsuffering in us by Your Spirit. Amen.

Memory Verse

“Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;”

Galatians 5:22; Colossians 1:11 KJV

Song 6: Gentleness

The Big Truth

Gentleness is strength handled with care. The Spirit can shape our hands, words, voices, and actions toward others.

Bible Foundation

“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,”

Galatians 5:22; 2 Timothy 2:24 KJV

Start With the Song

Listen together before giving a long explanation. Let the melody and repeated hook become familiar. Then return to the song during ordinary family moments when the lesson becomes useful.

Words to Remember

These are the key words to carry into everyday life. They are not intended as a word-for-word transcript of the finished recording.

Gentle, gentle

God can help me be

Gentle with my hands and words

Gentleness is Spirit fruit

His gentleness can show

What Grandpa Is Teaching

Gentleness can be demonstrated. A gentle touch feels different from a shove. A gentle voice sounds different from yelling.

Gentleness is not weakness and does not require a child to allow another person to hurt them.

Use the language of the song during ordinary play: gentle hands, gentle words, gentle voice.

Bring It Into Everyday Life

The strongest lessons usually happen after the song ends. Watch for ordinary moments when one familiar line can become a gentle reminder instead of a lecture.

- Play becomes rough. Say “gentle hands” and physically stop unsafe behavior if needed.
- Practice a gentle voice during frustration.

What This Fruit Means

Gentleness is strength handled with care. Children can practice it with hands, feet, voices, toys, pets, and people. The goal is not to make an energetic child quiet. The goal is to teach that our strength should not be used carelessly to hurt.

What This Fruit Does Not Mean

Gentleness is not weakness, silence, or surrendering personal safety. A gentle child may say, 'Stop,' move away, call for help, or speak firmly. Gentleness concerns how we use our strength, not whether we have a voice.

Everyday Meadow Moments

Petting Scout

Show the difference between a gentle stroke and rough grabbing. Always supervise interactions with animals.

Excited play

Remind the child that happy bodies can still become too rough. 'You are having fun. Let's keep gentle hands.'

Closing doors and handling books

Gentleness can be practiced with objects too. Care teaches control.

Speaking while upset

Help replace yelling in someone's face with clear words: 'I want a turn,' or 'Please stop.'

When This Lesson Gets Hard

Some children need adults to physically stop unsafe behavior before any teaching can happen. That is not a failure of gentleness. Protect first. Teach after everyone is safe and able to listen.

A Grandpa and Child Coaching Script

Grandpa: Can strong hands be gentle?

Child: Yes.

Grandpa: Can a gentle voice still say stop?

Child: Yes.

Grandpa: Who helps gentleness grow?

Child: The Spirit does.

Real-Life Scenarios

The child hugs Scout too tightly

Intervene immediately and kindly. 'Scout needs space. Gentle hands.' Help the child release the dog and show an appropriate touch if the animal remains comfortable. Do not use the pet as a practice object when the animal is signaling stress. Gentleness includes respecting the animal's boundaries.

The child shouts because a sibling will not listen

Teach that a clear voice does not have to become a cruel voice. Give replacement words: 'Please stop.' 'I had that first.' 'I need help.' If the sibling still does not respond, teach the child to get an adult rather than escalating physically.

Questions Adults Often Ask

Can I physically stop my child's hands and still call that gentle parenting?

Yes. Safety sometimes requires immediate physical intervention. The goal is to use only the force necessary to stop harm, then teach calmly once everyone is safe.

What if my child is naturally rough and energetic?

Energy is not a moral failure. Give appropriate outlets for climbing, running, carrying, and active play while teaching that people, animals, and fragile objects require controlled strength.

Grandparent's Corner

Grandparents can make gentleness playful. Ask for 'feather hands' while turning pages, carrying a tomato, petting Scout, or helping with a younger child. Practice before the rough moment arrives.

Practice It This Week

Pick one word for the week: gentle hands, gentle feet, or gentle words. Do not correct everything at once. Repetition around one phrase makes it easier for a young child to remember.

Activities

Gentle or Rough

Use a pillow or stuffed animal. Demonstrate gentle handling and slightly rough handling without frightening the child. Let the child identify which is gentle.

Feather Hands

Pretend your hands are as light as feathers. Practice touching your own arm, a stuffed animal, or an appropriate pet gently.

Grandpa and Child Questions

Grandpa: Can strong people be gentle?

Child: Yes.

Grandpa: What kind of hands do we use?

Child: Gentle hands.

Grandpa: Can we use gentle words when upset?

Child: Yes.

Grandpa: Who grows gentleness?

Child: The Spirit does.

Five-Minute Family Devotion

Ask

Can strong people be gentle?

Read

Open the Bible and read Galatians 5:22; 2 Timothy 2:24. Keep the Bible visible so the child sees that the song comes from Scripture.

Explain

Gentleness is strength handled with care. The Spirit can shape our hands, words, voices, and actions toward others.

Practice

Use one line from the chorus as the answer the child can remember today. Do not require a long explanation.

Pray

Jesus, help us be gentle with our hands, our voices, our words, and our actions. Let Your Spirit grow gentleness in us. Amen.

For Parents and Grandparents

A child may say “No,” “Stop,” or “I need help” firmly and still be gentle. Never equate gentleness with being unable to speak up.

A Little Prayer

Pray together

Jesus, help us be gentle with our hands, our voices, our words, and our actions. Let Your Spirit grow gentleness in us. Amen.

Memory Verse

“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,”

Galatians 5:22; 2 Timothy 2:24 KJV

Song 7: Goodness

The Big Truth

God is good. The goodness produced by His Spirit can show in choices that are true, helpful, and right.

Bible Foundation

“O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.”

Galatians 5:22; Psalm 34:8 KJV

Start With the Song

Listen together before giving a long explanation. Let the melody and repeated hook become familiar. Then return to the song during ordinary family moments when the lesson becomes useful.

Words to Remember

These are the key words to carry into everyday life. They are not intended as a word-for-word transcript of the finished recording.

Goodness, goodness

Choosing what is right

Helping, sharing, telling truth

Goodness is the Spirit's fruit

His goodness I can show

What Grandpa Is Teaching

Start with God's goodness rather than a label such as “good boy” or “good girl.”

Goodness is not merely public behavior. The song asks what happens when no one else sees. God still sees what is true.

Children can practice goodness in small choices: telling the truth, helping, returning something that is not theirs, and doing what they know is right.

Bring It Into Everyday Life

The strongest lessons usually happen after the song ends. Watch for ordinary moments when one familiar line can become a gentle reminder instead of a lecture.

- A child finds something that is not theirs. Ask what goodness would do.
- Praise truthfulness without making the child perform for approval.

What This Fruit Means

Goodness points children toward what is morally good and right because God Himself is good. This is deeper than being agreeable. A child may do something right that feels difficult, such as telling the truth, returning something, or helping when no reward is offered.

What This Fruit Does Not Mean

Goodness does not mean calling a child 'good' only when compliant and 'bad' when difficult. We correct choices without making a child's identity depend on performance. We also do not teach that good behavior earns salvation or God's love.

Everyday Meadow Moments

Telling the truth after a mistake

Make honesty safer than hiding. Correct the wrong action, but affirm the decision to tell the truth.

Finding something that belongs to someone else

Goodness returns what is not ours even if we would like to keep it.

Doing the right thing without applause

Occasionally let the good action stay quiet. Character should not depend entirely on being noticed.

Helping because it is needed

Teach service without making every act a transaction for a sticker or treat.

When This Lesson Gets Hard

If every good act earns a prize, children can begin to ask, 'What do I get?' Instead, use warm recognition and gratitude. 'That was a good choice. You told the truth even though it was hard.'

A Grandpa and Child Coaching Script

Child: Nobody saw me put it back.

Grandpa: God knew, and you knew it was right.

Child: Do I need a prize?

Grandpa: No. We can be thankful that God helped you choose what is good.

Real-Life Scenarios

The child breaks something and hides it

Begin with truth. 'I need you to tell me what happened.' When the child admits it, thank them for telling the truth without pretending the breakage no longer matters. Then address repair or consequence. Goodness includes honesty and responsibility, not escaping consequences.

The child does the right thing and immediately asks for a treat

Smile and say, 'You made a good choice. That matters even when there is no treat.' This is not a reason to eliminate all rewards from family life. It is simply a reminder that goodness should not become a vending machine transaction.

Questions Adults Often Ask

Should I call my child a good boy or good girl?

Affectionate language is common, but be careful not to make identity depend on performance. Specific feedback is often clearer: 'You told the truth.' 'You helped your sister.' 'You returned what was not yours.'

How do I explain God's goodness when something painful happens?

Do not give a preschooler a shallow answer to a deep problem. You can say, 'This hurts, and I do not understand everything. God is still good, and we can bring our sadness and questions to Him.'

Grandparent's Corner

Grandparents tell stories well. Share a simple true story about a time you had to choose what was right when it cost you something. Keep yourself out of the hero role. The point is not 'Grandpa is wonderful,' but 'Doing right can be hard, and we need God's help too.'

Practice It This Week

Look for one quiet good choice each day. Mention it specifically without exaggeration. At the end of the week, talk about why doing right matters even when nobody claps.

Activities

Good Choice Cards

Describe two simple choices and ask which is good: tell the truth or hide the truth, help pick up or walk away, return the toy or keep it.

Nobody Is Watching

Pretend Grandpa leaves the room while a stuffed animal “finds” something that belongs to someone else. Ask what goodness would do even if nobody is watching.

Grandpa and Child Questions

Grandpa: Who is good?

Child: God is good.

Grandpa: Does goodness matter only when someone is watching?

Child: No.

Grandpa: Can goodness tell the truth?

Child: Yes.

Grandpa: Who grows goodness?

Child: The Spirit does.

Five-Minute Family Devotion

Ask

Who is good?

Read

Open the Bible and read Galatians 5:22; Psalm 34:8. Keep the Bible visible so the child sees that the song comes from Scripture.

Explain

God is good. The goodness produced by His Spirit can show in choices that are true, helpful, and right.

Practice

Use one line from the chorus as the answer the child can remember today. Do not require a long explanation.

Pray

God, You are good. Help us love what is good and choose what is right even when nobody is clapping for us. Grow goodness in us. Amen.

For Parents and Grandparents

Try not to make “good” a permanent identity label for compliant behavior. Children need to understand specific right and wrong choices without believing that adult approval is the source of goodness.

A Little Prayer

Pray together

God, You are good. Help us love what is good and choose what is right even when nobody is clapping for us. Grow goodness in us. Amen.

Memory Verse

“O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.”

Galatians 5:22; Psalm 34:8 KJV

Song 8: Faith

The Big Truth

Faith means trusting God and believing what He says. We can trust the God who sees what we cannot see.

Bible Foundation

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.”

Galatians 5:22; Proverbs 3:5 KJV

Start With the Song

Listen together before giving a long explanation. Let the melody and repeated hook become familiar. Then return to the song during ordinary family moments when the lesson becomes useful.

Words to Remember

These are the key words to carry into everyday life. They are not intended as a word-for-word transcript of the finished recording.

Faith, faith

I can trust in God

I can trust His Word is true

I can trust Him all day through

Faith is fruit of the Spirit

What Grandpa Is Teaching

For preschoolers, “faith is trusting God and believing what He says” is a useful beginning definition.

Faith is not positive thinking and it is not believing hard enough to make God give us what we want.

The object of faith matters. We are teaching confidence in God and His Word.

Bring It Into Everyday Life

The strongest lessons usually happen after the song ends. Watch for ordinary moments when one familiar line can become a gentle reminder instead of a lecture.

- The child worries about what will happen tomorrow. Remind them that God sees tomorrow.
- Open the Bible together so “trust God” remains connected to what God has actually said.

What This Fruit Means

Faith begins with God, not with confidence in ourselves. For a young child, a useful first definition is trusting God and believing what He says. We want children to connect faith with the trustworthy God revealed in Scripture, not with trying to feel certain enough.

What This Fruit Does Not Mean

Faith is not a promise that God will give us whatever we ask if we believe strongly enough. It is not pretending questions never exist. It is also not treating every inner feeling as a message from God. We point children back to God's Word.

Everyday Meadow Moments

A child asks what will happen tomorrow

You may not know every detail. Say what you do know and model trust without inventing certainty.

A prayer is not answered the way the child hoped

Do not tell the child they lacked faith. Help them bring disappointment to God and continue trusting Him.

A Bible promise is discussed

Read the actual verse, then explain it simply. Let Scripture be the source.

An adult does not know the answer

It is healthy to say, 'I don't know. Let's see what the Bible says, or let's ask someone who can help us understand.'

When This Lesson Gets Hard

Children often trust adults naturally, which means adults carry responsibility not to attach God's name to personal guesses. Avoid saying, 'God told me,' when you mean, 'I think.' Teach faith by handling Scripture carefully.

A Grandpa and Child Coaching Script

Child: What if I don't know what happens next?

Grandpa: We can tell the truth about what we do not know.

Child: Then what can I trust?

Grandpa: We can trust God and what He has said in His Word.

Real-Life Scenarios

The child prays for something that does not happen

Do not rescue the moment by promising the answer will come later. Say, 'You asked God, and that did not happen the way you wanted. We can still talk to Him and trust Him.' This protects the child from learning that faith is a technique for controlling outcomes.

The child asks a Bible question you cannot answer

Say, 'That is a good question. I do not know the answer yet.' Then look together or ask a trusted pastor or teacher. An adult who admits uncertainty can strengthen a child's trust in Scripture because the child sees that we do not need to invent answers.

Questions Adults Often Ask

Is faith the same as believing something very hard?

No. Biblical faith has an object. We trust God because of who He is and what He has said. Intensity of feeling is not the foundation.

How much theology should I explain?

Enough to answer the child's actual question, not every question an adult could ask. Give one true sentence, read the verse, and leave room to return later.

Grandparent's Corner

Grandparents can build faith by making Scripture ordinary and accessible. Let grandchildren see you open a real Bible, not only quote from memory. Show them

where the verse is. The physical habit of turning to God's Word can become part of family memory.

Practice It This Week

Choose one short KJV verse to repeat all week. Keep it visible on the refrigerator or near bedtime. Faith grows through hearing God's Word, not through pressure to produce a feeling.

Activities

What Do We Know?

Name something a child cannot see yet, such as tomorrow. Then ask what we do know: God is here, God knows tomorrow, and His Word is true.

Trust the Directions

Give the child a simple two-step direction that leads to a hidden but safe object. Afterward explain that human directions can fail, but God is completely trustworthy.

Grandpa and Child Questions

Grandpa: What is faith?

Child: Trusting God and believing what He says.

Grandpa: Can we trust God when we do not know what happens next?

Child: Yes.

Grandpa: Is faith the same as getting everything we ask for?

Child: No.

Grandpa: Who grows faith?

Child: The Spirit does.

Five-Minute Family Devotion

Ask

What is faith?

Read

Open the Bible and read Galatians 5:22; Proverbs 3:5. Keep the Bible visible so the child sees that the song comes from Scripture.

Explain

Faith means trusting God and believing what He says. We can trust the God who sees what we cannot see.

Practice

Use one line from the chorus as the answer the child can remember today. Do not require a long explanation.

Pray

God, help us trust You and believe Your Word. When we cannot see what comes next, remind us that You can. Grow faith in us. Amen.

For Parents and Grandparents

Do not use faith language to dismiss questions. Children can ask honest questions while learning to trust God. Faith is not fear of thinking.

A Little Prayer

Pray together

God, help us trust You and believe Your Word. When we cannot see what comes next, remind us that You can. Grow faith in us. Amen.

Memory Verse

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.”

Galatians 5:22; Proverbs 3:5 KJV

Song 9: Meekness

The Big Truth

Meekness is not weakness. Jesus described Himself as meek. Meekness does not have to push, shout, or demand its own way.

Bible Foundation

“Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart...”

Galatians 5:23; Matthew 11:29 KJV

Start With the Song

Listen together before giving a long explanation. Let the melody and repeated hook become familiar. Then return to the song during ordinary family moments when the lesson becomes useful.

Words to Remember

These are the key words to carry into everyday life. They are not intended as a word-for-word transcript of the finished recording.

Meekness, meekness

Gentle when I am strong

I do not have to push my way

Meekness is the Spirit's fruit

His meekness I can show

What Grandpa Is Teaching

Jesus said that He is meek. Therefore meekness cannot mean cowardice, helplessness, or weakness.

For a little child, “gentle when I am strong” gives a concrete beginning.

Meekness can listen, learn, and yield appropriately. It can also tell a trusted adult when someone is hurting the child.

Bring It Into Everyday Life

The strongest lessons usually happen after the song ends. Watch for ordinary moments when one familiar line can become a gentle reminder instead of a lecture.

- The child wants to be first. Practice yielding once without making second place a permanent rule.
- If another child hurts them, reinforce that meekness can tell a trusted adult.

What This Fruit Means

Meekness is often misunderstood because the word sounds unfamiliar. Jesus described Himself as meek. That alone tells us meekness cannot mean weakness. For a child, begin with 'gentle strength' and not needing to push, shout, or dominate to prove strength.

What This Fruit Does Not Mean

Meekness does not mean allowing someone to bully, hit, threaten, or manipulate. It does not mean a child must surrender every preference. A meek child can be firm, truthful, and protected while refusing to use strength cruelly.

Everyday Meadow Moments

Wanting to be first

Practice being second without acting as though second place means rejection.

Winning a game

Teach strength without boasting or humiliating someone else.

Losing a game

Teach disappointment without attacking the winner.

Being corrected

Meekness includes being teachable. Help the child listen without turning every correction into a battle for control.

When This Lesson Gets Hard

Adults sometimes praise a quiet child as meek when the child is actually afraid to speak. Pay attention to the difference. We want children who can speak truthfully and safely, yet do not need to dominate others.

A Grandpa and Child Coaching Script

Child: Does meek mean weak?

Grandpa: No.

Child: Can I still say stop?

Grandpa: Yes. You can be gentle and strong at the same time.

Child: Who helps meekness grow?

Grandpa: The Spirit does.

Real-Life Scenarios

The child wins and taunts another child

Do not dampen all celebration. Say, 'You can be happy you won, but we do not use winning to make someone else feel small.' Help the child offer a handshake, kind word, or simple 'good game' when appropriate.

The child is being pushed around

Meekness does not require standing still and taking it. Teach, 'Stop,' move away, and get an adult. Later, explain that being strong enough to walk away and get help can be wiser than hitting back.

Questions Adults Often Ask

How is meekness different from gentleness?

They overlap, but meekness especially helps us think about strength, humility, teachability, and not insisting on dominance. Gentleness emphasizes handling others with care. For a preschooler, the phrases may overlap and that is acceptable.

Can a confident child be meek?

Yes. Confidence and meekness are not opposites. A child can speak clearly, lead, try hard, and still refuse to belittle or overpower others.

Grandparent's Corner

Grandparents can model meekness by not needing to win every disagreement. Let a child see you say, 'I was wrong,' 'You were right about that,' or, 'Let's ask someone who knows more than I do.' Humility becomes believable when adults practice it.

Practice It This Week

Use the phrase 'gentle strength' this week. Look for one moment when the child could push for control and instead chooses to listen, wait, or speak calmly.

Activities

Strong and Gentle

Let the child squeeze a soft ball firmly, then hold a stuffed animal gently. Explain that being capable of strength does not mean using strength roughly.

First or Second

During a simple game, practice choosing to go second once. Do not turn this into a constant requirement. The point is simply to experience not always being first.

Grandpa and Child Questions

Grandpa: Was Jesus meek?

Child: Yes.

Grandpa: Does meek mean weak?

Child: No.

Grandpa: Do we always have to push to be first?

Child: No.

Grandpa: What should you do if someone hurts you?

Child: Tell a trusted grown-up.

Five-Minute Family Devotion

Ask

Was Jesus meek?

Read

Open the Bible and read Galatians 5:23; Matthew 11:29. Keep the Bible visible so the child sees that the song comes from Scripture.

Explain

Meekness is not weakness. Jesus described Himself as meek. Meekness does not have to push, shout, or demand its own way.

Practice

Use one line from the chorus as the answer the child can remember today. Do not require a long explanation.

Pray

Jesus, You are meek and lowly in heart. Teach us not to push for our own way. Help us be gentle and strong in the right ways. Grow meekness in us. Amen.

For Parents and Grandparents

Never use meekness to pressure a child into silence around harm. The song itself preserves the safety message: tell a grown-up you can trust.

A Little Prayer

Pray together

Jesus, You are meek and lowly in heart. Teach us not to push for our own way. Help us be gentle and strong in the right ways. Grow meekness in us. Amen.

Memory Verse

“Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart...”

Galatians 5:23; Matthew 11:29 KJV

Song 10: Temperance: I Can Say No

The Big Truth

Temperance means self-control. With God's help, I do not have to do everything I feel like doing.

Bible Foundation

“And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things.”

Galatians 5:23; 1 Corinthians 9:25 KJV

Start With the Song

Listen together before giving a long explanation. Let the melody and repeated hook become familiar. Then return to the song during ordinary family moments when the lesson becomes useful.

Words to Remember

These are the key words to carry into everyday life. They are not intended as a word-for-word transcript of the finished recording.

*I can say no, I can say no
When something is not right
God can help me stop and choose
What He says is right
Temperance is Spirit fruit
God can help me say no*

What Grandpa Is Teaching

Temperance is another KJV word worth keeping. Explain it as self-control.

This song is mainly about saying no to my own wrong impulse, not merely saying no to another person.

Stopping before acting is a skill children can practice. God's help does not eliminate the need to make a choice.

Bring It Into Everyday Life

The strongest lessons usually happen after the song ends. Watch for ordinary moments when one familiar line can become a gentle reminder instead of a lecture.

- The child wants to grab, interrupt, or take another treat. Practice stop, think, choose.
- Celebrate one small pause before an impulsive action.

What This Fruit Means

Temperance is Spirit-enabled self-control. The child learns that wanting to do something does not require doing it. We can stop, think, and choose. This is one of the most practical bridges between Galatians 5 and preschool life.

What This Fruit Does Not Mean

Temperance is not harsh self-denial for its own sake. It is not shaming normal desires. Wanting another cookie, another turn, or more playtime is not automatically wrong. The lesson is that desires do not have to become masters.

Everyday Meadow Moments

Another treat

The child may want more and still accept that enough is enough.

Grabbing a toy

Practice stopping the hand before taking. 'You want it. You can ask for a turn.'

Screen time ends

Use a predictable ending routine so self-control is practiced within a clear boundary.

An angry impulse

Temperance can be the pause between feeling and action: stop, breathe, pray, choose.

When This Lesson Gets Hard

Self-control develops gradually. Do not expect adult impulse control from a preschooler. Adults may need to remove the object, hold a boundary, or help the child physically stop. The spiritual lesson works alongside appropriate caregiving.

A Grandpa and Child Coaching Script

Child: But I really want it.

Grandpa: I know.

Child: Do I have to do everything I want?

Grandpa: No. With God's help, you can stop and choose what is right.

Child: Temperance.

Grandpa: That's the Bible word.

Real-Life Scenarios

The child wants another cookie

Do not make the cookie morally evil. Say, 'Cookies are enjoyable, and you have had enough for now.' The child can want more without receiving more. Temperance is the ability to live under a wise limit even when desire continues.

The child cannot stop a favorite activity

Give warnings before the end when possible: five minutes, two minutes, last turn. Then follow through. A predictable transition makes self-control easier to practice than a sudden unexplained stop.

Questions Adults Often Ask

Is temperance just willpower?

No. The album intentionally keeps the Spirit as the source. Children practice stopping and choosing, but we teach them to depend on God rather than glorifying self-control as self-made goodness.

Should I use the phrase I can say no for safety too?

The phrase can support safety, but keep the concepts clear. Temperance here is mainly saying no to my own wrong or unwise impulse. Safety lessons also teach children they may say no to inappropriate touch, unsafe requests, or harmful behavior from others.

Grandparent's Corner

Grandparents are famous for treats, and treats can be wonderful. They can also model limits. 'Grandpa loves giving you ice cream, and one bowl is enough.' Warmth and temperance can live together.

Practice It This Week

Use one consistent cue: 'Stop. Think. Choose.' Practice it during calm moments with silly examples, then use the same phrase when a real impulse appears.

Activities

Stop, Think, Choose

Use three motions: hand out for stop, finger to temple for think, thumbs-up for choose. Practice with simple situations.

Want It, Wait

Place a small treat or toy in view and practice waiting for a short agreed time before taking it. Keep the wait developmentally reasonable.

Grandpa and Child Questions

Grandpa: What is another word for temperance?

Child: Self-control.

Grandpa: Do we have to do everything we feel like doing?

Child: No.

Grandpa: Can God help us stop and choose?

Child: Yes.

Grandpa: Who grows temperance?

Child: The Spirit does.

Five-Minute Family Devotion

Ask

What is another word for temperance?

Read

Open the Bible and read Galatians 5:23; 1 Corinthians 9:25. Keep the Bible visible so the child sees that the song comes from Scripture.

Explain

Temperance means self-control. With God's help, I do not have to do everything I feel like doing.

Practice

Use one line from the chorus as the answer the child can remember today. Do not require a long explanation.

Pray

God, help us stop and choose what is right when we really want to do something wrong. Grow temperance and self-control in us. Amen.

For Parents and Grandparents

Self-control grows slowly in young children. Keep expectations realistic. A tired or hungry preschooler may have less control available than an adult expects.

A Little Prayer

Pray together

God, help us stop and choose what is right when we really want to do something wrong. Grow temperance and self-control in us. Amen.

Memory Verse

“And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things.”

Galatians 5:23; 1 Corinthians 9:25 KJV

Song 11: Walk in the Spirit

The Big Truth

Walking in the Spirit is not following every inner feeling. We listen to God's Word, follow His way, and depend upon His Spirit.

Bible Foundation

“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”

Galatians 5:16 KJV

Start With the Song

Listen together before giving a long explanation. Let the melody and repeated hook become familiar. Then return to the song during ordinary family moments when the lesson becomes useful.

Words to Remember

These are the key words to carry into everyday life. They are not intended as a word-for-word transcript of the finished recording.

Walk, walk, walk in the Spirit

Step by step each day

I do not grow the fruit alone

God is working as I grow

What Grandpa Is Teaching

The Bible's command to walk in the Spirit is the bridge between the list of fruit and everyday Christian living.

Do not teach a child that “walking in the Spirit” means treating every feeling, impression, or inner voice as a message from God. Point them toward Scripture.

The song intentionally says, “God has given us His Word. I can listen and obey.”

Bring It Into Everyday Life

The strongest lessons usually happen after the song ends. Watch for ordinary moments when one familiar line can become a gentle reminder instead of a lecture.

- Take a walk and name ways God's Word guides your family.
- When someone says “I feel like...” ask, “What does God say?”

What This Fruit Means

This song brings the album back to Galatians 5:16. Walking in the Spirit is not a mystical guessing game for children. We teach them to listen to God's Word, pray, obey what God has clearly said, and depend on Him day by day.

What This Fruit Does Not Mean

Walking in the Spirit does not mean every thought, feeling, dream, or preference is a message from God. Children need an objective anchor. That is why this guide continually returns to Scripture rather than teaching them to follow impressions blindly.

Everyday Meadow Moments

A choice is clearly addressed by Scripture

Help the child connect obedience with God's Word: kindness, truthfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

A choice is simply a preference

Do not spiritualize whether the child chooses the red cup or blue cup. Not every choice is a moral test.

The family prays

Show that dependence on God belongs in ordinary life, not only emergencies.

The child fails

Walking with God includes confession, forgiveness, correction, and continuing forward. Failure is not the end of the walk.

When This Lesson Gets Hard

Some adults accidentally make spiritual guidance mysterious for children. Keep it concrete: What does God's Word say? What is the right thing to do? Do we need help? Can we pray? That is enough for little hearts.

A Grandpa and Child Coaching Script

Child: How do I walk in the Spirit?

Grandpa: We listen to God's Word, trust Him, pray, and choose what is right.

Child: Do I grow the fruit alone?

Grandpa: No. The Spirit works in us as we walk with God.

Real-Life Scenarios

The child says God told me I should get the toy

Keep the response simple and calm. 'We do not use God's name to make other people give us what we want. Let's look at what God actually says in His Word.' This begins teaching discernment without embarrassing the child.

The child makes a wrong choice after singing the song

Do not say, 'You were not walking in the Spirit,' as a label. Address the action: 'You hit your brother. That was wrong. We need to make it right.' Then return to dependence: 'Let's ask God to help us choose differently next time.'

Questions Adults Often Ask

How do I explain the Holy Spirit to a preschooler?

Use true, simple language and avoid pretending the mystery is easy. You might say, 'The Holy Spirit is God. He helps God's people and produces His fruit in them.' You can build understanding as the child grows.

Should children be taught to listen for God's voice?

For this age, emphasize God's written Word. Children can pray and learn that God guides His people, but do not train them to treat every thought or feeling as divine speech.

Grandparent's Corner

A walk with a grandparent can become a quiet spiritual rhythm. Point out the path beneath your feet, then say, 'We take steps on this path. We also learn to walk with God day by day by hearing His Word, trusting Him, and obeying.'

Practice It This Week

Take an actual family walk. With each few steps, name one simple part of walking with God: hear His Word, pray, obey, trust, ask for help, keep going.

Activities

Meadow Walk

Take a short family walk. Every few steps, call out one fruit word. At the end ask, “Who grows the fruit?”

Follow the Path

Make a simple path from paper footprints. On each footprint write or draw a child-sized action: pray, tell truth, use gentle hands, wait, help. Walk the path together.

Grandpa and Child Questions

Grandpa: What does God give us to teach us His way?

Child: His Word.

Grandpa: Do we grow the fruit alone?

Child: No.

Grandpa: Whose way do we follow?

Child: God's way.

Grandpa: What does Galatians 5:16 tell us to do?

Child: Walk in the Spirit.

Five-Minute Family Devotion

Ask

What does God give us to teach us His way?

Read

Open the Bible and read Galatians 5:16. Keep the Bible visible so the child sees that the song comes from Scripture.

Explain

Walking in the Spirit is not following every inner feeling. We listen to God's Word, follow His way, and depend upon His Spirit.

Practice

Use one line from the chorus as the answer the child can remember today. Do not require a long explanation.

Pray

God, help us walk in Your way. Thank You for Your Word. Help us listen, obey, and depend upon Your Spirit rather than ourselves. Amen.

For Parents and Grandparents

This chapter is a good place to connect character teaching to discipleship. The Christian life is not a self-improvement program. It is life with God under His Word.

A Little Prayer

Pray together

God, help us walk in Your way. Thank You for Your Word. Help us listen, obey, and depend upon Your Spirit rather than ourselves. Amen.

Memory Verse

“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”

Galatians 5:16 KJV

Song 12: The Fruit Grows God's Way

The Big Truth

We do not squeeze spiritual fruit out of ourselves by trying harder. The Spirit produces His fruit as we walk with God.

Bible Foundation

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

Galatians 5:16, 22-23 KJV

Start With the Song

Listen together before giving a long explanation. Let the melody and repeated hook become familiar. Then return to the song during ordinary family moments when the lesson becomes useful.

Words to Remember

These are the key words to carry into everyday life. They are not intended as a word-for-word transcript of the finished recording.

*The fruit grows God's way
His Spirit works within us
As we walk with Him each day
Love, joy, peace
And all the fruit can show
God helps His children grow*

What Grandpa Is Teaching

The apple-tree illustration is intentionally simple. A tree does not manufacture fruit by squeezing its branches.

Do not press the analogy beyond Scripture. The point is dependence, not botany.

The finale reviews the entire album: God's Word, trust, obedience, walking in the Spirit, and the Spirit as the source of fruit.

Bring It Into Everyday Life

The strongest lessons usually happen after the song ends. Watch for ordinary moments when one familiar line can become a gentle reminder instead of a lecture.

- Look at a fruit tree or fruit at the store and repeat the finale hook.
- Review the nine words without grading the child on personal performance.

What This Fruit Means

The finale protects the whole album from becoming a behavior program. An apple tree does not produce fruit by straining harder. Spiritual fruit belongs to the Spirit. Children still make real choices, but the source of Christian growth is God's work, not pride in self-improvement.

What This Fruit Does Not Mean

This does not mean choices are irrelevant. Scripture calls believers to walk in the Spirit. We obey, repent, practice, and grow. The distinction is about source and dependence: we do not become spiritually fruitful apart from God and then congratulate ourselves for producing it.

Everyday Meadow Moments

A child makes a good choice

Say, 'I'm thankful you chose what was right. Let's thank God for helping us grow.'

A child makes a wrong choice

Correct it without declaring the whole project a failure. Growth includes repentance and learning.

The child compares with someone else

Fruit is not a competition. Different children mature at different rates and struggle in different areas.

The album ends

Return to the opening question one more time: 'Who grows the fruit?' 'The Spirit does.'

When This Lesson Gets Hard

Parents can become discouraged when spiritual teaching does not produce immediate behavior. Remember that fruit grows over time. Faithful teaching, clear boundaries, prayer, Scripture, modeling, and repeated practice all matter, but growth is not instant.

A Grandpa and Child Coaching Script

Grandpa: Can a tree squeeze its branches and make fruit?

Child: No.

Grandpa: Do we grow the Spirit's fruit all by ourselves?

Child: No.

Grandpa: Who grows the fruit?

Child: The Spirit does.

Real-Life Scenarios

The child becomes proud of being the best at a fruit

Say, 'I am glad you are growing, but the fruit is not a contest. We thank God for His help.' If another child struggles, do not compare. Spiritual growth should move us toward humility, not superiority.

The parent feels discouraged by slow progress

Look for direction, not perfection. Is the child beginning to use words instead of hitting every time? Can the child wait a little longer than six months ago? Does the child sometimes ask to pray? Fruit grows. It does not appear fully mature overnight.

Questions Adults Often Ask

If God grows the fruit, why teach and correct?

Because Scripture also calls us to walk in the Spirit and obey God. God's work does not make parenting unnecessary. We teach, model, correct, pray, and depend on Him rather than treating our effort as the source of spiritual life.

What should I hope my child remembers from the whole album?

If the child remembers only a few things, let them be these: God's Word is true. I can ask God for help. The Spirit grows His fruit. I still need to choose what is right. And when I fail, I can tell the truth, receive correction, and keep learning.

Grandparent's Corner

The finale is a good place for grandparents to resist urgency. Children grow physically without being measured every morning. Spiritual teaching also needs time. Keep planting Scripture, prayer, truth, affection, correction, and example. Trust God with the growth.

Practice It This Week

End the week by looking back rather than scoring. Ask, 'Where did we need God's help? Where did we see growth? What fruit do we want to keep practicing?' Then pray together.

Activities

Look at Real Fruit

Cut open an apple or orange. Look at the seeds. Talk about how God designed living things to grow. Then return to the song: spiritual fruit is the Spirit's work.

Nine-Word Celebration

Let each person choose one fruit word to say. Go around until all nine have been named. Finish together: "Who grows the fruit? The Spirit does."

Grandpa and Child Questions

Grandpa: Can an apple tree squeeze its branches and force fruit to appear?

Child: No.

Grandpa: Do we grow spiritual fruit all alone?

Child: No.

Grandpa: What can we do each day?

Child: Listen to God's Word, trust Him, and obey.

Grandpa: Who grows the fruit?

Child: The Spirit does.

Five-Minute Family Devotion

Ask

Can an apple tree squeeze its branches and force fruit to appear?

Read

Open the Bible and read Galatians 5:16, 22-23. Keep the Bible visible so the child sees that the song comes from Scripture.

Explain

We do not squeeze spiritual fruit out of ourselves by trying harder. The Spirit produces His fruit as we walk with God.

Practice

Use one line from the chorus as the answer the child can remember today. Do not require a long explanation.

Pray

God, thank You that we do not have to depend on ourselves. Help us listen to Your Word, trust You, obey You, and walk in Your way. Let Your Spirit produce His fruit in us. Amen.

For Parents and Grandparents

End the album where it began. The goal is not for a child to say, “I am good at all nine.” The better ending is, “I need God. His Word is true. His Spirit does the work.”

A Little Prayer

Pray together

God, thank You that we do not have to depend on ourselves. Help us listen to Your Word, trust You, obey You, and walk in Your way. Let Your Spirit produce His fruit in us. Amen.

Memory Verse

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

Galatians 5:16, 22-23 KJV

After the Songs: Helping the Fruit Become Everyday Habits

The best use of this album may happen after the music stops. A song gives your child words. Everyday life gives those words somewhere to go. You do not need to turn every moment into a lesson. A short reminder is often enough.

Use One Fruit at a Time

When a real situation comes up, choose the fruit that fits. If a child is waiting, talk about longsuffering. If play becomes rough, return to gentleness. If a child wants to grab or act on an impulse, remind them about temperance. One clear connection is usually more useful than reciting all nine words.

Name the Choice Without Labeling the Child

Say, 'That was not a gentle choice,' rather than, 'You are not gentle.' Say, 'You are having a hard time waiting,' rather than, 'You are impatient.' The fruit of the Spirit is about growth, not giving a child a permanent label because of one difficult moment.

Correct the Behavior and Point Back to the Source

Children still need boundaries and correction. Stop hitting. Return the toy. Tell the truth. Apologize when appropriate. Then connect the correction to the larger truth: 'We need God's help to choose what is right. The Spirit grows His fruit in us.'

Use Short Prayers in Real Moments

A prayer does not need to become a speech. Try: 'God, waiting is hard. Please help us.' Or: 'Jesus, help these hands be gentle.' Or: 'God, help me stop and choose what is right.' A few sincere words can keep prayer connected to ordinary life.

Notice Growth Without Turning It Into Performance

It is fine to notice a good choice: 'You waited even though it was hard.' 'You gave the toy back.' 'You used a gentle voice.' But avoid making spiritual fruit depend on applause, prizes, or proving that the child is a 'good kid.' We want children to recognize God's help and keep growing.

When the Same Lesson Is Needed Again Tomorrow

Expect repetition. A child may sing about temperance in the morning and grab a toy in the afternoon. That does not mean the song failed. Preschool learning is built on repetition, correction, practice, forgiveness, and trying again.

Parent and Grandparent Quick-Reference Guide

When you need help quickly, start with the situation in front of you. Choose one song, one truth, and one simple response.

Helping or sharing

Song to use: Love

Say: 'Love can help. Love can share.'

A child is having fun only when everything goes their way

Song to use: Joy

Say: 'God gives joy even when the day changes.'

Noise, change, or uncertainty is upsetting

Song to use: Peace

Say: 'God is near. We can talk to Him.'

Waiting is becoming difficult

Song to use: Longsuffering: I Can Wait

Say: 'God can help me while I wait.'

Hands, feet, or words are becoming rough

Song to use: Gentleness

Say: 'Gentle hands. Gentle words. Ask God for help.'

The child knows the right thing but wants the easier wrong choice

Song to use: Goodness

Say: 'Goodness chooses what is right.'

The child is worried because they cannot see what happens next

Song to use: Faith

Say: 'I can trust God and what He says.'

The child is pushing to be first or demanding control

Song to use: Meekness

Say: 'I can be gentle without having to push my way.'

The child wants to act on every impulse

Song to use: Temperance: I Can Say No

Say: 'Stop. Think. Choose what is right.'

You want to reconnect all nine fruits to their source

Song to use: Walk in the Spirit / The Fruit Grows God's Way

Say: 'Who grows the fruit? The Spirit does.'

A Simple Four-Step Response

1. Notice what is happening. Keep your words calm and specific.
2. Set the needed boundary or help the child make the next right choice.

3. Connect the moment to one fruit and one short biblical truth.
4. Pray simply, then move on. Do not turn every correction into a long devotional.

The Nine Fruit Words at a Glance

Fruit word	Little-heart beginning
Love	God first loved us. His love can show through care for others.
Joy	Joy is rooted in the Lord, not merely in getting what we want.
Peace	God is near when life feels unsettled.
Longsuffering	God can help us remain patient when something is hard for a while.
Gentleness	Strength can be handled with care.
Goodness	God is good, and His Spirit can shape choices that are right.
Faith	Trust God and believe what He says.
Meekness	Meekness is not weakness. It does not have to push for its own way.
Temperance	With God's help, I do not have to do everything I feel like doing.

Love

What it means: God first loved us. Love seeks another person's good through help, care, truth, patience, and appropriate sacrifice.

What it does not mean: Love is not giving everyone whatever they demand.

Little-heart phrase: Love can help. Love can share.

Bible connection: 1 John 4:19, KJV

Joy

What it means: Joy rejoices in the Lord and His goodness even when circumstances are not perfect.

What it does not mean: Joy is not forced smiling or pretending sadness is wrong.

Little-heart phrase: God gives joy.

Bible connection: Philippians 4:4, KJV

Peace

What it means: Peace rests in God's nearness and trustworthiness when life feels unsettled.

What it does not mean: Peace is not ignoring danger or refusing appropriate help.

Little-heart phrase: God is near. I can pray.

Bible connection: Philippians 4:6-7, KJV

Longsuffering

What it means: Longsuffering is patient endurance when waiting, people, or circumstances remain difficult.

What it does not mean: Longsuffering is not tolerating abuse or unsafe behavior.

Little-heart phrase: God can help me while I wait.

Bible connection: Galatians 5:22, KJV

Gentleness

What it means: Gentleness is strength handled with care in hands, words, voice, and actions.

What it does not mean: Gentleness is not weakness or being afraid to speak.

Little-heart phrase: Gentle hands. Gentle words.

Bible connection: Galatians 5:22, KJV

Goodness

What it means: Goodness chooses what is good and right because God is good.

What it does not mean: Goodness is not performing for prizes or earning God's love.

Little-heart phrase: Choose what is right.

Bible connection: Psalm 34:8, KJV

Faith

What it means: Faith trusts God and believes what He has said.

What it does not mean: Faith is not demanding a desired result or treating feelings as revelation.

Little-heart phrase: I can trust God and His Word.

Bible connection: Galatians 5:22, KJV

Meekness

What it means: Meekness is gentle strength that does not need to dominate or retaliate.

What it does not mean: Meekness is not weakness, silence, or accepting mistreatment.

Little-heart phrase: Gentle when I am strong.

Bible connection: Matthew 11:29, KJV

Temperance

What it means: Temperance is self-control that can stop, think, and choose instead of obeying every impulse.

What it does not mean: Temperance is not shame about normal desires.

Little-heart phrase: I can say no to myself and choose what is right.

Bible connection: Galatians 5:23, KJV

A Week in The Shepherd's Meadow

You do not need to finish the album in one sitting. Here is one simple seven-day rhythm for families who want a starting place.

Day 1 - The Fruit of the Spirit

Learn the nine words and the answer to “Who grows the fruit?”

Day 2 - Love and Joy

Look for one way to help and one reason to thank God.

Day 3 - Peace and Longsuffering

Practice a short wait and pray when something changes.

Day 4 - Gentleness and Goodness

Use gentle hands and choose one unseen good action.

Day 5 - Faith and Meekness

Talk about trusting God and being gentle without being weak.

Day 6 - Temperance

Practice stop, think, choose.

Day 7 - Walk in the Spirit + The Fruit Grows God's Way

Review the album and return to Galatians 5.

Thirty Days of Fruit in Everyday Life

Day 1

Say all nine fruit words together.

Parent or grandparent note: Keep this brief. One sincere connection is enough.

Day 2

Read Galatians 5:22-23 aloud.

Parent or grandparent note: Keep this brief. One sincere connection is enough.

Day 3

Do one helping job as an act of love.

Parent or grandparent note: Keep this brief. One sincere connection is enough.

Day 4

Thank God for three ordinary gifts and talk about joy.

Parent or grandparent note: Keep this brief. One sincere connection is enough.

Day 5

Practice a short peace prayer when the house is calm.

Parent or grandparent note: Keep this brief. One sincere connection is enough.

Day 6

Wait one extra minute for a turn and talk about long suffering.

Parent or grandparent note: Keep this brief. One sincere connection is enough.

Day 7

Practice gentle hands with a book, toy, or pet.

Parent or grandparent note: Keep this brief. One sincere connection is enough.

Day 8

Tell the truth about a small mistake and talk about goodness.

Parent or grandparent note: Keep this brief. One sincere connection is enough.

Day 9

Repeat one short Bible verse and talk about faith.

Parent or grandparent note: Keep this brief. One sincere connection is enough.

Day 10

Let someone else go first and talk about meekness.

Parent or grandparent note: Keep this brief. One sincere connection is enough.

Day 11

Practice Stop. Think. Choose. for temperance.

Parent or grandparent note: Keep this brief. One sincere connection is enough.

Day 12

Take a short walk and talk about walking in the Spirit.

Parent or grandparent note: Keep this brief. One sincere connection is enough.

Day 13

Ask: Who grows the fruit? Answer: The Spirit does.

Parent or grandparent note: Keep this brief. One sincere connection is enough.

Day 14

Notice one loving choice without giving a prize.

Parent or grandparent note: Keep this brief. One sincere connection is enough.

Day 15

Talk about the difference between joy and having fun.

Parent or grandparent note: Keep this brief. One sincere connection is enough.

Day 16

When a plan changes, practice: God did not change.

Parent or grandparent note: Keep this brief. One sincere connection is enough.

Day 17

Wait patiently while another person finishes speaking.

Parent or grandparent note: Keep this brief. One sincere connection is enough.

Day 18

Use a gentle voice during a correction.

Parent or grandparent note: Keep this brief. One sincere connection is enough.

Day 19

Do one right thing quietly when nobody is applauding.

Parent or grandparent note: Keep this brief. One sincere connection is enough.

Day 20

Say: I do not know what happens next, but I can trust God.

Parent or grandparent note: Keep this brief. One sincere connection is enough.

Day 21

Practice gentle strength by saying stop clearly and calmly.

Parent or grandparent note: Keep this brief. One sincere connection is enough.

Day 22

Say no to one unnecessary impulse together.

Parent or grandparent note: Keep this brief. One sincere connection is enough.

Day 23

Read Galatians 5:16 aloud.

Parent or grandparent note: Keep this brief. One sincere connection is enough.

Day 24

Choose one fruit that has been difficult this week and pray about it.

Parent or grandparent note: Keep this brief. One sincere connection is enough.

Day 25

Let the child teach Grandpa or another adult one fruit word.

Parent or grandparent note: Keep this brief. One sincere connection is enough.

Day 26

Look at real fruit and talk about how growing takes time.

Parent or grandparent note: Keep this brief. One sincere connection is enough.

Day 27

Adults share one area where they also need God's help.

Parent or grandparent note: Keep this brief. One sincere connection is enough.

Day 28

Repeat the album question and answer: Who grows the fruit? The Spirit does.

Parent or grandparent note: Keep this brief. One sincere connection is enough.

Day 29

Choose the family's favorite song and use its memory phrase in a real situation.

Parent or grandparent note: Keep this brief. One sincere connection is enough.

Day 30

Celebrate the month with prayer, gratitude, and all nine fruit words.

Parent or grandparent note: Keep this brief. One sincere connection is enough.

Scripture Memory Time

Choose one verse at a time. Young children do not need to memorize every passage in this guidebook before the songs are useful.

Galatians 5:22-23

The complete fruit list.

Galatians 5:16

Walk in the Spirit.

1 John 4:19

We love him, because he first loved us.

Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always.

Philippians 4:7

The peace of God shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Psalms 34:8

The LORD is good.

Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart.

Matthew 11:29

Jesus is meek and lowly in heart.

Family Prayer Page

Prayer does not need to become a performance. Use simple words. Let children hear adults ask God for help too.

Love

God, help us love because You first loved us.

Joy

God, help us rejoice in You.

Peace

God, help our hearts trust You when things feel unsettled.

Longsuffering

God, help us be patient when something is hard for a while.

Gentleness

God, help us be gentle with our strength, words, and hands.

Goodness

God, help us choose what is good and true.

Faith

God, help us trust You and believe Your Word.

Meekness

Jesus, teach us to be meek without being afraid to do what is right.

Temperance

God, help us stop and choose what is right.

Walking in the Spirit

God, help us listen to Your Word, obey You, and depend upon Your Spirit.

When the Fruit Seems Hard

There will be days when a child sings about patience and then becomes impatient five minutes later. There will be days when adults do the same thing. The songs are teaching tools, not proof that the lesson has been mastered.

Correct Without Despair

If a child hits, stop the hitting. If a child lies, address the lie. If a child refuses a reasonable instruction, parent appropriately. Then teach again. Spiritual dependence does not eliminate ordinary parental responsibility.

Avoid Shame Labels

Try to correct the specific action rather than turning it into an identity. “That was not truthful” teaches more clearly than “You are a bad child.”

Let Adults Repent Too

If Grandpa speaks harshly while teaching gentleness, Grandpa may need to apologize. Children learn something powerful when they see an adult admit wrong and seek forgiveness.

Remember the Gospel

The goal is not merely a pleasant household. Christian character points beyond itself to the God who saves and changes people. Keep Christ, Scripture, prayer, and the work of the Spirit at the center.

The Parent and Grandparent Coaching Toolbox

When a Child Is Too Upset to Listen

Do less teaching in the peak of a meltdown. Keep everyone safe, use a calm boundary, and wait until the child can hear you. The song and Scripture are most useful when they are already familiar from peaceful moments.

When You Have Already Repeated Yourself Ten Times

Young children often need repetition. You can shorten the words without changing the expectation. 'Gentle hands.' 'It is still time to wait.' 'The answer is still no.' Consistency does not require a new speech every time.

When the Adult Gets It Wrong

Adults also fail to show love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. When you sin against a child, apologize plainly. 'Grandpa spoke too harshly. That was wrong. Will you forgive me?' Children learn a great deal when adults practice repentance rather than pretending authority means perfection.

When a Child Uses the Song Against the Adult

Eventually a clever child may say, 'Grandpa, you need temperance,' or, 'Mommy, gentle words.' Sometimes the child may be right. Receive truth humbly when appropriate, while still maintaining the adult responsibility to lead and correct.

When Spiritual Language Becomes a Shortcut

Do not use 'pray about it' to avoid listening, problem-solving, medical care, safety action, or an apology. Prayer belongs with wise care, not in place of it.

Family Conversation Cards

Love

Someone has the toy you want. What could love do?

Let the child answer first. Then guide gently rather than supplying a perfect response immediately.

Joy

Something fun ended. What can still be true about God?

Let the child answer first. Then guide gently rather than supplying a perfect response immediately.

Peace

The room is noisy and you feel upset. What could help?

Let the child answer first. Then guide gently rather than supplying a perfect response immediately.

Longsuffering

Someone is taking a long turn. What can you do while you wait?

Let the child answer first. Then guide gently rather than supplying a perfect response immediately.

Gentleness

You are excited and your body is getting rough. What kind of hands can you use?

Let the child answer first. Then guide gently rather than supplying a perfect response immediately.

Goodness

Nobody is watching and you find something that is not yours. What should you do?

Let the child answer first. Then guide gently rather than supplying a perfect response immediately.

Faith

You do not know what will happen tomorrow. What can you trust?

Let the child answer first. Then guide gently rather than supplying a perfect response immediately.

Meekness

You want to be first. Can you be strong without pushing your way?

Let the child answer first. Then guide gently rather than supplying a perfect response immediately.

Temperance

You really want another treat. Do you have to do everything you want?

Let the child answer first. Then guide gently rather than supplying a perfect response immediately.

Walk in the Spirit

Where do we learn what God says?

Let the child answer first. Then guide gently rather than supplying a perfect response immediately.

The Fruit Grows God's Way

Do we grow the fruit all by ourselves?

Let the child answer first. Then guide gently rather than supplying a perfect response immediately.

A Note From Grandpa Joe

If you have made it through this guidebook, I hope one sentence has become almost impossible to forget: Who grows the fruit? The Spirit does.

That question matters because Christian parents and grandparents can easily turn good things into a burden. We want children to be loving. We want them to have joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self-control. We should teach those things. But I never want a child to hear these songs and conclude that Christianity means becoming good enough for God by trying harder.

The Bible calls this the fruit of the Spirit. That name keeps the glory where it belongs.

Our part is not nothing. We open God's Word. We listen. We obey. We pray. We correct wrong choices. We practice what is right. We walk in the Spirit. But even our best teaching should keep pointing little hearts beyond Grandpa, beyond the songs, and beyond themselves.

One day these children will be much older. The situations will become more complicated than sharing a toy or waiting for a snack. My prayer is that the Bible words they learned in the Meadow will still be there, and that underneath those words will be the deeper truth: God is the One we need.

With love,
Grandpa Joe
Joe Soares

Before You Close the Guidebook

Have I kept the Spirit as the source of the fruit rather than turning the album into 'try harder' character training?

Am I correcting real behavior while avoiding shame labels?

Am I reading the actual KJV Scripture with my child, even when I explain it in simpler words afterward?

Am I allowing age-appropriate feelings while still teaching right responses?

Am I protecting the child's ability to say no, tell, leave, and ask for help when safety is involved?

Am I modeling repentance when I fail?

Am I using the songs as memory tools instead of expecting them to do the parent's job?

Am I enjoying the child in front of me rather than turning every moment into a lesson?

Complete Album Companion Song List

1. The Fruit of the Spirit

The fruit belongs to the Spirit. We can learn the nine Bible words and remember that God is the source of spiritual growth.

Scripture: Galatians 5:22-23

2. Love

Biblical love begins with God. His Spirit can make love visible in the way we help, share, care, and treat others.

Scripture: Galatians 5:22; 1 John 4:19

3. Joy

Joy is deeper than getting what I want. Christian joy is rooted in the Lord, whose goodness does not disappear when the day changes.

Scripture: Galatians 5:22; Philippians 4:4

4. Peace

Peace does not require everything around us to be quiet or easy. We can bring our concerns to God and trust Him when life feels unsettled.

Scripture: Galatians 5:22; Philippians 4:6-7

5. Longsuffering: I Can Wait

Longsuffering is a Bible word for patient endurance. God can help us remain patient when something is hard for a while.

Scripture: Galatians 5:22; Colossians 1:11

6. Gentleness

Gentleness is strength handled with care. The Spirit can shape our hands, words, voices, and actions toward others.

Scripture: Galatians 5:22; 2 Timothy 2:24

7. Goodness

God is good. The goodness produced by His Spirit can show in choices that are true, helpful, and right.

Scripture: Galatians 5:22; Psalm 34:8

8. Faith

Faith means trusting God and believing what He says. We can trust the God who sees what we cannot see.

Scripture: Galatians 5:22; Proverbs 3:5

9. Meekness

Meekness is not weakness. Jesus described Himself as meek. Meekness does not have to push, shout, or demand its own way.

Scripture: Galatians 5:23; Matthew 11:29

10. Temperance: I Can Say No

Temperance means self-control. With God's help, I do not have to do everything I feel like doing.

Scripture: Galatians 5:23; 1 Corinthians 9:25

11. Walk in the Spirit

Walking in the Spirit is not following every inner feeling. We listen to God's Word, follow His way, and depend upon His Spirit.

Scripture: Galatians 5:16

12. The Fruit Grows God's Way

We do not squeeze spiritual fruit out of ourselves by trying harder. The Spirit produces His fruit as we walk with God.

Scripture: Galatians 5:16, 22-23

Scripture Reference Index

Galatians 5:16

Used with: Walk in the Spirit; The Fruit Grows God's Way

Galatians 5:22-23

Used with: The Fruit of the Spirit; all nine fruit lessons; The Fruit Grows God's Way

1 John 4:19

Used with: Love

Philippians 4:4

Used with: Joy

Philippians 4:6-7

Used with: Peace

Colossians 1:11

Used with: Longsuffering: I Can Wait

2 Timothy 2:24

Used with: Gentleness

Psalms 34:8

Used with: Goodness

Proverbs 3:5

Used with: Faith

Matthew 11:29

Used with: Meekness

1 Corinthians 9:25

Used with: Temperance: I Can Say No

Using This Guide in Real Family Rhythms

At breakfast

Read one verse or say one memory phrase. Keep it under two minutes. The goal is to begin the day with truth, not to create a morning classroom.

In the car

Use call-and-response. Grandpa or the parent names a fruit; the child answers with the memory phrase. Music can turn travel time into repetition without requiring worksheets.

After a hard moment

Wait until calm has returned. Then revisit what happened with one or two questions. 'What were you feeling? What did you do? Which fruit could help next time?'

At bedtime

Choose prayer over analysis. Thank God for one good gift, ask for help in one area, and end with affection and rest.

With siblings

Do not always make the child who was hurt share responsibility equally. First establish what actually happened. Then teach each child the fruit that fits his or her own response.

With grandparents

Use the same core language as the parents when possible. Consistency helps young children know what words such as gentle hands, wait, and stop-think-choose mean across settings.

At church

One song, one verse, one activity, and one prayer can fill a strong preschool lesson. More content is not automatically better.

During illness or grief

Do not force the cheerful fruit words into a situation that calls for tenderness. Love may look like sitting quietly. Peace may look like prayer through tears. Faith may look like trusting God while admitting we do not understand.

Quick Topic Finder

My child needs a simple introduction to all nine words

Start here: The Fruit of the Spirit

My child is learning to help or share

Start here: Love

My child thinks joy means everything must be fun

Start here: Joy

My child is unsettled by noise or changed plans

Start here: Peace

My child is struggling to wait

Start here: Longsuffering: I Can Wait

My child is rough with hands or words

Start here: Gentleness

My child needs help choosing what is right when nobody is watching

Start here: Goodness

My child is worried about what comes next

Start here: Faith

My child pushes to be first or insists on getting the upper hand

Start here: Meekness

My child acts quickly on every impulse

Start here: Temperance: I Can Say No

I want to connect the fruit to daily Christian living

Start here: Walk in the Spirit

I want to reinforce that the Spirit is the source

Start here: The Fruit Grows God's Way

About The Shepherd's Meadow

The Shepherd's Meadow is a Christian children's music and teaching project from Joe Soares Music. It was created as a warm place where little hearts can learn biblical truth through songs, Scripture, family conversations, and memorable characters.

Grandpa provides the warm adult voice. Children ask the questions little children naturally ask. Scout, the goldendoodle, brings a familiar family presence to the Meadow. The music is intentionally simple, repetitive, and easy for young children to sing.

The goal is not simply to make Christian-themed children's entertainment. The goal is to give parents and grandparents openings for conversations that matter.

About Joe Soares

Joe Soares is a husband, father, grandfather, Bible teacher, worship leader, author, and Christian songwriter. As Grandpa Joe in The Shepherd's Meadow, he creates songs intended to sound less like a stage performance and more like a trusted grandfather sitting with children, singing, opening the Bible, and talking about God's truth.

More music and family resources are available at joesoaresmusic.com.

The Fruit of the Spirit

A Shepherd's Meadow Family Guidebook

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

Galatians 5:22-23 KJV

Remember

We listen to God's Word. We trust Him. We obey. We walk in His way. And we remember whose fruit it is.

The Spirit grows His fruit.

Little hearts. Big Bible words. A faithful God.

The Shepherd's Meadow

Songs for Little Hearts

by Joe Soares

joesoaresmusic.com