HOW TO WALK IN THE SPIRIT

Lesson 4: My Helper
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Unit Summary
God gave children an amazing gift when He gave them the Holy Spirit. It has been said, “There is no Holy Spirit Junior.” Children have the exact same access to the Holy Spirit’s power as adults. However, learning to understand and to daily lean on the Holy Spirit is not often taught to kids. During this unit, your kids will discover what it means to be indwelled and filled with the Holy Spirit—how to walk in the Spirit! They will explore four roles of the Holy Spirit that are described in the Bible and come to know the Holy Spirit better. The four lesson titles in this unit reflect those roles: My Comforter, My Teacher, My Counselor, and My Helper. While the fruit of the Spirit is often taught to kids, many times it is taught as a list of traits kids should be working on in their own strength. Nothing could be further from the truth. They are traits that will naturally flow out of a Christian who is walking in the Spirit. This unit focuses on teaching kids what it means to walk in the Spirit and provides practical ways to do so.

Lesson Summary
Walking in the Spirit produces amazing results. God calls this the fruit of the spirit. Too often these results are taught as traits we are to work on as Christians. Nothing could be further from the truth. God produces the fruit of the spirit in kids’ lives when they are walking in the Spirit. They are the fruit of the Spirit, not the fruit of kids’ efforts to be good. This truth is both unnatural and freeing for children to learn. When they learn to allow God to work through them to produce good fruit, genuine change takes place that will last a lifetime.

Paul’s Power Principle: The Holy Spirit helps me live for God!
SPARK INTEREST

Choose from the following activities and ideas to engage kids and grab their attention.

Welcome!—Find the Fruit

Supplies: paper, art supplies

Ahead of time make nine fruits out of paper, write one of the fruits of the Spirit on each, and hide them in the room. As kids arrive, give them a small printout of Galatians 5:22–23 and tell them to try to find all nine fruits hidden in the room. They can circle the fruit in the verse as they find it. When they can show you their verse with all nine circled, they get a yummy treat. (Be sure the names of fruit you put on the fruit match the translation you give the children, because there are minor differences between translations; for example, patience is sometimes forbearance or long-suffering.)

In your welcome, talk briefly about the fruit of Spirit as something that we shouldn’t have to hunt for, but that will be produced in our lives as we walk in the Spirit.

Let’s Meet-n-Greet!

Take some time to let the children greet each other. Have the kids ask those around them, “Which fruit of the Spirit is the hardest for you?” (You may want to display them on a screen.)

Leaders, be sure to stop whatever you are doing to move through the audience and greet the children, especially those you do not recognize. Announce any birthdays for the week. (See the How to Use DiscipleTown guide for quick and easy ways to acknowledge visitors and birthdays.)
Let’s Worship!
In your time of worship during this lesson, focus on how the Holy Spirit helps us to live for God and produce good fruit.

Recommended Song: Fruit of the Spirit from Made 2 Praise Volume 5 by Uncle Charlie, available at Kidology.org/unclecharlie5.

Puppet Intro
Leader & puppet introduce today’s lesson. You will find a scripted version of this intro at the end of the lesson.

Puppet comes out. Leader greets him, but Puppet seems down. Leader asks why, and he says that he has been trying really hard to be a good Christian, but it seems the harder he tries, the worse he does! He just can’t do it. He admits there are even times he just wants to give up because it is just too hard to be perfect. Leader admits we all feel this way at times because we are all sinful. Puppet says, “If only I had a helper!” Leader explains that he does! The Holy Spirit’s job is to help us do the right thing. Puppet says he has been trying to do the fruits of the spirit, but it is so hard. Leader says, you aren’t supposed to work on the fruits of the Spirit; you are supposed to work on getting closer to God, and the Holy Spirit will produce those fruits. They don’t come from our human effort. Puppet says that’s kind of a different way to look at it. Leader says, that’s why they are called fruits of the Spirit, not fruits of [puppet name]. Puppet gets excited, and says, “Okay, I am going to give up on trying to be perfect, and instead work on getting closer to God and see what He does in my life and how that changes my behavior.” Leader says, “Now you’ve got the secret!”

Let’s Play!—Balloons Pop!
Supplies: lots of inflated balloons of various sizes, permanent marker

Scatter balloons all over the floor. Depending on the size of your group, you can choose players or allow all the kids to play. The object is to see if they can pop all the balloons in less than one minute! Ask the kids to name some sins; write them on some of the balloons with a marker. (You do not need to write on them all, but say that all of them represent different sins that we want to “pop” and get out of our lives!)

Optional: Divide the balloons and the children (or teams) into two groups and see which team can pop all their balloons first.

The Point: It was hard to pop the balloons! Sometimes they shot away. They were constantly moving, but with effort it was possible. Doing what is right is not always easy either. But with God’s help through the Holy Spirit, we can “pop” all the sin in our lives and be successful in living for God.

Connect with Your Kids
The Holy Spirit produces fruit in our lives. Have you ever been surprised by a good thing you did? Think of a time you did something good that you knew was God working through you. On your own, you definitely would have done it differently. Share this experience with your students. Show them how being filled with the Spirit changes the way we act and react to the things that happen to us in life. These real-life stories can have a profound impact on those we teach.
DiscipleTown Visitor

Electrician—wearing work boots, hat, work clothes; he should be carrying various tools, coils of wire, an extension cord, and an unmounted electrical outlet.

[The Electrician comes in as if he is looking for someone.]

Electrician: Um, excuse me!

Leader: Oh, hi, Sir! Are you lost?

Electrician: Not lost, but looking for someone who is very confused.

Leader: You are looking for someone who is confused?

Electrician: Yes, that’s right!

Leader: Okay, confused about what? I think I might be your man. I am very confused right now!

Electrician: [Laughs as he realizes how he sounded.] I’m sorry. I guess I’m not really explaining myself. I am looking for someone who is perhaps trying to operate a power tool.

Leader: Power tool? You saw someone wandering with a power tool on a Sunday morning, in church?

Electrician: [Confused:] No, no. I found this extension cord plugged into this outlet which was not installed into the wall.

Leader: Oh, you are right! That is absurd!

Electrician: I know, it makes no sense! Why would you try to run power tools from an outlet that’s not even connected to a power source! It’s ludicrous? Maybe a hammer fell and hit the person on the head or something!

Leader: Ha ha, that would make more sense! It’s funny, though, because you got me thinking!

Electrician: I did? About power tools?

Leader: No, about power. I wonder if God watches us as Christians sometimes and shakes his head at us in the same way that we just did.

Electrician: Okay, now I’m confused. I’m not sure I follow.

Leader: Well, there are many Christians in the world who try to do God’s work without being plugged into the source of power that God provides. They work and work and work, but nothing happens. They aren’t connected to the Holy Spirit, who is the source of their power and effectiveness.

Electrician: Wow! That’s brilliant! A power tool IS only as good as the power source it is connected to. If you aren’t connected to the power source, you are just a paperweight, really!

Leader: That’s what I am thinking! How many times have we tried to witness to others and we just end up getting in an argument about silly things—or worse, end up being mean? How many times have we walked right past someone who needed to see God’s love through our kind hands or kind words and missed it completely because we were too busy doing our own thing to notice the Holy Spirit’s nudge? Or what about the times when the Holy Spirit wanted us to be more patient, more kind, more gentle, or more self-controlled?

Electrician: You make a good point! If we took the time to get connected and stay connected to the Holy Spirit, He would probably be able to save the world a lot faster than is happening right now. I’m also guessing people would believe our message if our lives actually looked like Jesus.

Leader: That’s right! The Holy Spirit is the one who transforms us, and He does that work so that He can reach the world with the message of God’s love. We all have a part to play in being trans-
formed and seeing our street, our city, and our nation transformed by God’s love. We can’t do it without the wisdom, counsel, and help of the Holy Spirit.

**Electrician:** He is very smart!

**Leader:** That’s right, and WE would be smart to ask for His help and His plan every day! Sometimes our plans need to stop in order to make room for God’s more important plans. We can only know what those plans are by listening and obeying the Holy Spirit.

**Electrician:** Great advice! I think I’m going to go install this outlet, so the next time our confused power tool operator comes looking for power, he’ll find some! Sorry to interrupt! I am glad for the reminder about the Holy Spirit, though!

**Leader:** It was nice to meet you! ‘Bye!

**Electrician:** See ya later! [*Exits.*]
Let’s Search!—Bible Dash

**Supplies:** Bibles

Ask all kids with Bibles to participate, or invite a few volunteers to come to the front. As children hold Bibles closed with hands on covers, state the Bible reference twice, then on the command “SEARCH!” have the students race to locate the verse. Once they have a finger on the verse, they can stand and call out, “FOUND IT!” Have the first child read the verse aloud while you project the verse on a screen via PowerPoint. See suggestions below for comments on each verse. Keep your comments brief and to the point of the lesson.

- John 14:16  
  Jesus asked God to send a helper.
- Acts 4:31  
  The Holy Spirit gives boldness.
- Acts 13:52  
  The Holy Spirit gives joy.
- Romans 9:1  
  The Holy Spirit helps clear our conscience.
- Romans 14:17  
  The Holy Spirit gives peace and joy.
- 2 Timothy 1:14  
  The Holy Spirit lives in us.

Paul’s Power Principle: The Holy Spirit helps me live for God!

**Suggested Bible Narrative**

*Acts 16:6-10—Paul’s Dream*

God spoke to Paul through a dream, and it changed the way he looked at the Gentiles. God wants to speak to us and change us. He may use dreams, other people, Scripture, or any number of things. The key is that we need to be listening to the Holy Spirit when He speaks to us.

Let’s Learn!—My Helper

Ask the children, What is your favorite fruit? Allow for responses. Do you know what God’s favorite fruit is? He has NINE favorite fruits! Anyone know what they are? Allow kids to try and recite all nine fruits of the spirit.

**Mini Skit—Fruit Salesman**

For this skit, you’ll need to put some bananas in the refrigerator overnight to turn them black. Any other old-looking fruit you can create will help.

Just as you are about to start teaching, have a salesman with a crate of fruit come in, saying, “Get your fruit here! Discounted old fruit! Best prices ever on old rotten fruit! Over 90% off retail prices from when it was fresh. Step right up! Get it while it’s rotten!” You are appalled and ask the salesman why he is selling old fruit. He explains that the grocery store threw it out in a Dumpster, and he saw it as a business opportunity! “You can’t beat these prices anywhere!” You try to explain why no one would want the fruit, even enlisting the kids to try and explain after asking them if they want to eat the rotten fruit. Explain that people wouldn’t eat it for free—not even if they were paid to eat it. The salesman can’t be convinced and leaves the room still calling out and trying to sell his rotten fruit, holding it up and showing it as he goes.
After he leaves, ask the kids what is wrong with old fruit. Ask for a show of hands of who thinks fresh fruit is best. Then say that God is the same way. He doesn’t want us producing bad fruit. And even good fruit we produced in the past doesn’t interest God. He is looking for fresh fruit. What have we done recently to serve God and others?

Have you ever wondered why you sometimes do what is wrong—even when you don’t want to? Your spiritual life feels like a tug-of-war. Evil is pulling you to one side and good is tugging you to the other. Read Galatians 5:17. God sent the Holy Spirit to end this tug-of-war! The “Spirit of life” has set Christians free from the power of sin and death.

Read Romans 8:2. The deeds of the flesh are rotten, but the Holy Spirit produces spiritual fruit! Read Galatians 5:19–25. Christians who walk in the Spirit die to self and live for Christ. God transforms their lives! Walking in the Spirit is all about Jesus Christ living His life anew in and through you. Read Galatians 2:20. What do you think this verse means? (The Holy Spirit in us starts to change the way we live.)

Object Lesson—The Dead Guy

Supplies: full-size dummy made of stuffed clothes. You can make the head out of a skeleton head, a balloon, a ball, or whatever you want. Don’t make it scary, but you are making a “dead guy.”

Drag the “dead guy” out, prop it up on a chair, and say that you want to do an experiment. You want to try and tempt the dummy to do something wrong. Read Romans 6:11. According to this verse, we are supposed to be “dead to sin.” Let’s see what happens when we tempt a dead guy. At this point, try several “temptations” on the dead guy. You can offer answers to a test so he can cheat, offer him illegal drugs, yell at him and try to pick a fight, etc. Of course, he won’t respond. This is how we are supposed to respond to temptation—like a dead guy would—because we are dead to sin.

Dead or Alive?

Supplies: list of 20 to 30 actions that are a mix of sins and good deeds—for example, lie, cheat, obey, steal, help your mom, fight, give money to the poor, etc.

The second half of Romans 6:11 says we are to be “alive unto God.” Ask the kids to show you what it looks like to be dead. (They can collapse in their chairs or lie on the floor, tongues hanging out.) Then ask what it looks like to be truly alive. (Have them jump up and cheer!)

Tell the kids you are going to read a list of actions that they should either be “dead to” (because they are sins) or “alive to” because they will please God. If they hear something they should be “dead to,” they should drop down as though they are dead like the dead guy. But if it is something they should be “alive to,” they should jump up and cheer! They should be careful to listen for when two in a row are the same, so they won’t change what they are doing. Make it fun!

Read Romans 6:6–7. Because of the Holy Spirit in us, we can be free from sin!

P-O-W-E-R Review Balloon Pop

If you taught DT21, How to Be Jesus’ Disciple, you can review the P-O-W-E-R steps to experiencing God’s power. Christians who walk in the Spirit experience God’s power. As they yield to the Holy Spirit’s guidance, they grow stronger and stronger. They develop new skills to serve God even better! Train these five spiritual P-O-W-E-R muscles.

Inflate five balloons and write one of the letters P, O, W, E, R on each balloon. Inside place a piece of paper with the word the letter on the outside of the balloon stands for and the verse below printed out. Ask volunteers to come up and pop each balloon and read what is inside.
Pray from your heart (John 15:7).
Obey the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:16).
Worship with the Church (Hebrews 10:25).
Explain your faith to others (Acts 1:8).
Read your Bible daily (Joshua 1:8).

Christians depend on the Holy Spirit for all their spiritual power and success. The more completely you yield yourself to God, the more freedom the Spirit will have to work in your life.

Dee’s Disciple Tip: The final and fourth discipline that will help us walk in the Spirit is simplicity: Getting rid of things that keep us too busy for God.

Once again, let the kids have a time of solitude and silence and surrender. Spread out in the room again if you have the space. One minute is fine, unless you feel they can do two minutes again. Ask them this week to ask the Holy Spirit to show them some ways they can simplify their life. What is distracting them from God? What is keeping them too busy to do these disciplines at home? God will give them ideas of ways they can do a better job of walking in the Spirit during the week. They don’t need a teacher to tell them; God will tell them if they will listen to God. At the end, ask if there are any kids who want to share the ideas that the Holy Spirit gave them.

KeyVerse
Topic: The Holy Spirit—God’s gift
Reference: Romans 5:5

It’s time to see who knows the verse! Invite some children to come up on stage who can recite the verse. If several can, use a stopwatch to see who can recite it the fastest for extra fun. End by having everyone repeat the verse several times as well.

Say a brief prayer thanking God for pouring out His love on us through the Holy Spirit and giving us such a wonderful hope through Jesus.
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Dramatize the Point
A Regular Joe Is Changed—Part 4

Characters/Costume: Joe has regular clothes, backpack with his Bible in it, watch, and jacket. Jimmy just has regular clothes, Jenny also has regular clothes

[Joe and Jimmy enter walking and talking together.]

Joe: Wow, Jimmy, so much has happened since I last saw you. I’m so glad the Holy Spirit led you to stop at my house last week.

Jimmy: Me too, Joe! It amazes me how the Holy Spirit works sometimes. He loves people so much, and He is always looking for Christians who will take the time to listen for the little things He wants to do to show people His love.

Joe: I know. Like the other day, I was walking along and saw an elderly lady trying to carry a very heavy grocery bag to her car. Suddenly this idea popped into my head that I should help her. I thought about it to see if that was a Holy Spirit thought. I remembered all the times Jesus helped people, and then I remembered Galatians 5:22 that tells me that one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit is kindness. I knew right then it was a God thought. So I helped the poor lady carry her bag to the car. She was so grateful. I told her that God loved her and to have a great day.

Jimmy: That’s amazing, Joe! That is how the Holy Spirit works. He wants to empower us to share the good news of God’s love with everyone we meet.

Joe: I’m glad that you taught me how to know a God thought from my own, too. God ideas will always match up with what the Bible says about who God is and what He is like. I have been reading my Bible every night so I can learn to recognize the Holy Spirit’s voice in my life.

Jimmy: That’s so important, Joe. We need to read the Bible in order to be able know the voice of the Holy Spirit.

Joe: I feel like I’m a different person! I don’t act like I did before; no more stealing and fighting and bullying people! I am a changed man!

Jimmy: [Laughs lightly.] Ah, Joe, you’re a work in progress, just like me! Keep your ears open to what the Holy Spirit might say to you in each moment, and you will grow a little more every day! [Stopping to say goodbye.] Well, Joe, it’s been great chatting! I gotta run, though! I want to do some extra cleaning around the house before Mom gets home from work. I want to bless her!

Joe: God thought?

Jimmy: Yup. “Honor your mother and father,” the Bible says!

Joe: Passes the Bible test—excellent! See ya later, Jimmy!

[Jimmy turns to leave. Joe sits on the side of the road and pulls out his Bible to read. Jenny enters, coming up quietly so she isn’t seen. She quickly grabs Joe’s backpack and starts to run off.]

Joe: HEY! [Suddenly remembers that he had done this very thing to Jimmy. His face changes from anger to kindness as he remembers what Jimmy did. Pauses to listen.] Hey, hey, wait a minute! [Begins to chase mugger.] Yo! You forgot something!

[Jenny looks behind, caught off guard by the statement.]

Joe: Wait! [Catching up, he proceeds to take off his watch, his shoes, and his jacket, along with his
Bible, and hands them to Jenny.] You forgot this stuff!

[Jenny is confused, accepts the additional items, looking around nervously.]

**Joe:** Take care of yourself! You obviously need this stuff more than I do.

**Jenny:** Are you crazy, man?

**Joe:** No, I’m not! This is what I’m supposed to do.

[Joe & Jenny begin to walk, heading offstage.]

**Jenny:** I don’t understand! Most people yell and scream and throw things at me—not to mention call the police. But you? You didn’t! I don’t understand.

**Joe:** [Extends his hand to Jenny.] I don’t expect you to understand. By the way, my name is Joe. And I used to be just like you. Then I met this guy named Jimmy...and Jesus...

[Both exit.]

### Object Talks—Obey

**Supplies:** video projection

The short video clip for this lesson features Karl, the Kidologist, demonstrating how to make a balloon twisting creation while the kids in the audience try to guess what it is he is making. (Don’t say what the creation is in advance, since the children will be guessing.) In this lesson, he makes a crown and talks about how we need to OBEY God, our King.

**Featured Verse:** John 14:23

### Let’s Talk!—Small Group Discussion

**Supplies:** dictionary, Bibles for everyone, notecards (prepared), bowl labeled Fruits of the Spirit, bowl labeled Gifts of the Spirit

Ahead of time, using Romans 12:6–8, 1 Corinthians 12:4–11, and Galatians 5:22–23, write down each of the gifts and each of the fruits of the Spirit, each on its own card. Scramble the pile of cards.

Look up in the dictionary the word gift and the word fruit. Ask the kids if they can tell you what the difference between having a gift in your life and having fruit in your life would be. Bring out the notecards to see if they can identify by looking at the card which bowl (fruit or gift) that card should go in. Look up Romans 12:6–8 and 1 Corinthians 12:4–11 to check to see if the answers in your “Gifts” bowl are correct. Look up Galatians 5:22–23 to see if the answers in your “Fruits” bowl are correct.

Use these questions to discuss the day’s topic within your small groups:

1. Why does the Holy Spirit want to produce the things in Galatians 5 in our lives?
2. Is the fruit of the Spirit only for certain people? Why or why not?
3. Why does the Holy Spirit want to empower us with His gifts?
4. What jobs does the Holy Spirit have in our lives and in the world?
5. What are ways that we stop the Holy Spirit in our lives?
DiscipleTown Super Citizen
Choose a child who demonstrated two or more fruits of the Spirit in his or her actions in class. Mention what they are and award that person a Super Citizen certificate.

Let’s Pray!
Dear Jesus, thank You for choosing us to accomplish Your mission of sharing Your love with the world. Thank You for transforming us so that our towns and cities can be transformed by the good works we do and the truth we share. Holy Spirit, teach us how to pray for our neighbors. Give us courage to speak truth and show Your great love and kindness to others. Forgive us when we are selfish and choose to spend our time on ourselves instead of listening to Your Holy Spirit. We want to be a part of bringing Your kingdom to earth! We love You, Jesus. In Your name, amen.

Cy’s Challenge: Think of one way you can simplify your life, and then do it!

Let’s Review!
Use these questions to review the lesson with the children:

1) Why is obedience important in telling others about Jesus?
2) What does the Holy Spirit want to build in you?
3) What gifts does the Holy Spirit want to give you that will help in accomplishing the mission of winning the world to Jesus?
4) What choices do you have to make this week that you need the Holy Spirit’s help with?
DiscipleTown Table Talker: Give each child a copy of this week’s DiscipleTown Table Talker. As you show them how to put it together, encourage the kids to ask their parents to lead family devotions three times this week.

Parent E-mail: Copy and send the e-mail below to help your parents connect with their kids during the week. Send them early in the week, but not on Sunday. As a courtesy, be sure parents have opted to receive these e-mails. Review and edit as necessary to reflect the lesson elements you have used. You can also find this e-mail as a Microsoft Word document in your download bundle.

Dear Mom and Dad,

This week we wrapped up our series on learning to walk in the Spirit. We have grown significantly in our understanding of the role of the Holy Spirit as comforter, teacher, counselor, and world transformer.

We learned that the Holy Spirit not only wants to transform us, but wants to transform our neighborhoods, our city, and our nation through our transformed lives.

This week as you use the DiscipleTown Table Talker to initiate conversations with your children, consider including a plan for your family to do a random act of kindness in your neighborhood. Take the time to pray and invite the Holy Spirit to give you creative ideas on how you can bless those around you who do not know Him.

Learning to walk with the Spirit is not something that can be accomplished in a month of good lessons. Please be encouraged to keep practicing the presence of God and pausing to allow the Holy Spirit to lead you as a part of your own life and the lives of your family and children.

As always, thank you for allowing us to serve you and your family as we grow together.

Building young disciples,

[Your Name]
Chip's Snack Time!—Tag Team Treats

**Supplies:** assorted whole fruit or pudding cups, plastic spoons, garbage bags with holes cut for hands and heads to protect clothing.

Have children get into pairs. Have one child be prepared to eat the snack. The other must feed it to him or her by standing behind and putting his or her arms underneath the arms of the “eater.” Then have the partners switch roles.

**The Point:** Just as we had to learn how to work with our partners, learning to keep in step and follow the Holy Spirit takes time and practice. We need to keep working on this very important skill and habit in our lives.

**Additional Ideas**

**Game: Listen to Your Partner—Supplies:** pillow or stuffed animal, four blindfolds.

Ask kids to raise their hands with a friend they would like to play with. Put one pair in each corner of the room and blindfold one child in each pair. Then place the object that is the goal somewhere in the room that is relatively even between the four pairs, though not in the center of the room. The audience needs to remain quiet. On “Go,” the blindfolded children try to find the goal while the partners stay in the corners and call out instructions. They will need to concentrate on the sound of their partners’ voices because there will be three other kids yelling instructions to their own partners. You are welcome to move the goal a few times to add some fun and fairness to the game.

**The Point:** We can’t see everything in life. We need God’s help to succeed, and God can see everything. But we need to concentrate to hear the Holy Spirit because there are a lot of “voices” in this world telling us what to do, and what they are telling us is not always right. If we want to produce good fruit for God, we need to be carefully listening to God.
DIRECTOR'S NOTES
The words in italics are notes for you and your puppeteers; they are not to be read aloud.

Costume/Props: Puppet comes out dressed in a coat and black sunglasses. (Add a shirt and tie if you can manage it.) He looks like a secret agent.

(Puppet* comes in with costume and seems a bit discouraged. Leader should have a Bible handy, bookmarked to Galatians 5:22–23.)

Leader: Good morning, [puppet name].

Puppet: [Sadly:] Morning.

Leader: Everything okay?

Puppet: I just can't get it right! I'm trying, but I'm just not perfect! I just wish I was perfect, so I could serve God well!

Leader: Well, you...

Puppet: There I go being impatient again! Boy, this is so hard!

Leader: What is it you are trying to do?

Puppet: Well, the Bible says that I should have this long list of fruits in my life if I am a Christian. I've been trying, but just when I get going on one, I mess up on another. Do you know how hard it is to keep track of nine different fruits every second of the day? Boy, do I need a helper with this!

Leader: You do have a helper!

Puppet: I do?

Leader: Yeah, the Holy Spirit!

Puppet: No, you don't get it. It's the Holy Spirit that I'm trying to please with all these fruits!

Leader: Let's look up Galatians 5:22–23. [Looks it up in his Bible, and holds it so Puppet can read with him.] Will you read this for me, [puppet name]?

Puppet: "But the fruit of the Spirit is..."

Leader: STOP!

Puppet: What?

Leader: Read that again.

Puppet: "But the fruit of the Spirit is..."

Leader: STOP!

Puppet: Why do you keep stopping me?

Leader: I want you to notice that it doesn't say, the fruit of [puppet name].

Puppet: No, it says the fruit of the Spirit!

Leader: It's not your job to produce the fruit in your life. It's not the fruit of [puppet name]; it's the fruit of the Spirit. It's the job of the Holy Spirit to produce those fruits in your life.

Puppet: [Confused:] So what's my job, then?

Leader: I'm so glad you asked. Your job is to get close to God, to develop the best relationship with Him that you can. As you get close to God, your love for Him grows and grows; and as your love grows, the Holy Spirit grows the fruit of the Spirit in your life, little by little. This isn't something that can be done by human effort.

Puppet: Do I look human to you?

Leader: I mean, "puppet" effort!

Puppet: I see, so I need to get close to God and love Him to the best of my ability. I need to stop trying to act perfect and just focus on my relationship with God.

Leader: That's right. And when you love God, you are able to trust Him when He teaches you, and He will grow a great fruit harvest in you if you just stay hungry for God!

Puppet: THE HUNGRY WIN!

Leader: That's exactly right! The hungry win!

Puppet: That's easy, I'm always hungry!

Leader: I meant hungry for God.

Puppet: I don't know how I would ever live without the Holy Spirit. He is God, He is my teacher, my counselor, and my helper. I'm just so thankful.

Leader: Hungry for some worship?

Puppet: Yeah, now that you mention it, that is exactly what I'm hungry for! If you'll excuse me, I have to go spend time with my best friend. Catch ya later! [Exits.]

*PUPPET: Develop a puppet character to use regularly. The children will get to know the personality and enjoy these regular visits. Dee, Cy, and Paul puppets are available at DiscipleLand.com.
Each DiscipleTown Unit will teach your kids an essential "how to" skill to become victorious disciples of Jesus!