

# The Fruit of the Spirit is KINDNESS

See if you can figure out which fruit of the Spirit today's devotion is about while you listen to this story.

A few days ago Sam went to the park to play. Sam was all alone and hoped to find someone to play with. When Sam got to the park he wanted to swing on the swings, but they were all full. Sam scowled at the children on the swings. Next Sam decided to go down the slide. He climbed the ladder and found two girls at the top who were too afraid to go down. They blocked his way, so he couldn't go down either. Sam had to turn around and go back down the ladder, but first he stuck his tongue out at the two girls. Sam looked around the playground and saw that some kids were starting a game of soccer. He began running toward them to join their game, but they started playing before he got there. Sam was really angry this time, so he yelled at them. As he was turning away from the soccer game, Sam bumped into a young girl who was licking a lollipop. He hollered at the girl, "Why don't you watch where you're going!" The little girl looked up at Sam, smiled, held out a second lollipop, and asked, "Would you like my other lollipop?" Sam answered, "No, I don't want your stupid lollipop!" and stomped away. Sam went to sit by himself on a park bench. He was mad because he hadn't found anyone to play with him.

Imagine that you are in the park. You have just sat down on the bench with Sam. What advice would you give Sam? *(Pause for student responses.)* What fruit of the Spirit could Sam use in these situations?

Listen to what the Bible says about kindness:

- *Proverbs 11:17* – "Those who are kind benefit themselves, but the cruel bring ruin on themselves."
- *1 Thessalonians 5:15* – "Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else."

Our story about Sam continues. Eventually Sam got up from the park bench. He was all alone and sad because he didn't have anyone to play with him. Sam walked over to the swings, but they were still full. Sam noticed a young child on one swing that wasn't going very high, so he offered to push the child. Soon the young child was giggling and swinging high in the air. Next Sam decided to play on the slide. He saw the two girls at the top were still afraid to go down. Sam said to the girls, "It is less scary

to go down the slide with someone else. Would one of you like to sit on my lap and go down with me?" First one girl slid with Sam, then the other. Soon they were sliding by themselves, smiling and laughing. Sam looked around the playground and saw that the game of soccer was still going on. He politely asked the players if he might join their game. They welcomed him into the game and even let him play his favorite position of goalie. Just then the little lollipop girl came up to Sam, smiled at him and asked, "Would you like my other lollipop?" Sam answered, "Yes, thank you," and put the lollipop in his pocket for later. As the girl walked away Sam heard her say, "Mommy, I gave a lollipop to my new friend!" Sam smiled. He now knew what a difference kindness can make.

• *Isaiah 54:8b – "With everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you."*

God's kindness is everlasting. That is a long time to be kind! Isn't it great that God shows us kindness instead of scowls, yells, and bad tempers? With the Holy Spirit's help, we, too, can develop the characteristic of kindness.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, your kindness is such a gift to us. Thank you for setting an example for us to follow. A lot of us do pretty well with showing kindness to others, but we can always improve. Holy Spirit, please help us to see when we can show kindness to friends, family members, and total strangers. Amen.