

Fruits of Summer

By Christy Olson



Celebrate the fruits of summer while learning about a biblical fruit, the fig. Explore and compare two Bible stories about figs from the Gospels of Luke and Matthew.

For
Young Family

Season
Summer

Needed

Grocery ads from the newspaper, Bible, figs (fresh or packaged)

Prepare in Advance

Read Luke 13:6-9 and Matthew 24:32-35 bookmark them in your Bible (or see last page)

Activity Plan

1. Hold hands in a circle. Learn this active prayer together.

*Fruit, fruit the more you eat.
The more God gives a wonderful treat.
Jump and give a great big "Yeah",
When eating fruit the summer way, Amen.*

2. Look at the newspaper produce advertisement. Name all the fruits. Share with each other, which summer fruits are your favorites.
3. Read aloud Luke 13:6-9. Discuss the story using these questions.
 - What did the man want from the tree?
 - Why did the man want to cut down the tree?
 - How did the gardener want to help the tree?
 - Are you like the man when you don't get your way?
4. Read aloud Matthew 24:32-35. Discuss.
 - How does the fig tree tell us summer is near?
 - How do we know that Jesus is near?
 - Why is it important to watch the growth of trees and plants?
 - What can we learn about our own growth from plant growth?
5. Eat the figs. Share with one another how the figs taste. Remember that figs are grown in the Mediterranean as well as in California and other mild climates. Figs have been around as a summer fruit for a long time.



Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

Luke 13:6-9

And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

Matthew 24:32-35

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

