

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,
patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
gentleness, self-control; against such
things there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT WORD SEARCH

Galatians 5:22–23

Find the words across, down, or diagonally.

M	U	H	B	G	S	L	H	Z	I	G	B	D	T	X
F	A	I	T	H	F	U	L	N	E	S	S	Z	V	G
K	N	S	T	V	D	O	V	N	E	E	X	R	A	P
B	R	F	C	B	T	F	G	H	L	F	A	L	X	M
S	Y	R	P	E	U	O	R	F	R	P	A	X	E	N
Z	K	R	M	Q	O	L	C	U	A	T	J	D	J	J
H	L	U	R	D	R	O	K	T	I	J	R	L	B	S
A	K	G	N	E	N	V	I	A	C	T	H	V	S	X
E	G	E	N	T	L	E	N	E	S	S	R	S	C	Y
J	S	J	R	D	N	S	D	E	K	P	B	U	G	I
S	L	O	P	C	O	T	N	E	K	S	I	P	W	N
C	L	Y	E	Y	W	K	E	E	I	N	A	R	M	T
S	N	E	A	N	Q	Y	S	P	K	Q	L	T	I	J
V	M	H	C	P	G	U	S	I	T	F	V	A	E	T
I	G	U	E	T	M	Z	U	E	H	V	P	O	O	U

FRUIT • SPIRIT • LOVE • JOY

PEACE • PATIENCE • KINDNESS • GOODNESS

FAITHFULNESS • GENTLENESS • SELF-CONTROL • GALATIANS

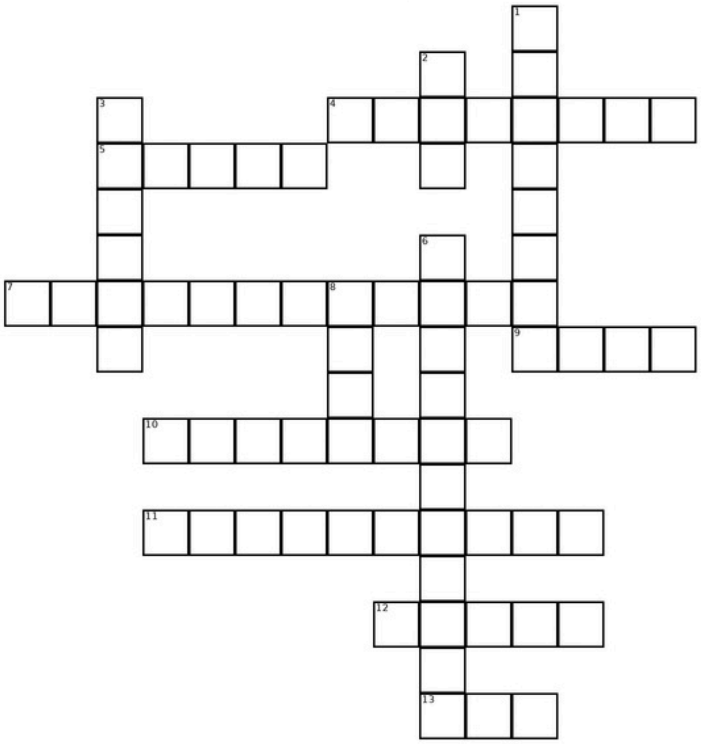
But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:22–23 (ESV)

KEEP IN STEP CROSSWORD

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
Galatians 5:22–23 (ESV)

Need some help? Read Galatians 5:22–25.
Look up the passage in your Bible!



ACROSS

4. The quality named before faithfulness. (v. 22)
5. The quality named after joy. (v. 22)
7. The quality named after goodness. (v. 22)
9. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in _____ with the Spirit. (v. 25)
10. The quality named before kindness. (v. 22)
11. The quality named before self-control. (v. 23)
12. Paul calls these qualities the _____ of the Spirit. (v. 22)
13. Against such things there is no _____. (v. 23)

DOWN

1. The quality named after patience. (v. 22)
2. The quality named after love. (v. 22)
3. If we live by the _____, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. (v. 25)
6. The final quality named in the fruit of the Spirit. (v. 23)
8. The first quality named in the fruit of the Spirit. (v. 22)

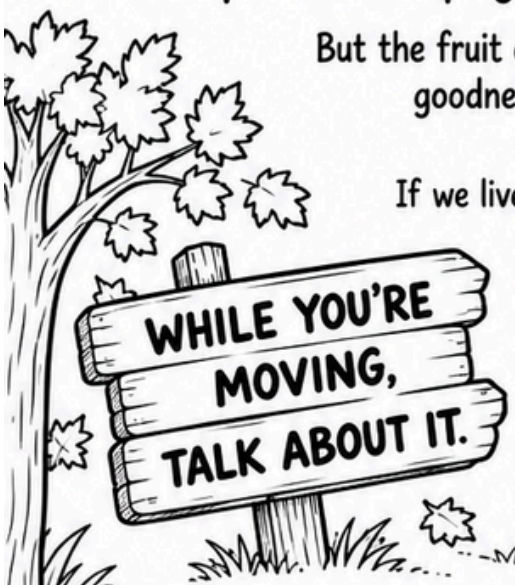
KEEP IN STEP TOGETHER

A FAMILY ACTIVITY

**This month, get outside. Move. Laugh. Spend time together.
And practice keeping in step—with one another and with the Spirit.**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
Galatians 5:22-23

If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.
Galatians 5:25



What does it take to keep in step with someone else?
Sometimes you have to slow down. Sometimes you have to speed up. You have to pay attention to where the other person is going.

How does this help us think about Galatians 5:25?
Which fruit of the Spirit can help our family keep in step this week?

Take a walk together.

Choose a trail, a park, or your neighborhood. Try keeping in step for part of the walk. Talk, notice what is around you, and enjoy being together.



Splash in puddles.

If October brings rain, put on boots and go outside instead of staying in.



Stomp through fall leaves.

Make a pile, crunch through them, or see who can find the biggest or brightest leaf.



Visit a corn maze.

Work together to find your way through. Let different family members choose the direction.

Make your own path.

Ride bikes, explore a new place, or simply walk around your neighborhood together.

KEEP IN STEP

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."
Galatians 5:22–23 (ESV)

The Christian life cultivates the fruit of the Spirit.

Love. Joy. Peace. Patience. Kindness. Goodness. Faithfulness. Gentleness. Self-control.

That sounds like a pretty good way to live, doesn't it?

Paul's words in Galatians 5 do not begin with the fruit of the Spirit, though. Immediately before this familiar list, Paul describes the "works of the flesh" (Galatians 5:19–21). Some of the things on that list require more explanation with younger children than others, but families can still talk about the contrast Paul is making.

What happens when we simply do whatever we want? What happens when jealousy, anger, selfishness, arguments, and envy control the way we treat one another?

Then comes one little word that changes the direction of the passage:

BUT.

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

Following God is sometimes presented as a long list of things we cannot do. Galatians 5 gives us another way to look at the Christian life. Look at everything we get to experience when we allow the Spirit to shape the way we live.

We get to love people. We get to experience joy and peace. We get to show patience and kindness. We get to be faithful and gentle. We get to learn self-control.

God's instructions are not designed to take the joy out of life. Think about a team trying to play when every player ignores the coach and decides what to do. Imagine a marching band in which everyone chooses a different direction and tempo. The instructions allow everyone to move together and achieve a common goal.

Our Christian walk works much the same way.

"If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit."
Galatians 5:25 (ESV)

Keeping in step requires paying attention. Sometimes we need to slow down. Sometimes we need to change direction. We cannot simply wander wherever we want and still claim to be following God.

When we live by the Spirit, we keep in step with the Spirit, walking worthy of our calling. The evidence begins to show in ordinary life through gracious speech, gentleness, patience, kindness, and the way we work to maintain unity with one another.

The fruit of the Spirit is not simply a list of nine qualities to memorize. It describes the kind of life that grows when we keep walking in God's direction.

TALK ABOUT IT

Read Galatians 5:19–25 together.

- How are the works of the flesh different from the fruit of the Spirit?
- Which kind of life sounds more joyful and peaceful?
- What happens when everyone on a team chooses a different direction?
- What might "keeping in step with the Spirit" look like in our family this week?
- Which part of the fruit of the Spirit would you especially like to practice?

This week, pay attention to your steps. Look for opportunities to love, choose joy, make peace, practice patience, show kindness and goodness, remain faithful, respond gently, and exercise self-control.

Keep in step with the Spirit.

by Angie Caswell