

MUSIC

Choosing music is important aspect of the experience. Some churches use pre-recorded songs, one leader at a key board, or the praise band.

Singing the Fruit of the Spirit is exciting as there are many songs that focus on love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. It's up to each church to secure the rights to sing them. You-Tube is a great source for hearing some of these songs.

Some pre-packaged VBS programs offer music that is never sung after the program is over. Consider teaching new songs or old hymns that connect the VBS theme with the life of the church for the whole year.

Amazing Grace, for instance, sings about a life of joy and peace. **Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee** (#89) connects the fruit and traditional worship. And Chris Tomlin's modern song **I Will Follow** proclaims there's 'joy everlasting' following Christ.

In Christ Alone speaks of 'heights of love and depths of peace.' **Joy in the Morning** (#2284 in the Faith We Sing) speaks of joy, peace, and love in the culmination of the reign of God in the end time.

How Great by Jamie Smith describes Jesus as patient, gentle, and faithful.

Each church has its favorite songs that could be seen in a new light as you look for the nine fruit. Contact Randy Booth at Monroe UMC (mumcpastorrandy @tds.net or 608-325-6700) if you have a CCLI or equivalent and he can share more about these songs.

DOWN IN MY HEART

George W. Cooke

I have the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart,
down in my heart, down in my heart.
I have the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart,
down in my heart to stay.

2. the love of Jesus...

3. the peace the passes understanding...

4. the wonderful love of my blessed Redeemer
deep down in the depths of my heart...

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT SONG

Oh, the fruit of the Spirit's not a _____.
The fruit of Spirit's not a _____.
If you wanna be a _____,
you might as well hear it,
you can't be a fruit of the Spirit.

'Cause the fruit is

love, joy peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness and self-control!
love, joy peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness and self-control!

1. banana

4. apple

2. coconut

5. watermelon

3. cherry

6. Mango

PEACE LIKE A RIVER

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul (repeat)

I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean in my soul (repeat)

I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul (repeat)

I've got peace like a river, I've got love like an ocean,
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul (repeat)

CRAFTS

remember

Getting the students to create in conjunction with the lessons or overall theme is a great teaching technique.

Let your craft leaders use their imagination to make appropriate crafts. Go to www.monroeumc.com to look for crafts we created.

When leading children in crafts, do...

- ✓ have crafts with multiple stages the connect with roots, branches, and fruit as the week progresses
- ✓ be aware of how long glue and paint take to dry
- ✓ be aware of skill levels for the students, e.g. youngest children may need leaves cut out for them, elementary children may need leaf patterns to cut out, middle school students probably can cut leaves without a pattern
- ✓ remember that permanent markers dry quicker than paint and last long on fabric
- ✓ consider that value of the craft, i.e., if it's cheap and disposable, will the kids think the lesson is also cheap and disposable?
- ✓ consider what percentage of the total VBS budget is devoted to crafts

When leading children in crafts, don't ...

- ✓ have crafts with a lot of tying: too slow
- ✓ glue things they take home the same day
- ✓ same with painting things they take home the same day

Remember

- ✓ most kids will achieve something during craft time, but not always in the time allotted. Allow for some kids to take longer or return at the end.
- ✓ even boys like beads and flowers when the theme is growing
- ✓ everybody likes outdoor crafts and getting messy doing them