AN APPLE A DAY

Materials needed: Two baskets – one labeled “Good Fruit” and one “Bad Fruit.” The ten Bible verses listed below, written out, and cut apart; or print each verse on an apple shaped paper or tape verses to real apples. The verses should be sorted into the baskets.

People needed: Leader and two volunteers will be needed to assist in “picking” the apples from each basket. One will read the “Bad Fruit” verses and the other the “Good Fruit” verses.

Leader: Our devotion today is based on John 15:16, 17. “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other.”

You have all heard the saying, “An apple a day keeps the doctor away.” Eating apples can give us energy and help keep our bodies healthy. Apples are a good fruit. God tells us to be like trees that bear good fruit. But what exactly does that mean? Was God talking about a healthy diet plan? The Bible gives us some “food for thought.”

(Pointing to the two baskets) In these two baskets are a number of Bible verses to consider. Let’s pick a few “apples” to see what God would have us learn today.

Perhaps we should start by identifying the “bad” fruit. In Genesis, chapter three, we find a story some might label as “one bad apple spoils the whole bunch.” Adam and Eve had their first taste of temptation that brought sin into God’s perfect world.

Bad Fruit: “When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband who was with her and he ate it. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they realized they were naked.”

Genesis 3:6, 7a

Leader: The disease of sin spread to all mankind and today you and I are guilty just as Adam and Eve were. Listen to what Paul wrote in Romans, chapter three.

Bad Fruit: As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one: there is no one who understands, no one seeks God.” Romans 3:10, 11
Leader: That says it loud and clear. No one who seeks God? We are all just a “bunch of rotten apples.” Even if we try to bear good fruit, we can not do it ourselves.

Bad Fruit: “I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.” Romans 7:18

Leader: The Bible makes a clear distinction between trees that bear good and bad fruit. There is no “in between.” Luke is quick to point this out, like a diagnosis of sin.

Bad Fruit: “No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit.” Luke 6:43, 44

Leader: To make matters worse, there is a warning to all who bear bad fruit.

Bad Fruit: “Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” Matthew 7:19

Leader: How then can we, as sinners, ever produce “good” fruit? Good question. Fortunately we have another basketful of Bible verses to pick from. Listen to what God’s word says about “good” fruit.

God Fruit: “A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.” Isaiah 11:1

Leader: Jesus is the promised Branch who offers salvation to all who believe in Him. He bears the “perfect” fruit.

God Fruit: “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

Leader: Can you imagine going to a grocery store and paying money for a bag full of rotten apples?” God did that for us. He sent His son to pay the price, to take away our “rotten” sin and replaced it with Christ’s righteousness.

God Fruit: “It is God who works in you to will and to act accordingly to his good purpose.” Philippians 2:13

Leader: In Christ we are made into trees that produce good fruit. It is not our own words and actions that are good, but Christ living in our hearts that enables us to bear good fruit.

Good Fruit: “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last.” John 15:16
Leader: God chose us to be His witnesses. He wants us to share the Good News of the Gospel with others. This good fruit we produce will point others to Christ as the Holy Spirit works in them.

Good Fruit: “Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of the lips that confess His name.” Hebrews 13:15
“Forgive all our sins and receive us graciously, that we may offer the fruit of our lips.” Hosea 14:2b

Leader: Faith and repentance go hand in hand with bearing fruit for our Lord. As we daily come to God and receive His forgiveness we are enabled to live our lives for Him as a response of faith.

Good Fruit: “I am vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5

Leader: God has answered the question “How does a sinner produce good fruit?” It is through the righteousness we receive in Christ. It is the Holy Spirit to work in our lives.

Closing Prayer:
O Lord, we thank you for choosing us to be yours. Wash away the rottenness of our sin and make us clean with the righteousness of Christ. Enable us to bear good fruit for you by sending your Holy Spirit to work among us each day. In Jesus’ Name we pray. Amen.