

Children's Ministry

THIRD
FOURTH

March 21st || Matthew 7:13-29

Main Point: **We can ask God because He loves us!**

(Try to repeat the main point several times.)

Read Matthew 7:15-20 and ask:

1. What is the best way to identify a grapevine?
2. What makes a tree good?
3. What happens to bad trees?
4. What is the best way to identify false prophets?

Read James 3:8-12

1. Why is it wrong to curse people?
2. Why can't a fresh water fountain produce salt water?
3. What kind of tree produces figs?
4. What does our mouth reveal about us?

Jesus teaches that we can tell a lot about a person by the fruit they produce. The "fruit" is not only our actions, but our words too. Jesus said we can be a lot like trees.

Name that Tree

Show the kids the pictures of the fruit trees without fruit and see if they can name them. Let them take a bunch of guesses. Then show them the pictures of the trees with the fruit on them. Help them by pointing out the fruit that is on the trees. How do we know what kind of tree we are looking at?

Just like a banana tree makes bananas, a person who loves Jesus will show signs of it. This does not mean that the person will be perfect, because we still struggle with sin. It means that we will seek to not sin, but when we do, we'll turn back to Jesus.

The "fruit" of the false teachers was that they did not point other people to Jesus. Their actions and their teaching, which looking closely, showed they did not really love Jesus.

- Ask the children:
1. What is the most important message to listen for?
 2. What "fruit" would people notice from me?

Pass out the fruit to the kids to enjoy.

Driving it

home...



"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness"—1 John 1:9

It's important to point out to the kids that "fruit" does not mean perfection. Everyone will sin, so the sign of being a Christian is not perfection. The sign of being a Christian is that your life is consistent with the gospel message. It means that when they sin, they admit they sinned. Then, they trust that Jesus forgives them because of His work for them on the cross and His resurrection. They point people toward Jesus!