

Ordinary Time, Proper 17



The Children's Illustrated Bible

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Be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who lie to themselves. For if you are hearers of the word and not doers, you are like those who look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who follow God's perfect law, the law of liberty, and work until the end, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.
—James 1:22–25 adapted

Block Talk

To be doers of the word, we have to be good listeners. Have three children sit on one side of the room with a set of ten blocks. Out of sight and across the room, or in a hall, have three other kids with a matching set of blocks. Each team has two builders and one runner. The runner delivers the instruction to the other runner. Have one set of the builders build a structure, then tell their runner how to build it. The runner cannot look at the structure, but takes the instructions one at a time from the builders to the runner on the other team. That runner then brings the instructions to his/her builders and they try to construct an identical structure. After the second team has completed their structure, compare structures to see how well each team member heard their instructions.

Discuss: How did it feel to follow directions when you didn't know how things were going to turn out? Did you find yourself making moves that you weren't sure of, but did it anyway because you believed what the runner was saying?

Sometimes we feel unsure about God's directions, because we can not see how things will turn out. But we follow them because we trust God.

A Sign of Thanks

Learn these words from American Sign Language.

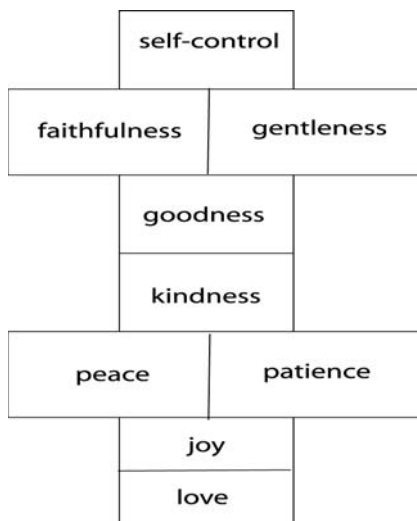
We thank you, Lord.



We—Touch the right index finger on the right shoulder, then move it in a forward semicircle to touch the left shoulder.

Thank you—Touch fingertips to lips, then move hands down and back, one at time.

Lord—Make an “L” with the right hand and place the “L” at the left shoulder, then move across the body to the right waist.



Fruit of the Spirit

The “fruits of the Spirit” are the good qualities that Jesus wants in each of our lives. Create a hopscotch pattern, either on a sidewalk outside with sidewalk chalk or inside with masking tape. Write one fruit of the Spirit in each box, following the illustration here. Kids each take a turn at throwing a marker onto the pattern and then call out the qualities as they jump onto them. When each child has had a turn, have them share which quality they think they are best at, and which one they need to work on.



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—James 1:20–25 adapted

Unscramble these words from the scripture.

1. **errsahe**

2. **rdow**

3. **edors**

4. **eftecpr**

5. **sebdlse**

6. **cat**

7. **eli**

8. **lofwol**
