

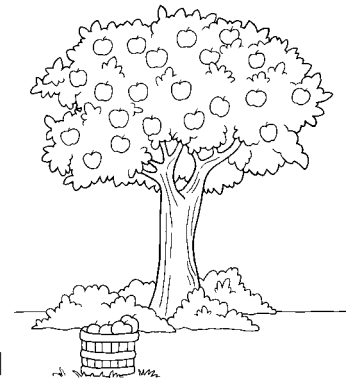
**Good trees bear good fruit.
Bad trees bear bad fruit.**

Matthew 7:16–20



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Bad trees bear bad fruit.**

Matthew 7:16–20



☆Let's Talk and Wonder

SAY One day, Jesus told his disciples about a tree and its fruit. Good trees give good fruit. Bad trees make bad fruit. Looking at the fruit tells you what kind of tree it came from. A fruit tree always makes the same kind of fruit.

ASK Look at the picture. *What do you see?*

SAY An apple tree always bears apples.

ASK *Why do you think Jesus told his disciples about trees and fruit?*

SAY Just like good fruit from a good tree, God's children say and do good things because they belong to their heavenly Father, who is perfectly good. God's children need to depend on him to help them trust Jesus and obey his teachings. We need God the Holy Spirit to make good fruit grow in our hearts!

SAY I wonder what others think when they see that we are trusting and obeying Jesus . . .

SAY When we say and do things that please God, we show others the love of Jesus. We show that God is helping us grow more and more like Jesus!

☆Let's Make

- 1 Print *God makes us more like Jesus* in the middle of a large sheet of poster board. Bring in pictures of a variety of good fruit. Let children glue the pictures around the caption.
- 2 Talk about ways God makes us more like Jesus. Under each fruit, print one way we can be "fruitful" members of God's family. For example, under a strawberry you might print, "God helps me love others"; under a banana, "God helps me to be kind"; and so on.

☆Let's Sing

Sing this active rhyme to the tune *The Farmer in the Dell*.



My Father makes me grow, (*crouch down, then stand up tall*)

Like Jesus every day. (*point up*)

I'll say and do what pleases him, (*cup hands around mouth, cross hands over heart*)

I'll trust him and obey! (*fold hands in prayer, then open them to make a Bible*)