

## **Fruit of the Spirit Sermon Series**

### **Week 1: Kindness & Generosity**

#### **Old Testament Reading: Proverbs 3: 1-10, 19-28**

My child, don't forget what I teach you. Always remember what I tell you to do. <sup>2</sup> My teaching will give you a long and prosperous life. <sup>3</sup> Never let go of loyalty and faithfulness. Tie them around your neck; write them on your heart. <sup>4</sup> If you do this, both God and people will be pleased with you.

<sup>5</sup> Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. <sup>6</sup> Remember the Lord in everything you do, and he will show you the right way. <sup>7</sup> Never let yourself think that you are wiser than you are; simply obey the Lord and refuse to do wrong. <sup>8</sup> If you do, it will be like good medicine, healing your wounds and easing your pains. <sup>9</sup> Honor the Lord by making him an offering from the best of all that your land produces. <sup>10</sup> If you do, your barns will be filled with grain, and you will have too much wine to store it all.

The Lord created the earth by his wisdom;  
by his knowledge he set the sky in place.

<sup>20</sup> His wisdom caused the rivers to flow  
and the clouds to give rain to the earth.

<sup>21</sup> My child, hold on to your wisdom and insight. Never let them get away from you. <sup>22</sup> They will provide you with life—a pleasant and happy life. <sup>23</sup> You can go safely on your way and never even stumble. <sup>24</sup> You will not be afraid when you go to bed, and you will sleep soundly through the night. <sup>25</sup> You will not have to worry about sudden disasters, such as come on the wicked like a storm. <sup>26</sup> The Lord will keep you safe. He will not let you fall into a trap.

<sup>27</sup> Whenever you possibly can, do good to those who need it. <sup>28</sup> Never tell your neighbors to wait until tomorrow if you can help them now.

#### **Psalms 121:1-8**

<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
from where will my help come?

<sup>2</sup> My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.

<sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.

<sup>4</sup> He who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.

<sup>5</sup>The Lord is your keeper;  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

<sup>6</sup>The sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.

<sup>7</sup>The Lord will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.

<sup>8</sup>The Lord will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and for evermore.

### **New Testament Reading: Galatians 5:22-25**

<sup>22</sup>By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. <sup>24</sup>And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup>If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

### **Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:31-40**

<sup>14</sup>‘For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, “Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.” <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” <sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, “Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.” <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” <sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, “Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” <sup>26</sup>But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I

would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

## **Fruit of the Spirit Sermon Series**

### **Week 2: Patience & Faithfulness**

#### **Old Testament Reading: Joshua 24:14-25**

‘Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. <sup>15</sup> Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.’

<sup>16</sup> Then the people answered, ‘Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; <sup>17</sup> for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; <sup>18</sup> and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.’

<sup>19</sup> But Joshua said to the people, ‘You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. <sup>20</sup> If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.’ <sup>21</sup> And the people said to Joshua, ‘No, we will serve the Lord!’ <sup>22</sup> Then Joshua said to the people, ‘You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him.’ And they said, ‘We are witnesses.’ <sup>23</sup> He said, ‘Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.’ <sup>24</sup> The people said to Joshua, ‘The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey.’ <sup>25</sup> So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

#### **Psalm 37:1-11**

Do not fret because of the wicked;  
do not be envious of wrongdoers,  
<sup>2</sup> for they will soon fade like the grass,  
and wither like the green herb.

<sup>3</sup> Trust in the Lord, and do good;  
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.

<sup>4</sup> Take delight in the Lord,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

<sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the Lord;  
trust in him, and he will act.

<sup>6</sup> He will make your vindication shine like the light,  
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.

<sup>7</sup> Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him;  
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,  
over those who carry out evil devices.

<sup>8</sup> Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath.  
Do not fret—it leads only to evil.

<sup>9</sup> For the wicked shall be cut off,  
but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.

<sup>10</sup> Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more;  
though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there.

<sup>11</sup> But the meek shall inherit the land,  
and delight in abundant prosperity.

#### **New Testament Reading: Galatians 5:22-25**

<sup>22</sup> By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

#### **Gospel Reading: Mark 4:26-34**

Jesus also said, ‘The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup> and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup> The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup> But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.’

<sup>30</sup> Jesus also said, ‘With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup> It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup> yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.’

<sup>33</sup> With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup> he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

## **Fruit of the Spirit Sermon Series**

### **Week 3: Humility & Self-Control**

#### **From the Apocryphal Book of the Old Testament: Sirach 1:11-27**

- The fear of the Lord is glory and exultation,  
and gladness and a crown of rejoicing.
- <sup>12</sup>The fear of the Lord delights the heart,  
and gives gladness and joy and long life.
- <sup>13</sup>Those who fear the Lord will have a happy end;  
on the day of their death they will be blessed.
- <sup>14</sup>To fear the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;  
she is created with the faithful in the womb.
- <sup>15</sup>She made among human beings an eternal foundation,  
and among their descendants she will abide faithfully.
- <sup>16</sup>To fear the Lord is fullness of wisdom;  
she inebriates mortals with her fruits;
- <sup>17</sup>she fills their whole house with desirable goods,  
and their storehouses with her produce.
- <sup>18</sup>The fear of the Lord is the crown of wisdom,  
making peace and perfect health to flourish.
- <sup>19</sup>She rained down knowledge and discerning comprehension,  
and she heightened the glory of those who held her fast.
- <sup>20</sup>To fear the Lord is the root of wisdom,  
and her branches are long life.
- <sup>22</sup>Unjust anger cannot be justified,  
for anger tips the scale to one's ruin.
- <sup>23</sup>Those who are patient stay calm until the right moment,  
and then cheerfulness comes back to them.
- <sup>24</sup>They hold back their words until the right moment;  
then the lips of many tell of their good sense.
- <sup>25</sup>In the treasuries of wisdom are wise sayings,  
but godliness is an abomination to a sinner.
- <sup>26</sup>If you desire wisdom, keep the commandments,  
and the Lord will lavish her upon you.
- <sup>27</sup>For the fear of the Lord is wisdom and discipline,  
fidelity and humility are his delight.

### **A Portion of Psalm 18: 16-30**

He reached down from on high, he took me;  
he drew me out of mighty waters.

<sup>17</sup> He delivered me from my strong enemy,  
and from those who hated me;  
for they were too mighty for me.

<sup>18</sup> They confronted me in the day of my calamity;  
but the Lord was my support.

<sup>19</sup> He brought me out into a broad place;  
he delivered me, because he delighted in me.

<sup>20</sup> The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness;  
according to the cleanness of my hands he recompensed me.

<sup>21</sup> For I have kept the ways of the Lord,  
and have not wickedly departed from my God.

<sup>22</sup> For all his ordinances were before me,  
and his statutes I did not put away from me.

<sup>23</sup> I was blameless before him,  
and I kept myself from guilt.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore the Lord has recompensed me according to my righteousness,  
according to the cleanness of my hands in his sight.

<sup>25</sup> With the loyal you show yourself loyal;  
with the blameless you show yourself blameless;

<sup>26</sup> with the pure you show yourself pure;  
and with the crooked you show yourself perverse.

<sup>27</sup> For you deliver a humble people,  
but the haughty eyes you bring down.

<sup>28</sup> It is you who light my lamp;  
the Lord, my God, lights up my darkness.

<sup>29</sup> By you I can crush a troop,  
and by my God I can leap over a wall.

<sup>30</sup> This God—his way is perfect;  
the promise of the Lord proves true;  
he is a shield for all who take refuge in him.

### **New Testament Reading: Galatians 5:22-25**

<sup>22</sup>By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. <sup>24</sup>And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup>If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

### **Gospel Reading: Luke 14:1-11**

<sup>7</sup>When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable. <sup>8</sup>‘When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; <sup>9</sup>and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, “Give this person your place”, and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. <sup>10</sup>But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, “Friend, move up higher”; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. <sup>11</sup>For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.’

<sup>12</sup>He said also to the one who had invited him, ‘When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. <sup>13</sup>But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. <sup>14</sup>And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.’



## Fruit of the Spirit Sermon Series

### Week 4: Joy & Peace

#### **Old Testament Reading: Numbers 6:22-27**

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: <sup>23</sup> Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them,

<sup>24</sup> The Lord bless you and keep you;

<sup>25</sup> the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;

<sup>26</sup> the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

<sup>27</sup> So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

#### **Psalm 85: 1-13**

Lord, you were favourable to your land;  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup> You forgave the iniquity of your people;  
you pardoned all their sin.

<sup>3</sup> You withdrew all your wrath;  
you turned from your hot anger.

<sup>4</sup> Restore us again, O God of our salvation,  
and put away your indignation towards us.

<sup>5</sup> Will you be angry with us for ever?  
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

<sup>6</sup> Will you not revive us again,  
so that your people may rejoice in you?

<sup>7</sup> Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,  
and grant us your salvation.

<sup>8</sup> Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people,  
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land.

<sup>10</sup> Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;  
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

<sup>11</sup> Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,  
and righteousness will look down from the sky.

<sup>12</sup>The Lord will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup>Righteousness will go before him,  
and will make a path for his steps.

### **New Testament Reading: Galatians 5:22-25**

<sup>22</sup>By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. <sup>24</sup>And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup>If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

### **Gospel: John 14: 1-7, 15-17, 25-29**

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’

<sup>15</sup>‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>25</sup>‘I have said these things to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup>But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup>Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. <sup>28</sup>You heard me say to you, “I am going away, and I am coming to you.” If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup>And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

## Fruit of the Spirit Sermon Series

### Week 5: Love

#### **Old Testament Reading: Exodus 15: 1-13, 17-18 (The Song of Moses)**

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord:

<sup>1</sup>I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;  
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

<sup>2</sup>The Lord is my strength and my might,  
and he has become my salvation;  
this is my God, and I will praise him,  
my father's God, and I will exalt him.

<sup>3</sup>The Lord is a warrior;  
the Lord is his name.

<sup>4</sup>Pharaoh's chariots and his army he cast into the sea;  
his picked officers were sunk in the Red Sea.

<sup>5</sup>The floods covered them;  
they went down into the depths like a stone.

<sup>6</sup>Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power—  
your right hand, O Lord, shattered the enemy.

<sup>7</sup>In the greatness of your majesty you overthrew your adversaries;  
you sent out your fury, it consumed them like stubble.

<sup>8</sup>At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up,  
the floods stood up in a heap;  
the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.

<sup>9</sup>The enemy said, "I will pursue, I will overtake,  
I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them.  
I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them."

<sup>10</sup>You blew with your wind, the sea covered them;  
they sank like lead in the mighty waters.

<sup>11</sup>Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?  
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,  
awesome in splendour, doing wonders?

<sup>12</sup>You stretched out your right hand,  
the earth swallowed them.

<sup>13</sup>In your steadfast love you led the people whom you redeemed;  
you guided them by your strength to your holy abode.

<sup>17</sup>You brought them in and planted them on the mountain of your own possession,  
the place, O Lord, that you made your abode,  
the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hands have established.

<sup>18</sup>The Lord will reign for ever and ever.'

### **Psalm 136:1-9**

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

<sup>2</sup>O give thanks to the God of gods,  
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

<sup>3</sup>O give thanks to the Lord of lords,  
for his steadfast love endures for ever;

<sup>4</sup>who alone does great wonders,  
for his steadfast love endures for ever;

<sup>5</sup>who by understanding made the heavens,  
for his steadfast love endures for ever;

<sup>6</sup>who spread out the earth on the waters,  
for his steadfast love endures for ever;

<sup>7</sup>who made the great lights,  
for his steadfast love endures for ever;

<sup>8</sup>the sun to rule over the day,  
for his steadfast love endures for ever;

<sup>9</sup>the moon and stars to rule over the night,  
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

### **New Testament Reading: Galatians 5:22-25**

<sup>22</sup>By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. <sup>24</sup>And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup>If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

### **Gospel: John 15:1-17**

<sup>1</sup>I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. <sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.