



## SPRING FORWARD!

SPECIAL DAYS

### PREPARATION

- Invite a speaker - someone who has been sustained by God to serve him in some way, whether ordinary or extraordinary
- Prepare a Fruits of the Spirit Tree craft
  - Print out for each member a drawing of a tree with lots of branches but no leaves. Tree templates can be found online including at [Twinkle.co.uk](https://www.twinkl.co.uk)
  - Provide coloured paper for leaves and fruit, scissors, pens and glue

### INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

April is a month strongly associated with springtime. It is a time when the bulbs we planted in the autumn burst into life and cheer us up with their array of beautiful colours.

The Bible reading chosen for this session is taken from Psalm 1 which tells us that if we follow God's lead and seek to be like him, God can prosper our lives so that everything about us blossoms and can be used by God. We might question how this is possible, but all things are possible for God if we desire to follow him.

This doesn't mean everything in life will be easy, but if we trust him we will be like the tree planted by the stream, constantly watered by God's goodness.

### ACTIVITIES

#### SPEAKER

Invite a speaker - someone who has been sustained by God to serve him in some way, whether ordinary or extraordinary.

#### CRAFT

Invite the group to create their own tree bearing the fruits of the Spirit. You or members may wish to cut out their trees. Using the coloured paper provided, members can cut out leaves and fruit to glue on to their trees.

The fruit of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Galatians 5:22,23). Using pens, members can write the fruits of the Spirit on the tree, and perhaps add their own words too.



# Connect



## CHALLENGE

Suggest members commit to thinking about the fruits of the Spirit over the coming week and consider focusing on developing one of the fruits that doesn't come naturally to them.

## QUIZ

Play a quiz and find out if members can remember what has been happening in April!

1. What famous British group broke up in April 1970? *(The Beatles)*
2. Which branch of the Armed Forces was founded in April 1918? *(The Royal Air Force)*
3. Which famous American postal service was founded in April 1860? *(The Pony Express)*
4. Which famous telescope was launched into orbit in April 1990? *(The Hubble Space Telescope)*
5. The first British Prime Minister was announced in April 1721. Who was he? *(Robert Walpole)*
6. Which yellow fruit was introduced to the UK in April 1633? *(Bananas)*
7. Which famous king came to the throne of England in April 1509? *(Henry VIII)*
8. In April 1897, which American city held the world's first annual marathon run? *(Boston, Massachusetts)*
9. Which famous actress married her prince in April 1956? *(Grace Kelly)*
10. Which famous yacht did Queen Elizabeth II launch in April 1953? *(The Royal Yacht Britannia)*
11. Which famous liner sank in April 1912? *(The Titanic)*
12. Who was the youngest person to win golf's Masters Tournament in April 1997? *(Tiger Woods)*
13. In April 1945, who became president of the United States of America after the death of Franklin D Roosevelt? *(Harry S Truman)*






14. Which United Nations agency was established on 7 April 1948?  
(*The World Health Organisation - WHO*)
15. Which famous horse won the Grand National for the third time in April 1977?  
(*Red Rum*)
16. Which computer firm released its first portable tablet in April 2010?  
(*Apple, the iPad*)

## BIBLE READING/THOUGHT

### Psalm 1

 'God's blessings follow you and await you at every turn:  
when you don't follow the advice of those who delight in wicked schemes,  
When you avoid sin's highway,  
when judgement and sarcasm beckon you, but you refuse.  
For you, the Eternal's Word is your happiness.  
It is your focus - from dusk to dawn.  
You are like a tree,  
planted by flowing, cool streams of water that never run dry.  
Your fruit ripens in its time;  
your leaves never fade or curl in the summer sun.  
No matter what you do, you prosper.

(Psalm 1:1-3 VOICE)

Have we ever thought how blessed we are? Have we ever reflected on how much we are loved by God and how different our lives could be if we really put him first in our lives? This psalm outlines how amazing our lives could be if we put aside our human desires to do wrong, to gossip, to be unkind. Instead our lives, rooted in God, would be blessed and fruitful - prosperous not in terms of our own desires but for all that is good in God's eyes.

This psalm uses the imagery of a tree '*planted by flowing, cool streams of water that never run dry.*' Such a tree will have deep roots because of the waters feeding it, and so it will be faithful. It will never wither away, but will flourish providing protection from the hot sun or the heavy rains.

In Paul's letter to the church in Galatia, a city in modern-day Turkey, he urged the believers there to be infilled by the Holy Spirit and thereby to cultivate the fruits of the Spirit:

# Connect



📖 ‘But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.’

(Galatians 5: 22,23)

Paul again uses this imagery from nature to encourage the early-day followers of Jesus to grow in Christ, constantly urging them to be rooted in him. Maybe during this springtime, a time of new growth, new birth and new beginnings, we can consider what our lives are rooted in and what fruit we are bearing. And maybe, if we have become distracted by other things of this world, we can focus on Jesus again and ask him to help us look only to him for our nourishment so we can grow in him.

## PRAYER

📖 ‘So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.’

(Colossians 2:6-7)

## SONGS

- ♪ SASB 199 ‘Such love, pure as the whitest snow’  
[Watch the lyric video by Divine Hymns.](#)
- ♪ SASB 305 ‘Now the fruit of the Spirit is patience’  
[Watch the video \(audio only, no lyrics\) by The Salvation Army.](#)
- ♪ SASB 315 ‘All over the world the Spirit is moving’  
[Watch the lyric video by Squirrel 24.](#)
- ♪ SASB 858 ‘I’m living my life for Jesus’  
[Watch the lyric instrumental video by Bourne Salvation Army.](#)



# Connect



## WEBSITE AND CONTACT DETAILS

- Connect website: [www.salvationarmy.org.uk/connect](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/connect)
- Family Ministries website: [www.salvationarmy.org.uk/families](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/families)
- Emails: [familyministries@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:familyministries@salvationarmy.org.uk)
- Facebook: @sarmyfm
- Twitter: @ukifamily
- Instagram: safamily\_ministries



## Family Ministries

Having faith in the family

Providing intergenerational support, training and resources for

Children | Adults | Everyone



Family  
Ministries  
Having faith in the family