

## Do Not Grieve the Holy Spirit Family Devotional

### Preparation:

Get one piece of every person in the families' favorite candy.

Get one lemon and cut it up so each family member can have a piece

Bible

Opening Exercise: Offer everyone their favorite piece of candy. Then as they are about to eat it, stop them and take it back and replace it with the lemon.

### Discussion Questions:

How did it feel when I gave you the candy?

How did it feel when I stopped you from eating it and took it away?

How did you feel having to eat the lemon?

Discuss how it makes us sad when we want something but don't get it.

Now give them the candy and allow them to eat it

How much better was that?

Read Ephesians 4:29-32

What does "grieve" mean?

Dictionary.com defines it as : "to distress mentally; cause to feel grief or sorrow"

According to this passage we can make the Holy Spirit feel sad!

How does our exercise with the candy relate to this passage?

When we say to the Spirit, "I will....." but then don't follow through it saddens Him.

The "sweetest thing" to the Holy Spirit is our obedience!

What are some of the things that grieve the Spirit in this passage? (Define each term in the context of your family)

Unwholesome talk

Bitterness

Rage

Anger

Brawling

Slander

Malice

What are the things that gladden the Holy Spirit? (Define each term in the context of your family)

Kindness

Compassion

Forgiveness

Let's look at the things that grieve the Holy Spirit:

How do we see "unwholesome talk" in our family? Speaking harshly? Slandering and gossiping about each other? Saying things that stir anger in others?

How much of our conflict begins with how we talk to each other?

Act out a scene where one person plays the Holy Spirit and two others interact. The interaction begins with two kids speaking harshly to each other which leads to anger and fighting. During this time the person playing the Spirit begins to get sad even to the point of crying. He is tapping and trying to get the fighting children's attention to stop them. Stop the scene

How was the Spirit reacting to this interaction?

Why is it such a big deal to the Spirit?

Continue the scene but now they are kind, compassionate and forgiving. As the interaction changes and is full of kindness, compassion and forgiveness the Spirit becomes noticeably happy, jumping up and down, cheering and laughing.

Is our home going to be sweet or sour to the Holy Spirit?

How can we choose to gladden and not grieve the Holy Spirit this week?

Dad and Mom lead the way with taking responsibility and repenting