

“The Hyphenated Earthworm”

A Lesson in Fruits of the Spirit

by
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What A young mother meets with her friend and mentor to discuss life and kids. In a funny and bizarre way, the conversation focuses on earthworms and the Fruit of the Spirit.

Themes: Fruit of the Spirit, Children, Comedy, Friendship, Parenting, Mother, Mentoring, Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control

Who Jenny
Grace

When Present

**Wear
(Props)** Modern clothing
A small table
2 chairs
2 “to-go style” coffee shop cups
2 purses
Cell phone

Why Galatians 5:22-23, Titus 2:3-5

How This skit takes place in a coffee shop. Jenny is meeting her friend/mentor, Grace, for coffee, friendship, and advice. Jenny is a young Christian mom who is struggling with the demands of raising young children and showing the Fruit of the Spirit in her life. Grace is kind, calm, and wise. Both women have a good sense of humor.

Time Approximately 4-5 minutes

The skit opens with Grace sitting at a coffee shop table, sipping coffee. Jenny rushes in hurriedly, obviously having a stressful day, and approaches the table. As Jenny nears the table, Grace stands up to greet her.

Jenny: Grace, I'm so sorry I'm late! There was an earthworm spill just as I was walking out the door.

Jenny hugs Grace, puts down her purse, and sits down.

Grace: *(as she is sitting down)* An earthworm spill? That sounds interesting.

Jenny: *(rolls her eyes and chuckles)* Interesting wasn't the word I had in mind.

Jenny takes a visibly deep breath and tries to relax.

Grace: I haven't seen you in months. How are the kids?

Jenny: Oh, they are fine. Both keep me hopping! Joey turned 7 on Friday and Baby Susie is 15 months now.

Grace: Aww. I can't wait to see them again. That Joey is a handful! Speaking of which, tell me about the earthworm spill.

Jenny: Well, for Joey's birthday, my brother gave him 10 earthworms. I don't know why. I think it was payback for every childhood prank I ever played on him. *(Both women smile)* Anyway, Joey was elated.

Grace: I imagine. That's every little boy's dream. So, you have 10 earthworms as pets now?

Jenny: Actually...9. I came into the kitchen yesterday to find Joey holding a baby spoon, Susie with dirt on her mouth, and only 9 earthworms. But I was afraid to ask what happened.

Grace responds with wide-eyed humor.

Jenny: Anyway, Joey has been learning about the Fruit of the Spirit in church, and since there are 9 parts of the fruit and 9 earthworms, he decided to name them Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-control.

Grace: *(laughing)* How do you tell them all apart?

Jenny: I can't. Well, except for Self-Control. I made the mistake of telling Joey that if you cut an earthworm in half, it doesn't die, it just makes 2 worms. And since Self-Control is more like 2 words than one, Joey decided his worm should be too. So, I just look for the 2 short worms and that is Self-Control.

Grace: *(laughing again)* Oh Jenny. That boy of yours!!!!

Jenny: *(starting to smile)* I guess it is sort of funny.

Grace: Ok, so tell me about the Great Earthworm Spill...

Jenny: Yeah. Just as I was about to walk out the door to come here, Joey came running in with his box and dropped earthworms all over the living room carpet. *(Shamefully)* I lost my cool, Grace. I yelled at him. Do you have any idea how humiliating it is to be screaming at your son "Love, Joy, and Patience are getting away!!!"

Jenny stops and looks at Grace and both burst into laughter.

Grace: That's a funny story, but it sounds like maybe...things have been tough?

Jenny: *(breaking down)* Oh Grace. I've been thinking so much about the Fruit of the Spirit this week because of those nasty little worms. Every morning I wake up thinking I'm going to be patient and kind, loving and gentle... And by 9 a.m., I've blown it. *(Places head in hands)* I'm such a Fruit Failure!

Grace: *(reaches out to Jenny and touches her hand or arm)* Oh Jenny. I'm sorry it's been so hard. *(Pause)* Can you do something for me?

Jenny: *(looking up at Grace)* Of course.

Grace: Tell me about fruit.

Jenny: Well, it's sweet. It grows on trees usually. *(Slight smile)* And sometimes it has worms.

Grace: Right. And tell me, does fruit go out and get its own water? Or its own nutrition? Does it work hard at "being fruit", or does it just hang tightly to the tree and grow and develop based on what the tree gives it?

Jenny: I guess it just hangs on to the tree.

Grace: Exactly. The tree does all the work. The fruit is just a natural expression of the health of the tree. And that's how it is with the Fruit of the Spirit. You don't have to TRY to have the fruit. You just have to connect to the Fruit-Giver—God. He does the work as you cling tightly to Him!

Jenny: *(finally understanding, looking at Grace)* I've been trying to do it on my own. I—

Jenny's cell phone rings. Jenny picks it up and looks at the screen.

It's my home number. I better take this. Excuse me.

Staying seated at the table, Jenny talks to Joey on the phone.

Hello? Oh, hi sweetie! *(Cups her hand over mouthpiece of phone and says "It's Joey" to Grace)* Mommy is sorry about yelling at you before I left. *(Pause)* That's interesting. You learned about hyphens in school today? *(Pause)* Your teacher is right. Hyphens ARE like little pieces of thread that hold words together. *(Pause)* Uhm, yes. I think self-control IS a hyphenated word. Why do you ask? *(Pause)* You want to borrow my sewing kit? Well, I guess so. If Daddy is right there with you. *(Pause)* Daddy says he will help you? Ok, but what are you both going to... *(Turning back to Grace)* I think he wandered off. I wonder what he's going to do with my sewing kit.

Grace: *(smiling slightly)* Jenny, didn't you say Joey's Self-Control worm was now two worms because self-control was like two words?

Jenny: Well, yes, but...

Grace: And does Joey now know that self-control isn't two words but one hyphenated word, or two words SEWN TOGETHER?

Jenny: *(mouth open and eyes wide as she realizes Joey's intent)* Joey is going to sew that worm back together and my husband is going to help him! I can't believe...

Trails off, realizing the humor in the situation. Both women stare at each other for a couple seconds and then burst into hysterical laughter.

Jenny: A hyphenated worm!

Grace: It will be the world's first articulated pet!

Continued laughter. As women start to calm down, they wipe tears of laughter from their eyes.

Jenny: Oh Grace. This time with you was exactly what I needed. Thank you. But I think I should probably get home and check on poor Self-Control. I can't believe I'm feeling sorry for a worm!

Grace: *(smiling)* Of course, dear.

Both women gather their purses and coffee cups and stand to leave.

Jenny: You know? I think I'll use the drive home to connect to the "Tree". *(Make imaginary quotation marks with fingers as 'tree' is spoken)* To pray and get reacquainted with the Fruit-Giver. Maybe by the time I get home I'll have enough patience and love to remove sutures from a worm and still hug my son...and my husband!!!

Grace: That's a perfect idea, Jenny. And I'll be praying for you on MY drive home!

Both women, carrying purses and coffee cups, walk offstage together, miming continued conversation and laughter until out of sight.

SCRIPT

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