



SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS...MATTHEW 6:33

## Fruit of the Spirit

### Love - Lesson 1

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart; love your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27

#### Circle Time

Do you guys remember what we are learning about? (The fruit of the Spirit.) Can you say all of the aspects of the fruit of the Spirit? Let's try. (Have them repeat after you one by one if they need help.) The fruit of the spirit is: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. One more time! (Repeat)

LOVE is one of the parts of the fruit of the Spirit. For the next few weeks we are going to be learning what the Bible says about how we can love God and how we can share his love with others. The Bible tells us to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart; love your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27. Can you say that with me? (Have them repeat the verse a couple of times.)

What are some things you love? (Allow children to answer.) Yes, we love our parents, our toys, our friends, our pets, our favorite stuffed animal or blanket, etc. To love God with ALL OUR HEART means that we love HIM more than we love all other things. It is good to love all those things but we need to always put God first. Sometimes we "love" our toys so much that we do not want to share them, as God wants us to. Sometimes we "love" our moms and dads so much that we do not want to come to class and learn about Jesus. Sometimes we "love" our pet so much that we do not want to stop playing with him and get ready for bed like mom and dad have asked us to. See how loving something may get in the way of loving or obeying God? We must always love God first and love him with ALL OUR HEART. We should follow God and love what HE wants us to love.

Do you know who loves you more than anyone? That's right! God does. He created each of us. We are all special to God and He created us to love Him and other people. What are some ways we can show God we love Him? (Give the kids a chance to respond: pray and talk to Him, thank Him, sing songs of praise to Him, etc.) Will God love you more if you do those things? No, God's love is so great He loves us no matter what! He made us and He loves us the same all of the time. Next week we will talk about what it means to love our neighbor with the kind of love that God loves us with.

## Prayer Time

Share prayer requests and pray together.

Dear God, thank You first for loving me and help me to love You and others like You love me. Thank You for giving me things to love. I pray that I do not let those things get in the way of loving You! I love You, God. Amen.

## Activity Time

The goal of this time is to utilize a variety of engaging activities –passive and active play, crafts, application, and more – to reinforce what was taught in the lesson. While you may not get to every activity, we encourage you to complete the “Take-Home” activity so children leave with a tangible reminder of what was discussed today.

If numbers are high and/or time and space allow, you may want to use a center format: divide the class into groups (one for each activity) and rotate through the centers after an allotted time.



### Blocks

Children work together to build a tower to show how big God’s love is.



### Take Home: Verse Hearts

Supplies:

Heart shape cutouts with verse

Magnets

Crayons

Stickers

Children will decorate their verse hearts with crayons and stickers. Go over the memory verse with them. Have them glue a magnet on the back of the heart so they can take it home and hang it.



### Fruit Bingo

Supplies:

Bingo sheets

Call cards

Markers/chips

Have the children play Bingo. Have them go for five in a row first. Then let the children go for black out – they will all win at the same time!



## Fruit Basket Toss

Supplies:

Plastic fruit

Basket

Have children get in a line to throw plastic fruit from the room into a basket. The children can keep taking a step back to make it a little harder. Have the children name one of the parts of the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, etc.) as they throw the plastic fruit. If a child misses see if all the kids in the group can say all of the fruit of the Spirit together.



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