



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

Fruit of the Spirit

Love – Lesson 2

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

Circle Time

Does anyone remember our memory verse from last week? "Love the Lord your God with all your heart; love your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27. Let's say it together. (Repeat verse.) Love is one aspect, or part, of the fruit of the Spirit. For the next few weeks we are going to be learning about how we can love like God and share his love with others. Last week we talked about how to love God with ALL OUR HEART and this week we are going to talk about how to love your neighbor as yourself.

Who are your neighbors? (Let the children respond.) Your neighbor is not just the person who lives beside you but also all those around you. The people you go to church with, the children and teachers at your school, and the people at the grocery store or doctors' offices. God has asked us to love our neighbor (all the people who are around us) as we love ourselves. Often we think of ourselves first - wanting the last cookie, wanting your favorite toy to play with, wanting to spend your money on yourself, etc. God wants us to treat others the way we would treat ourselves - give them the last cookie, share your favorite toy with them, spend the money we have on them. God wants us to think about others and share God's love with them.

Sometimes it is hard to show love to others because they are not very nice to us, they make fun of us, they say ugly things, but God tells us to love ALL people no matter what. God made all people and He loves every one of us. He wants us to have His love and share it with all of creation. But we have to accept God's love for us first. We need to know how much God loves us and with God's help we can show love to all people. Can we love others without God's love in us? NO! But when we have God's love we can love people the way God does. When people don't share with us we can choose to still share with them. When people say mean things to us we can say kind things to them. When there is only one cookie left you offer to give it to someone else because God has been that loving and kind to you. He shares all of creation with us. Can you think of other ways we can show love to others? (Allow children

to share.)

Prayer Time

Dear God, thank You for loving me. Help me to love You and others as You love me. Sometimes it is hard to love others when they are not so nice but I ask You to help me to put them first and show them love no matter what. 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.



Lego Center

Supplies:

Lego blocks

Children should work together while playing Legos. They practice loving one another and sharing as God has loved them and is generous.



Fruit of the Spirit Match Game

Supplies:

Fruit of the Spirit Match Game cards (1 per bin)

Put the fruit and virtues out on the floor, fruit side up. Have children take turns turning two over to see if they have a match of “love,” “peace, “patience,” etc. Two of a fruit will have different attributes on the backside.



Love's on a Roll

Supplies:

Ball

Get in a circle and roll the ball to each other. When the ball gets to you, pick it up and share a way you can show love to another person. Keep passing it around and sharing until time is up!



Take-Home: Heart Hangers

Supplies:

Large foam heart

Small foam heart stickers

Hole punch

Yarn

Have children put a few small foam heart stickers on the larger heart. Punch two holes at the top of the large heart and string yarn through the holes to make a loop. Tell the children they can hang these hearts on their bedroom doors (or elsewhere around the house) to remind them to love like God loves.



