



## Fruit of the Spirit

### Love - Lesson 5

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

#### Circle Time

Supplies:

2 large construction paper hearts

Today we are going to see how well you remember our memory verse. Let's say it together first. “Love the Lord your God with all your heart; love your neighbor as yourself.” Luke 10:27. Do you know why it is important for us to learn what the Bible says? The Bible is God's word and everything it says is true. We can learn who God is and how much He loves us when we read the Bible. We need to spend time, not only reading about who He is in the Bible, but also by talking to Him in prayer. Reading the Bible and praying helps us to be close to Him. It also helps us remember to choose His ways and live our lives having fruit. We are to love other people and care for them like we would care for ourselves. But we have to love God with all of our hearts first.

Sometimes we want to give our hearts to people and things we love. We start trying to love people on our own and giving people pieces of our heart. (Hold up a large heart and begin to tear it into pieces as you continue.) We give a piece of it to our mom and a piece to our dad and a piece to our close friend and even keep a piece for ourselves. (With only a very small piece left continue.) And then we try to give the rest to God, but by then we only have a very small piece to share with Him.

But what does our memory verse say? (Let the children say the verse again.) That's right! We are to love the Lord our God with ALL of our heart. We are not supposed to give Him what is left; we are to give Him ALL of it! But, wait! If I give all of my heart to Jesus will I have any left to love my neighbor? (Let the children answer what they think.)

**Do you want to know the amazing thing about God's love? God's love is bigger than the love we have in our hearts without Him. (Hold up the second red heart.) When we give Him our whole heart He fills our heart up with His love. Then, instead of having only a little bit to give each person, our heart is overflowing with His love. We can even love our enemies and people that are unkind to us. Instead of wanting to be unkind back we will want to treat them kindly and love them because our hearts are full of His love.**

## **Prayer Time**

## **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.



### **Love God Cross**

Supplies:

Love God cross craft

Help the children make a “Love God” cross. Remind the children we are to love God first and He will give us His love to love others.



### **Whole Hearts**

Supplies:

Red paper hearts

Crayons

Help the child write names of people they can think of who they can share God's love with and write them on their hearts or draw a picture of how they can share God's love with them. Remind them that we need to give God our whole hearts, and instead of God keeping it for Himself He gives us His amazing love to pour out to other people.



### **Buddy Toss**

Supplies:

2-3 pillowcases/small sheets/blankets

2-3 beanbags

Have the children pair up. If the group is uneven three can be together. Tell the children they will be working together (with their “neighbors”) to play this game. Have the groups spread out until they’re 4-6 feet apart. Give each pair a sheet/pillowcase/blanket. Hand one group a beanbag and tell them to use the sheet to toss their beanbag to the other pair of children. While they toss the beanbag back and forth, remind them that they are working with their neighbor. Even when it is difficult we can still choose to love others.



## **Impossible Ball Toss**

Supplies:

Wadded paper balls or ping-pong balls,

Large bowl/basket

Small bowl

Dixie cup

Have the kids take turns throwing a waded up piece of paper in a large bowl placed in a chair. Next have them try with a small bowl. And last have them turn around and try to make it into a Dixie cup when they can’t see where they are throwing it. Talk to them about how some things are just impossible and we need God’s help. Explain that loving people on our own is impossible – we need God’s love in us.



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