

Children's Ministries Lesson – 3rd-5th Grade

Fruit of the Spirit – Love

1 John 4:7-15 & Galatians 5:22-23

May 10, 2020

Children's Ministries purpose is to build a spiritual foundation in each child that lasts a lifetime.

We hope this lesson provides additional opportunities for your family to strengthen your relationship with each other and with Jesus. This lesson has components of both Children's Church and Sunday School fused together.

As you prepare your space, consider gathering supplies, create a worship focal point (ideas: a Bible, a cross, a candle and an offering container), and remove other distractions from the area. Read through this lesson before beginning. Wording in *BLUE italics* is information for the family leader(s). *BLACK italics* are actions to do.

With love, Your Children's Ministries Team and Worship Leaders, Ashley Hymel & Thanushka Lewkebandara.

BIBLE STORY POINT: God gives us the fruit of the Spirit to help us show others what his love looks like.

SUPPLIES: Worship focal point ideas: A Bible, a cross, a candle and an offering container; praise and worship music links; Bible story link; activity supplies (sheet of paper, markers, crayons and/or colored pencils, camera, 9 sheets of paper, string or ribbon, hole punch and/or close pins, tape); service opportunity (listed at the bottom of the lesson)

FAMILY CHANT: *During Sunday School, your children begin with a "class chant". To bring that to your home, create a family chant that you can say each time. Create your own or use this one. The chant helps connect mind with body and connects everyone together. Motions/actions are in parentheses.*

Let's create our family "chant" as a way to begin our time together. Repeat what I say & do.

We are the *[insert family name]* family. (whoop whoop) **We are the *[insert family name]*.**

(whoop whoop)

We are safe and helpful too. (clap clap) **We are safe and helpful too. (clap clap)**

Using kind words is what we do. (stomp stomp) **Using kind words is what we do. (stomp stomp)**

Together we can make the world a better place. (high five) **Together we can make the world a better place. (high five)**

This is our family! (whoop whoop) **This is our family! (whoop whoop)**

OPENING PRAISE SONGS

[Click here](#) for the full playlist of St. Luke's Children's Praise Music, including more Fruit of the Spirit songs!

Supplies: Select the links for Praise and Worship Music (use one or both links)

1. ["Big House"](#) (Ashley Hymel and Thanushka Lewkebandara, Contemporary & Children's Church Worship Leaders)



2. ["Deep Down Boogie"](#) (performed by Ashley Hymel & Thanushka Lewkebandara)



OFFERTORY:

Determine where your offering will go. You may select an organization of your choice, or save it until we return to Sunday School/Children's Church to give to our current mission. The below scripture is the scripture we use each Sunday during our Offertory time.

Let's say this scripture together. "God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7.

Now, let us pray for those who will receive our offering and The Lord's Prayer. Does someone want to lead us in prayer?

An optional prayer:

Dear God, We thank you for our many blessings. May the offering we share today bring your hope to those who will receive it. And now, let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

LEARNING SCRIPTURE:

Let us learn this scripture together.

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23

This is the word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

VIDEO INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES – Fruit of the Spirit

[Click here to watch this introduction video.](#)



BIBLE STORY:

Supplies: [Click here for the Bible story video](#)

We are going to watch and listen to the Bible story called God is Love and learn more about the first attribute of the fruit of the Spirit which is love. *If your family wants to read along in their Bibles, please turn to 1 John 4:7-15 NRSV.*

[Watch the Bible story video.](#)



ACTIVITY 1: Bible Story Discussion and Mother's Day Activity:

Supplies: sheet of paper, markers, crayons and/or colored pencils and camera

The scripture we just listened to said, "if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us." What does this mean? *(Allow family members time to share their thoughts)*

What are ways you show love to others? If we remember that God lives in us, will we act or think differently? How has God's love been making a difference in your life? *(Allow family members time to share their thoughts)*

Today is a special day where we get to love another person: MOM! Let's do a fun activity to celebrate mom! *(Families can also celebrate an aunt, grandma or other mother like figure.)*

What is your most favorite thing to do with Mom? *(Let child give you their answer)*. Mom loves doing that with you too! That is such a special time/activity for you to share!

Write your favorite activity on this piece of paper and then we can take a picture of you and Mom holding it. *(Optional: your child may also decorate the paper.)*

I (Mom) love doing (insert child's activity) with you because it is one way that I (Mom) can share my love with you. What is something that you can do to show Mom how much you love her? *(Allow for answers.)* That is a great way for you to show her you love her!

After taking your photo, we would love for you to share them with us! We plan to use them for a celebration of Mother's Day post on our St. Luke's Children's Ministry Instagram ([@stlukeschildren](#)). If your family would like to share, please email photos to rfisher@stlukemethodist.org and keep an eye out for our post later this week!

ACTIVITY 2: Fruit of the Spirit Multi-Week Family Activity – Fruit of the Spirit Banner (or Poster)

ACTIVITY OPTION #2 – Fruit of the Spirit Banner (or Poster)

Supplies (for total project): See below under each idea.

You will make part of this project each week of the Fruit of the Spirit series. Today you will make the overall banner and decorate the section for Love, unless you choose Option 1.

Images of various options:

1. **Poster** – Ready to print as is – use the link to print. Post in a central location for your family. Simplest way to do this activity.

Supplies: <https://biblegamescentral.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Fruit-of-the-Spirit-Cards.pdf>.



Thank you, www.BibleGamesCentral.com.

2. **Vertical Banner** –

Supplies: poster board or large piece of paper, poster cards (link above), markers, glue stick and/or painter's tape. Great for a fridge or narrow space.

Write Title; draw boxes (we used the cards from the poster and just made them a bit larger; cut cards; and tape or glue each one in a box, one per week.



3. **Horizontal Banner** - Using Poster Cards (above link)

Supplies: ribbon, clothes pins or tape, poster cards, heavy paper cut in banner style or be as creative as you want.

To make the background banner cards, cut paper larger than the poster cards (see link above); lay them on a piece of ribbon; leave about 6 inches on each end to for hanging;

write "Fruit of the Spirit" on the three center banner cards; attach blank banner cards to the ribbon with clothes pins or tape; cut out poster cards; tape or glue one on each banner card each week. Hang on a wall with painter's tape or bulletin board, etc.



4. Horizontal Banner – Create your own

Supplies: Whatever you choose! For this one, we used ribbon, cardstock, markers, clothes pins, and painter's tape to attach to the wall.



We would love to see your creation! Send to rfisher@stlukesmethodist.org.

Overall Directions:

1. As a family, decide how large you want your family banner to be and where the banner will be displayed in your home.
2. Select your design.
3. The fruit of the Spirit for week one is **love**.
4. As a family, decorate one sheet of paper to represent love. Be as creative as possible!
5. Attach love to the banner and hang in your house. A new picture and new fruit of the Spirit attribute will be added each Sunday for 8 more weeks.

Family Challenge – Caught Showing Love

Supplies: Fruit of the Spirit poster or banner and your family

Throughout this Fruit of the Spirit series, notice or “catch” each other living out the attributes of the fruit of the Spirit. When you notice someone showing “love”, go to the banner and give a shout out to the family member who shared love. What are some ways your family loves each other?

Want to do more with the challenge? Have family members record the acts of love on slips of paper and collect them in a jar. Read them together as a family and see God at work in your home!

Parent Tip:

The goal of the banner is to help your family memorize the fruit of the spirit and put them into practice each day. A great tip for memorizing the fruit of the spirit is to remember it is made up of 9 characteristics. These characteristics can be broken down into three sets of three (3+3+3). Each of these three sets increases in syllables. The attributes in the first set have one syllable: love, joy, peace. The ones in the second set have two syllables: pa-tience, kind-ness, good-ness. And the ones in the third set have three syllables: faith-ful-ness, gen-tle-ness, and self-con-trol. Use this tip to help memorize the fruit of the spirit for yourself and share with your children!

ACTIVITY 3: Fruit of the Spirit Song and Game

Directions: As a family, come up with actions for the words “Fruit of the Spirit” and “Love.” The actions can be simple, such as put both hands on your head, or more advanced. Play the song found below. Every time you hear “Fruit of the Spirit” and “Love” all family members must do the correct, agreed upon actions. If someone forgets or messes up the action, they are out! Have fun and feel free to dance too!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JdkUb2YVWj8>

Fruit of the Spirit by GoFish! <http://www.gofishguys.com/>

Music by Jamison J. Statema & Darren Rust

Lyrics by Jamison J. Statema

CLOSING:

LEARNING SCRIPTURE:

Let’s say our scripture again!

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23

This is the word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Today, we began to learn about the fruit of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit are qualities of God and the Holy Spirit fills our hearts and minds with these qualities. As we grow in our love for Jesus, these qualities fill us up so our first thoughts and our first actions are God-loving words and actions. We can be so full of God's love, that we live and love just as Jesus showed us all the time. What a wonderful gift from God – that he shares the ways to love others because he first loved us!

CLOSING PRAYER:

Ask someone to close in prayer or use the following prayer.

Dear God, we love you and thank you for the fruit of the Spirit you give us in love. Thank you for loving us first to show us what true love looks like. We thank you for the gift of Jesus and for helping us learn that we can always count on your love that grows inside us. Help us share your love. We praise you and love you because you are God and you are love. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

CLOSING SONG:

Supplies: [Click here](#) for the closing song, "We Will Worship" (Ashley Hymel & Thanushka Lewkebandara):

Play the closing song.



SERVICE OPPORTUNITY – to continue our worship all week!

Do something special for your mom or others who are like a mom to you!