

Children's Ministries Lesson – **Threes, PreK, & Kindergarten**

Fruit of the Spirit - Love

Galatians 5:22-23, Mark 12:28-34

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 for this lesson and the space you will use, please gather 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.

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 song links; Bible story link; a blanket and some toys; additional activity supplies (see activity options below).

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 own family "chant" as a way to begin our time together. Repeat what I say and do:

I reach up *(reach both hands up to the sky)* **I reach up *(reach both hands up to the sky)***

I reach down *(reach both hands down to their toes)* **I reach down *(reach both hands down to their toes)***

I share a smile to everyone *(smile at each other)* **I share a smile to everyone *(smile at each other)***

I see you *(point to each other)* **I see you *(point to each other)***

You see me *(point to self)* **You see me *(point to self)***

Together we make the *[insert family name]* family. *(put arms around each other's shoulders - form a huddle)*

Together we make the *[insert family name]* family. *(put arms around each other's shoulders - form a huddle)*

OPENING PRAISE SONGS:

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

Supplies: [Select the link for Praise and Worship music.](#)

1. ["Super Wonderful" and "Fruit of the Spirit"](#) (Courtney Patty, Sunday School Music Teacher)



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's place our offering in this container.

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Let us say The Lord's Prayer together. (If your child is just learning it, an "echo" prayer can be a helpful way to learn it. If your child already knows it, you may say it together:

Let us pray.

Our Father, **Our Father,**

who art in heaven, **who art in heaven,**

hallowed be thy name. **hallowed be thy name.**

Thy kingdom come, **Thy kingdom come,**

thy will be done **thy will be done**

on earth as it is in heaven. **on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day **Give us this day**

our daily bread. **our daily bread.**

And forgive us our trespasses, **And forgive us our trespasses,**

as we forgive those **as we forgive those**

who trespass against us. **who trespass against us.**

And lead us not **And lead us not**

into temptation, **into temptation,**

but deliver us from evil. **but deliver us from evil.**

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

LEARNING SCRIPTURE:

Let us learn this scripture together.

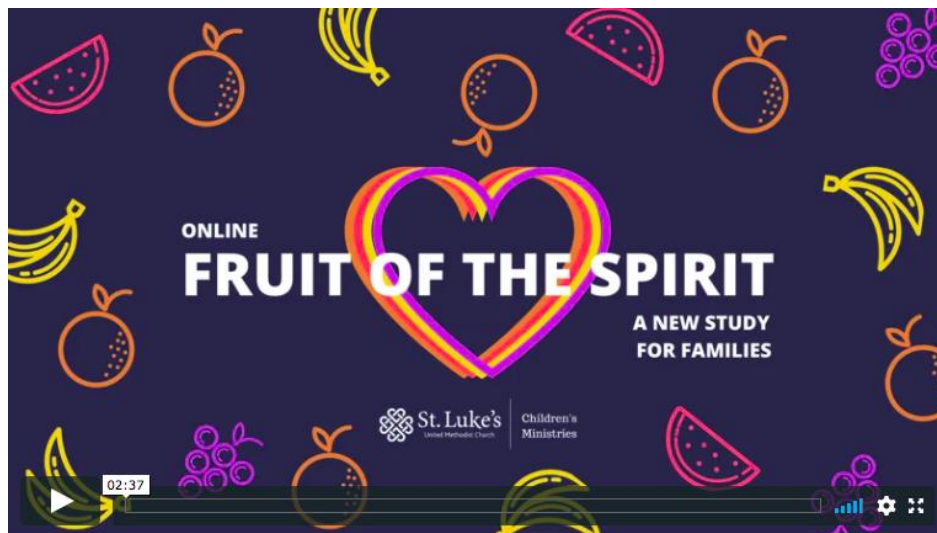
“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” *Galatians 5:22-23a*

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

Fruit of the Spirit Series Introduction Video

Let's watch this video about our new Fruit of the Spirit series!

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



BIBLE STORY

[Click here](#) for the Bible story video link.



Discussion Questions: *(ask some or all of these questions)*

1. What fruit of the Spirit did we hear about in the story? *Yes, LOVE!*
2. What did Jesus tell us are the most 2 important rules? *Love God & love God's children.*
3. What is the name of the 2 most important rules? *The Greatest Commandment*
4. If Jesus tells us to love God's children, who are God's children? *All the people on earth – our family, our friends, our neighbors, those at our church, our school friends, and so many more!*

Where does love come from? Yes, LOVE comes from GOD. He loved us first. So, now we can love God's children. We can say "thank you" to the mailman, the garbage collectors, the grocery store cashiers, and all those who help us in our lives, especially in this time of distance loving.

ACTIVITY OPTION #1: – I Love to _____ with My Mommy! (Activity)

Supplies: sheet of paper, marker, crayons (optional), camera

The purpose of this activity is to capture what your child loves to do with you, his/her mommy. We ask that you write down your child's response on paper. Then take a picture of the two of you with your child holding the paper.

Let's celebrate Mommy!

What is one thing that you LOVE to do with Mommy? *(If your child needs prompting share some ideas, such as going on walks, reading books, snuggles, singing songs, baking cookies, etc.)* Mommy loves doing that with you, too!

I (Mommy) am going to write that on this paper, and then we can take a picture with you and Mommy holding it! *(Children can decorate the paper if they wish, though it is not required!)*

When we [*do the favorite activity*], it is a special way for us to share our love with each other. *(You can also say that the other members of your family love each other, too.)* We can tell Jesus, "thank you" for making our special family! Let's say, "Thank You, Jesus!" together. Ready? One. Two. Three. Thank you, Jesus!

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](https://www.instagram.com/stlukeschildren)). If your family would like to share, please email photos to rfisher@stlukesmethodist.org and keep an eye out for our post later this week!

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 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 OPTION #3 – Fruit of the Spirit Song

Supplies: Select [this link](#) for the “Fruit of the Spirit Song” by Go Fish.

While you listen to this song, you can play “freeze dance” or use it as a song to clean up to! It is great to listen to any time this week when your family needs a positive burst of energy! It will help your child learn the fruit of the Spirit!

LEARNING SCRIPTURE:

Let us learn this scripture together.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” *Galatians 5:22-23a*

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

ECHO PRAYER:

Dear God, **Dear God**

Fill us with your love **Fill me with your love**

Then, help us share it with others. **Then, help us share it with others.**

We love you. **We love you. Amen.**

CLOSING SONG:

Supplies: [Click here](#) for 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 and others who are like a mom to you!