

Children's Ministries Lesson – Twos/Toddlers

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.*

With love, from your Children's Ministries Team and Worship Leaders, Ashley Hymel, Thanushka Lewkebandara and Tina Throckmorton.

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

SUPPLIES: Worship focal points: Bible, cross, candle (lit or unlit), and offering container; link to worship songs; link to Bible story video; paper, marker, and camera for Mother's Day activity; fruit of the Spirit banner supplies (see below); link to Fruit of the Spirit song

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 we 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 Fruit of the Spirit songs!

Supplies: [Select the links for Praise and worship Music:](#)

["Greeting Song & Fruit of the Spirit"](#) (Tina Throckmorton, 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, or add it to your 75th anniversary piggy bank. The scripture below is the scripture we use each Sunday during our Offertory time.

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

PRAYER:

Thank you for this offering. May our offering help those who receive it and help them know they are loved. 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

Today, we are going to learn about God's special gift of love. Let's watch the Bible story together.

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



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

1. What special word did we learn is from God? *Yes, LOVE!*
2. Who did Jesus say we should love? *God and everyone.*
3. What is the greatest gift we can offer God? *Loving him and loving his children (everyone)!*

ACTIVITY OPTION #1:

I Love to “_____” with My Mommy!

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

The purpose of this activity is to capture something 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 Ministries Instagram (@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.

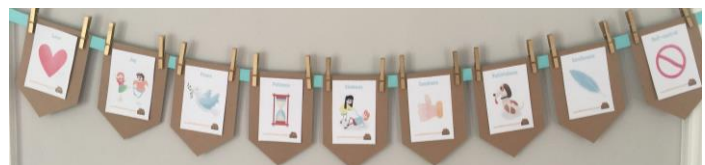
Write Title; draw boxes (we used the cards from the poster and just made them a bit larger); cut cards; and tape or glue each one in a box, one per week.



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.



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 (as age appropriate). A great tip for memorizing the fruit of the Spirit is to remember it is made up of 9 attributes. These attributes can be broken down into three sets of three. 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 use these words at prayer time as another time to share with your child.

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” or use it as a song to clean up to! This is an easy song to throw in to the mix all week long as we to learn our fruits of the Spirit!

CLOSING PRAYER:

Adapted from <https://sermons4kids.com/greatest-commandment.html>

Now, let us say this prayer as an “echo” prayer. I will say some words and you repeat them with me.

Dear God, **Dear God**

Help us to love you, **Help us to love you**

And help us to love each other, **And help us to love each other**

In Jesus’ name, **In Jesus’ name**

Amen. **Amen**

CLOSING SONG:

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

Play the closing song.



SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES – to continue our worship all week! (see below)

Do something special with your mommy this week.