

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

Fruit of the Spirit – Kindness

Matthew 18:1-5

June 14, 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 kindness 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 (see activity options below); 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)**

(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. ["Trust in the Lord"](#) (Ashley Hymel and Thanushka Lewkebandara, Contemporary & Children's Church Worship Leaders)



2. ["I've Got the Joy"](#) (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. Place your offering in your container. (You may use your 75th Anniversary piggy bank, if you have one.) 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 if you have not previously viewed it.](#)



FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT PRAYER AND INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE STORY:

We have been learning about the term, “fruit of the Spirit”. When the Bible uses the word, “Spirit”, God means the Holy Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is a gift God gives us to help us live lives that please him and show his love to others.

Let's begin to understand the fruit of the Spirit more with a prayer. Let's pray.

Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us the fruit of the Spirit. We ask you to help us live each quality of the fruit of the Spirit.

Help us to show **love and joy**.

Help us to have **peace**.

Fill us with your **patience** and **kindness**.

Show us your **goodness**.

Help us demonstrate **faithfulness** and **gentleness** and, finally, help us have **self-control**.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

So far, we have learned about the attributes love, joy, peace, and patience. Today, we will learn more about kindness!

What does being kind mean? *(Wait for responses – think about recent times in your family or what you see in the world around you.)*

What is the opposite of kind? Why do you think people have a hard time being kind? *(It is hard to put yourself in someone else's shoes, sometimes we feel impatient or stressed – you can reference previous week's lessons, etc.)*

People can speak or treat others without thinking about the people around them, without considering if they are being kind. Even Jesus' disciples were unkind sometimes. But Jesus was kind to everyone, even when it was difficult or inconvenient.

Have you ever been annoyed with your younger brother or sister or a classmate at school? Has someone ever not been friendly to you because they thought they were smarter or better at sports or more popular than you? Jesus never made anyone feel left out. In fact, he welcomed every single person he met because he loved them unconditionally...no matter who they were or how old they were.

BIBLE STORY:

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

Our Bible story for today is, "The Friend of Little Children" from *The Jesus Storybook Bible* by Sally Lloyd-Jones. [Watch the Bible story video.](#)



DISCUSSION AFTER BIBLE STORY:

What did you find most interesting about the story? *(Allow time for family members to share their thoughts.)*

1. How did Jesus show kindness to the children? *(Jesus loved them all equally by letting them talk to him and sit with him, even though he was tired and they were being scolded by the disciples.)*
2. What did Jesus mean when he told the disciples that they should be like the children? *(Jesus wanted his disciples to see how important it is to show kindness to everyone, even when it's not easy or everyone else isn't being kind.)*
3. How can we be like the children that greeted Jesus? *(We can be excited to get to know Jesus each day! We can learn more about Jesus and treat others the way Jesus treats everyone...with kindness.)*
4. How can you show kindness towards others? *(We can show people that they matter to us, just like they matter to Jesus. We share the kindness Jesus has shown us when we say nice things, help our friends and family when they are busy, and make others feel special!)*
5. What would Jesus say to do when it seems hard to be kind? *(Jesus shows us that everyone deserves kindness. Sometimes it does seem hard to be kind, especially if someone is not kind to us. But, Jesus teaches us to treat others as we want to be treated and showing kindness always reflects Jesus' love for you and for all people!)*
6. Share a time when you have experienced kindness when you least expected it. How did it make you feel?

Kindness is an important part of being a Christian because Jesus touched the hearts of so many people with his kind words and actions. He showed everyone how much he loved them by welcoming them to be with him always and letting us all know we are important to Jesus! We can reflect Jesus' kindness to those closest to us - our family, friends, teammates, and those we do not know as well - neighbors, grocery store workers, and children we do not know well, yet. They are ALL important to Jesus, so they are ALL important to us!

Always remember, Jesus' love, joy, peace, patience, and kindness can carry us through anything!

ACTIVITY 1: Fruit of the Spirit Multi-Week Family Activity

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 add "KINDNESS" to your banner/poster from last week or make the overall banner/poster, if needed.

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 five is **KINDNESS**.
4. As a family, decorate one sheet of paper to represent kindness. Be as creative as possible!
5. Attach kindness to the banner. Your banner should now contain love, joy, peace, patience and kindness! A new picture and new fruit of the Spirit attribute will be added each week throughout this series!

FAMILY CHALLENGE – Caught Being Kind

Supplies: Fruit of the Spirit 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 being kind, go to the banner and give a shout out to the family member who shared kindness. What are some ways your family shares kindness with one another? Of course, as your family notices “love” and “joy” and “peace” and “patience”, point those out, too!!

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 2: PRACTING KINDNESS AS A FAMILY

Be a Bucket Filler:

Supply: paper and pens/markers, plastic cups/buckets (if available)

Draw buckets on paper or declare a cup/bucket you have at home “Kindness Buckets” for each family member. Discuss and write down or draw the ways your family members can be “bucket fillers” – show kindness. When family members practice kindness, especially in the ways that you all recorded – write on a slip of paper their act of kindness and place it in their bucket (or on top of their sheet). At the end of the week, read aloud the slips in everyone’s buckets!

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 learned about kindness. The Bible teaches us of God’s perfect kindness. He shares it with us so we may share it with others. Yet, it takes a lot of practice and a whole lot of prayer. God wants us to keep our focus on him. When we do, we can experience and know the fruit of the Spirit. What a wonderful gift from God. Let’s thank God with our closing prayer.

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 kindness. Thank you for loving us first to show us what true love, joy, peace, patience, and kindness look like. We thank you for the gift of Jesus and for helping us learn that we can always count on your kindness that grows inside us. Help us share these gifts with others through our words and our actions. We praise you and love you because you are God and you are kind. 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 OPPORTUNITIES – to continue our worship all week!

Spread the fruit of the Spirit to the community!

Supplies: paint, river rocks/small stones



1. Make and Share Kindness Stones - paint or decorate river rocks or small stones. As you walk through your neighborhood, leave them by the doorsteps of your neighbors. If you have paint, you may paint the rock first, if desired. You may use paint pens or colored pencils to decorate the rock.