

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

2nd Grade

## Sunday Morning

Study 13

Love

# Love

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

These are the books of the Bible we will be memorizing. New books for this month are in bold. If a student can memorize all the books up to this month's books, you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

**Objective** This lesson will teach the students what love is using the example of Christ's death.

## Key Verses

Galatians 5:22-23—Main Teaching Passage

Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:9-10

Matthew 26:53; Luke 23:34, 39-43

The crucifixion narrative, which we will be summarizing, can be found in Luke 22-23.

## Books to Memorize

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings, **1&2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job**

## Hook

Write the heading, "Things I love" on the board. Underneath, write or draw things that you love, such as your family, your favorite food, and your pet (it should be things you "love" in different ways). Have the students come up and add things to the list.

Then ask the class, "Do I love my family the same way I love food or my pet?" Of course not! The word "love" means different things depending on what we're talking about. Today, we are going to learn what love means according to the Bible.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

## BOOK

The next few weeks, we will be studying the Fruit of the Spirit. We read the list that makes up the Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23. These 9 character traits are called the Fruit of the Spirit because, just as a healthy tree will naturally produce fruit, the Christian life that is full of the Holy Spirit will produce love, joy, peace, and the rest.

The first Fruit of the Spirit is love. The New Testament tells us that the greatest example of love is Christ coming to earth to die on a cross to save us from our sins (Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:9-10). Most people know the story of Christ's death, but today we are going to highlight the parts of the story that really show Christ's love. The story begins with Jesus' arrest at Gethsemane. In Matthew 26:53, Jesus reminded Peter that at any time, He could have called down twelve legions of angels. In other words, He could have prevented His death at any time, but He didn't. Jesus was taken before the Jewish council and then Pilate, and yet no matter how much they accused Him, He didn't defend Himself. He even took the place of a guilty man, Barabbas, who should have died as a criminal. They whipped, beat, and mocked Him, but He did not try to escape or become angry. Instead, He prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (Luke 23:34). They crucified Jesus between two criminals, and we read that Jesus even forgave one of them of their sins before He died (Luke 23:39-43). In His death, Jesus showed incredible love.

## LOOK

We use the word "love" in many different ways in our language. I might say, "I love my family," "I love the Eagles," and "I love pizza," but what I mean by love in those three cases is different each time. So when the Bible tells us that one of the signs of a healthy Christian life full of the Spirit is love, we have to ask what that means. On the cross, Jesus shows us what Christian love truly is.

There are some important things to notice about the love Jesus showed on the cross. First, it was willing love. Jesus didn't die because the Jews or Roman soldiers forced Him to. He had the power to set Himself free at any time. Yet He knew dying on the cross was the only way to save us, so He was willing to die. His love was self-sacrificial. Needless to say, Jesus' death wasn't easy. He endured suffering physically, verbally, and spiritually. Jesus didn't just love us when it was easy, He suffered great pain in order to save us. Jesus also loved people who didn't deserve it, dying for criminals and for the very people who were killing Him. Finally, for Jesus, love was both feeling and action. He didn't just say He loved us,

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

## LOOK (Continued)

He actually did it. At the same time, in His words we see that as He went through the actions of loving us, His heart was filled with love too. As He was being crucified, He forgave for the very people who were killing Him, showing that He had no bitterness towards them, only love.

Obviously none of us will ever be able to love others exactly as Jesus loves us, but we can copy His example. Love should be willing. Cleaning your room because your parents forced you to isn't love, but helping around the house without being asked just so you can bless your parents is. Love should be self-sacrificial. You might have to give something up in order to love someone. Are you willing to give up what you have to bless others? Would you be willing to be made fun of to be friends with someone who needs a friend? Jesus loved everyone, even those who didn't deserve His love. Do you show love to your friends only, or to anyone, even those who are unkind or unloving to you? Finally, we must love people with both our heart and our actions. If you only say that you love someone but don't ever do anything loving for them, that's not real love. Try showing people that you love them. It can be simple as a small, kind gesture, but real love is love in action.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

## TOOK

As a class, review the books of the Bible Genesis-Job.

Review the lesson by asking the class about how Jesus showed His love to us. What can we learn from His example?

**Pray:** Thank the Lord for loving us by sending Jesus to die on the cross for us. Ask Him to help us love others.

**Parent Question:** In what ways does Jesus' example on the cross teach us how to love others?

# FURTHER STUDY

## Commentary on Galatians 5:22-23 by David Guzik

5. ([Gal 5:22-23](#)) Examples of the fruit of the Spirit that walking in the Spirit produces in our lives.

**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.**

a. **But the fruit of the Spirit:** The *works of the flesh* seem overwhelming – both *in* us and *around* us. God is good enough and big enough to change everything with **the fruit of the Spirit**. The fruit of the Spirit can always conquer the works of the flesh.

i. Significantly, it is the **fruit of the Spirit** set across from the *works of the flesh*. Works are works, and fruit is fruit. Fruit has several important characteristics.

- Fruit isn't achieved by working, but is birthed by abiding.
- Fruit is fragile.
- Fruit reproduces itself.
- Fruit is attractive.
- Fruit nourishes.

b. **Fruit of the Spirit:** Paul used the plural in describing life after the flesh (*works of the flesh*), but he uses the singular (**fruit**, not *fruits*, **of the Spirit**). In the big picture, the Spirit has one work to do in all of us. These aren't the *gifts of the Spirit*, which are distributed on an individual basis by the will of the Spirit; this is something for every Christian.

i. "It may be significant that the word *fruit* is singular; Paul is not speaking of a series of fruits that would be shared around, so that one believer has one, another. Rather he is referring to a cluster, such that all the qualities are to be manifested in each believer." (Morris)

c. **The fruit of the Spirit is love:** It is fitting that **love** be the first mentioned, because it encompasses all of the following. It may even be said that the following eight terms are just describing what **love** in action looks like. "It would have been enough to mention only the single fruit of love, for love embraces all the fruits of the Spirit." (Luther)

i. **Love** translates the ancient Greek word *agape*. In that language there were four distinct words for "love." *Eros* was the word for romantic or passionate love. *Philia* was the word for the love we have for those near and dear to us, be they family or friends. *Storge* is the word for the love that shows itself in affection and care, especially family affection. But *agape* describes a different kind of love. It is a love more of *decision* than of the *spontaneous heart*; as much a matter of the *mind* than the *heart*, because it chooses to love the undeserving. "*Agape* has to do with the *mind*: it is not simply an emotion which rises unbidden in our hearts; it is a principle by which we deliberately live." (Barclay)

ii. We could say that this is a *love of the Spirit*, because it is a **fruit of the Spirit**. This is above and beyond natural affection, or the loyalty to blood or family. This is loving people who aren't easy to love; loving people you don't *like*.

iii. "When you wax indignant because you have been badly treated, and you think of returning evil for evil, remember this text, 'The fruit of the Spirit is love.' 'Ah,' you say, 'it was shameful!' Of course it was: and therefore do not imitate it: do not render railing for raiding, but contrariwise blessing, for 'the fruit of the Spirit is love.' " (Spurgeon)

iv. It is also helpful to understand the *works of the flesh* in the light of this **love** of the Spirit. Each one of the works of the flesh is a violation or a perversion of this great **love**.

- *Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, and lewdness* are counterfeits of love among people.
- *Idolatry and sorcery* are counterfeits of love to God.
- *Hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, and murders* are all opposites of love.
- *Drunkenness and revelries* are sad attempts to fill the void only love can fill.