

# Small Group Experience

## LESSON 1 - "LOVE"



**Whatchagaddaknow?:**

"If I Love God, Then I'll Love You!"



**Power Verse:**

"Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."

**- 1 John 4:8**

### Retelling The Bible Story

#### SUPPLY LIST:

\* Bible Story Pictures Print Piece (provided; print one set)

#### TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, review the story so you are familiar with the main points. Print the Bible Story Print Piece and fold the pictures in half. On the outside of each picture, write the number order in which it occurs in the story, #1 through #4. Today's retelling of the Bible Story will be a lot like "Show and Tell." Once small group begins, ask for volunteers and give each one a picture from the Bible Story. To review the story, allow the volunteer with the #1 picture to open it and look at the illustration. They should then show the picture to the class and tell about what was happening in that part of the story. Alternatively, they could show the picture and ask the class to tell the story details. Choose whichever method best suits your group. Continue on this way through picture #4. Have your Bible open to Luke 19 to help fill in any details.

**Say** - Today we are going to have "Show and Tell." I know what you are thinking - "I didn't bring anything for 'Show and Tell!'" No worries! I have some items to share for this special "Show and Tell." I need a few volunteers.

**-Choose four volunteers, give each a picture, and tell them not to open it until it's their turn-**

**Say** - Let's get this "Show and Tell" started! Volunteers, when I call your number, open the paper I gave you and look at the picture inside. Then, SHOW us the picture and TELL us about what is happening in that part of the story.

**-Allow the volunteers to open the pictures in numerical order and discuss them with the group-**

**Say** - Thank you for helping me with this special Fruit of the Spirit edition "Show and Tell." You did a great job retelling our story.

**Ask** - Why wasn't Zacchaeus well-liked among people?

**-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-**

**Ask** - Do you think he deserved his "disliked" status?

**-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-**

**Ask** - Why do you think Jesus loved Zacchaeus, despite his status with others?

**-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-**

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**Game/Activity****SUPPLY LIST:**

- \* Fruit Print Piece (*provided; print one set*)
- \* A small basket or bowl (*to hold the fruit*)
- \* Bibles (*a few for the group to share*)
- \* A way to keep score

**TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:**

*Before small group begins, cut out the fruit pieces and place them in a small basket or bowl. Once activity time begins, divide the group into teams and give each team a Bible. The game is “Fruit Basket Turnover.” Turn the bowl upside-down and let the fruit spill out onto the floor. One member of each team should “race” to pick up ONE, and only ONE, piece of fruit per team. Then, they should quickly look up the Scripture printed on the fruit. Once they have found the verse(s), they should stand and say, “Fruit of the Spirit Basket Turnover.” The first to respond will read their passage aloud and win one point for their team. The rest of the fruit should be returned to the basket so you can play until all the verses have been read. Keep the fruit after activity time is over - they will be used again in group sharing. This will be a fun lesson concept reinforcing activity.*

**Say** - We are going to play a game called “Fruit of the Spirit Basket Turnover.” I have a basket full of fruit. I am going to turn this basket over and let the fruit fall onto the ground. Once ALL the pieces of fruit have hit the ground, one member from each team should race to pick up one piece of fruit. Only pick up ONE piece of fruit per team. Look up the Scripture written on the fruit. Once you have found it, you must stand up and say, “Fruit of the Spirit Basket Turnover.” I will call on the first team I hear to then read their verse, or verses, aloud and then award their team one point. The rest of the teams will return the fruit to the basket so that we can play again until all the verses are read! The team with the most points wins. Also, hold on to the fruit pieces. We will use them again in our next activity.

**-Play Fruit of the Spirit Basket Turnover-****Group Sharing****SUPPLY LIST:**

- \* Fruit Print Pieces (*provided; from activity time*)
- \* Bibles (*for the group to share*)

**TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:**

*Group sharing is focused on encouraging the kids to open up and discuss the lesson concepts and relate those concepts to their lives. Help facilitate and guide the discussion time. Once group sharing begins, divide the group into small teams or pairs.*

**Say** - Today we begin a new series all about the fruit of the Spirit. I am excited for us to learn more about these important ingredients of life for followers of Christ.

**Ask** - Why is the fruit of the Spirit important?

**-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-**

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**Say** - Today's fruit of the Spirit is "Love." I could tell you all of the reasons why I feel love is important, but the best way to find the right answer is to look in God's Word, the Bible! Earlier we had "Show and Tell," and I liked it so much, I think we will have "Show and Tell" one more time. I am giving each of your teams a piece of fruit. Look up the Scripture on your piece of fruit, read it aloud, and discuss it together. I will give you a few minutes to do this task.

**-Allow time for each team to look up its Scripture and discuss it-**

**Say** - Now it's time for "Show and Tell." Each team will SHOW the group which fruit they have, read the Scripture aloud, and TELL us your thoughts on the passage. I know we read these verses during activity time, but the more we read and study God's Word, the more we understand His heart.

**Ask** - Who has John 13:34-35? Please SHOW us the fruit, read the verses aloud, and TELL us your thoughts on the verses.

**-Allow time for the team members to read the verses and share their thoughts; discuss the verses and their thoughts with the group-**

**Ask** - Who has 1 John 4:19-20? Please SHOW us the fruit, read the verses aloud, and TELL us your thoughts on the verses.

**-Allow time for the team members to read the verses and share their thoughts; discuss the verses and their thoughts with the group-**

**Ask** - Who has 1 John 4:21? Please SHOW us the fruit, read the verse aloud, and TELL us your thoughts on the verse.

**-Allow time for the team members to read the verse and share their thoughts; discuss the verse and their thoughts with the group-**

**Ask** - Who has 1 John 4:8? Please SHOW us the fruit, read the verse aloud, and TELL us your thoughts on the verse.

**-Allow time for the team members to read the verse and share their thoughts; discuss the verse and their thoughts with the group-**

**Ask** - Who has 1 Peter 4:8? Please SHOW us the fruit, read the verse aloud, and TELL us your thoughts on the verse.

**-Allow time for the team members to read the verse and share their thoughts; discuss the verse and their thoughts with the group-**

**Ask** - Who has Romans 12:10? Please SHOW us the fruit, read the verse aloud, and TELL us your thoughts on the verse.

**-Allow time for the team members to read the verse and share their thoughts; discuss the verse and their thoughts with the group-**

**Ask** - Who has 1 Corinthians 13:1? Please SHOW us the fruit, read the verse aloud, and TELL us your thoughts on the verse.

**-Allow time for the team members to read the verse and share their thoughts; discuss the verse and their thoughts with the group-**

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**Say** - The Bible clearly states how God feels about loving others. It isn't a request - love is a command. If we are followers of Christ, we must LOVE others.

### **Prayer Time**

**Say** - Loving others is something that takes practice and help from the Holy Spirit. Let's pray and ask that God would help us show others His love!

**Pray**

### **Closing**

**Say** - Zacchaeus wasn't loveable. In fact, he wasn't even likeable. He was the type of guy that you write off quickly. You might not even feel bad for not loving him - he made bad choices, so that's what he gets, right? The crowds didn't think a thing about pushing Zacchaeus aside - he was in the way! They didn't notice him because they were concerned with getting their shot with Jesus. Ironically, Jesus had a completely different concern. He was focused on one man, who was shoved to the side and seriously disliked. Jesus was concerned about connecting with Zacchaeus. The people must have been shocked as they watched Jesus call Zacchaeus by name. Jesus left the crowds of people to spend time with one guy who needed to know what God's love was all about. That is what the fruit of the Spirit is - reflecting who Jesus is when it matters most, sharing His attributes with those who have been cast aside, putting ourselves last and others first, and showing love to a lost world! One last “Show and Tell” task...I challenge you to find ways to SHOW God's love this week. Then, come back next week and TELL me all about it. Thank you for coming! I will see you again soon.







**How could  
Jesus possibly  
hang out with  
THAT man!**



4



