

Loving out Loud

The Evidence of Christ in Us

John 14:15-31 *NIV*

Bible Lesson & Activities for Children



THE **SUNDAY SCHOOL** STORE

Loving out Loud



Who are you? How do others know you love Jesus? It's important for our lives to show evidence of our faith, and for others to see Christ's love in what we say and do. We want the Holy Spirit to be active and alive in us. As Christians, we should be so excited and thankful for how Jesus changes our lives that we want to share His love with those around us. We follow His commandments by caring for others and demonstrating the love of Jesus. Use this lesson to communicate the comforting truths Jesus told His disciples in John 14.

Jesus tells His disciples (and us) that if we love Him, we will obey His commandments. But this doesn't mean that we have to do certain things in order to be Christians, or that our actions will make God love us any more or less. The greatest commandment He gave was to love God and love others. Knowing that Jesus has loved us and sacrificed for us should naturally result in a desire to care for others and demonstrate God's love for them. We pass along the great love He generously bestows, and His spirit lives within us!

Passage: John 14:15–31

Target Audience: Kindergarten–6th grade

Materials Needed: Construction paper; glue; markers or crayons; tape; scissors; decorative supplies; paper plates; pictures of people in various jobs; pipe cleaners; beads; Bibles.

More Resources Online

- Watch the [video demonstration of the object lesson](#).
- Watch the [video example for the craft projects](#).
- Watch the [video Bible story "God Sends the Holy Spirit"](#) from Saddleback Kids Club
- Watch the [video Bible story "We Can Wonder About the Holy Spirit"](#) from Crossroads Kids
- For more free illustrations, visit [Christian Clip Arts](#) and [Ministry-To-Children](#)

Object Lesson (5 minutes)

Greet children and invite them to consider identifying job occupations.

I have a little challenge for you. I want you to help me identify some people. I am going to show you pictures, and I want to see if you can figure out who these people are or what they do, based on their appearance. Are you ready?

Hold up several pictures of people who are obviously in different occupations, such as firefighters, cooks, policemen, doctors, etc. Describe the work they would do and how that is evident.

Now, I can tell who these people are by what kinds of things they are wearing. I'd recognize their uniforms if I saw them out somewhere. I could also tell what job they do if I watched their work and saw them doing certain things, right? A cook might give me food, a policeman might give me a ticket, a doctor might give me a prescription...

But here's a question for you: how can you tell someone who loves Jesus? Is it in the way they look? There are some shirts that might say people are Christians, but that doesn't necessarily mean a whole lot. Maybe you can tell by talking to someone and hearing them say that God is important to them. That can be good, too. There's an even more obvious and important way, though, that we can see evidence of God's love in someone's life. It's quite simple: love. In fact, Jesus told us how we can show that we love Him, and how we can show the Spirit is at work in us. Actions speak louder than words. Jesus said that if we love Him, we will keep His commandments. His greatest commandment is about love. He told us the most important thing we can do is to love God and love other people. When others can see how we care for them, they'll know that there is something different and special about us.

When we consider what Jesus has done in our lives, how He loved us enough to give His life for us and how He cares for us each and every day, we should be so excited and so filled up with His love that we can't help but share that with others. We don't obey because we have to, but because we want to and we know that it is pleasing to God. When His spirit is in us, its fruit should be pretty easy to spot! And how do we do this? How do we show love? It's not as hard as you might think. It can be as simple as a smile or a kind word to others, sharing, helping out when there's need, doing things at home that are helpful...if you're not sure, you can always ask the Lord for help! He will show us how to share His love with those we know, and He'll be glad to do it, because He loves us so much!

Why don't we pray now and thank God for his love for us?

Prayer: (Invite the children to repeat each line)

Dear God,

Thank you for sending us your spirit

Help us to show your love to others

And demonstrate your spirit in us

Thank you for your love

We love you, God!

In Jesus name, Amen!

Game & Activities Suggestions (10 minutes)



This lesson focuses on how the Holy Spirit can be seen in our daily lives as Christians, and others will know we love the Lord by the “fruit” of our actions. Start the lesson by encouraging children to consider what love looks like, or use the spiritual fruit connection to work fruit into the conversation. Consider a few simple activities to kick things off:

“Fruit of the Spirit Basket Upset”: Play this traditional game with a slight twist. Arrange children in a circle. Assign students traits according to the elements described in the fruit of the spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control). There should be two students who have the same trait for each word. Call out one or two words and have everyone assigned them get up and switch places in the circle. There should be one less chair (or spot) than there are students, so the student who winds up without a spot will go to the center and call the next word or words. If “spiritual fruit basket” is called, all students will switch places.

What’s that fruit? Look at several pictures of trees or plants, and try to identify what type of fruit grows on them. Discuss how these are fruits we eat, but our lives can be sort of like fruit-bearing trees when we are living out God’s love with others.

Who does what? Match different job occupations to images depicting uniforms or identifying traits that would go with the job. Describe how we might identify ourselves in various ways. The most important identification is who we are in Jesus!

How can we show love? Describe situations or show pictures of people in need of care.

Brainstorm with students ways that they could demonstrate love in each situation.

Main Bible Teaching (15 minutes)



This passage is the second part of a wonderful conversation that Jesus has with His disciples before His death. He wanted to comfort them with the promise of the Holy Spirit, and also encourage them to share His love with others. His followers needed a little explanation to understand His words, and students likely will, as well. Take turns reading verses, or read them out loud for younger children.

John 14:15-17 NIV *"If you love me, keep my commands. (16) And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— (17) the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.*

There are two key things Jesus says here. First, He advises that if we love Him, we will keep His commandments. The most important commandment Jesus gave was to love God and love one another! So by showing love to others, we are also demonstrating Christ's love in us, and showing how thankful we are for His love. Jesus also promises here to send a Helper. This is the Holy Spirit, who gives comfort and peace and ability to do great things in His name.

Ask: How can we show love to other people?

What are some things that bring comfort to you in hard times?

John 14:18-21 NIV *I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. (19) Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. (20) On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in*

me, and I am in you. (21) Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."

Jesus said this to give the disciples extra hope, but it gives us hope as well. We did not see the Savior during His earthly life, but He promises here that He is still with us, and that we can carry on His work when we love Him and love others. God loves us, so that we can pass that love to those around us and demonstrate how Jesus lived and served others. He has not left us, but is still with us now, even though we don't see Him!

*Note: this may be tough for younger students to understand. Explain the concept similar to a loved one going on a trip and leaving a reminder or calling on the phone daily.

Ask: What do you love about Jesus? How is God like a loving Father?

John 14:22-24 NIV *Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?" (23) Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. (24) Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.*

It's worth noting here that God's love is unconditional. This does not indicate that He somehow loves us more if we do certain things or live a certain way. But it pleases Him when we obey Him and show that we love Him, too. Jesus is also indicating how He is one with the Father. The Trinity can be a tricky concept to tackle, but here Jesus is offering a connection with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. Separate, but still one.

Ask: How can we keep God's Word and commandments?

John 14:25-27 NIV “All this I have spoken while still with you. (26) But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. (27) Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

This is an especially comforting and hopeful statement. Jesus promises His peace. There are many things in this life that will trouble and challenge us. We might search for comfort and hope on our own, but Jesus gives us a much better kind of peace. His comfort and joy are richer and greater than anything man-made. Jesus promises His disciples that He will send a Helper, and He gives that same helper to us. His peace is always there for us.

John 14:28-31 NIV “You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. (29) I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. (30) I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, (31) but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me.

Jesus again gives His followers an assurance. He is going away, yes, but not forever. He is going to the Father, ultimately to prepare a place for us in Heaven. Jesus loves the Father, and He also loves us! So we can love Jesus and rejoice that He will come again some day.

Ask: What would you take with you on a trip if you needed something comforting? What can you do to remember that Jesus is always with you?

Close with prayer, thanking God for giving us Jesus and helping us to love others.

Craft Activities (15 minutes)

How can we act out the love of Jesus? We demonstrate the Holy Spirit within us when we exhibit His fruit in our lives and pass His love and care on to others around us. These crafts remind children of how we can show Christ's love and how His spiritual fruit shows up in our lives. A "Fruit Plate of the Spirit" highlights the elements of the fruit of the spirit, with a special colorful bracelet to go along. A "Helping Hearts Hat" considers ways that we can show God's love to those around us. Let's get crafting!

Craft one: “Fruit Plate of the Spirit”

You will need:

- Paper plates
- Markers or crayons
- Construction paper or cardstock
- Pipe cleaner or string
- Glue or tape
- Scissors
- Beads (optional for bonus side project)



Procedure:

1. Decorate the paper plate, using captions and verses to describe the Fruit of the Spirit.
2. Cut fruit shapes out of the construction paper, and write on them different elements of the fruit of the spirit.
3. Glue the fruit shapes onto the plate. Attach a hanger if desired.
4. Bonus option: Use pipe cleaner or string to create a bracelet, attaching beads to remember the “fruit” of the Holy Spirit.



Craft Two: “Helping Hearts Headband”

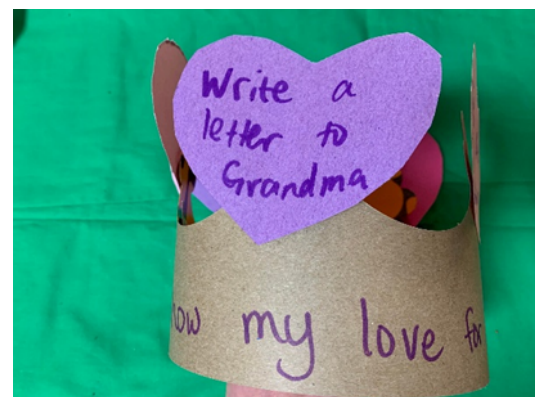
You will need:

- Construction paper or cardstock
- Glue or tape
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons



Procedure:

1. Cut strips of paper into a long rectangle that will fit around a child's head, to serve as a headband. Alternatively, use a craft store (or fast food restaurant) crown.
2. Cut out several hearts out of paper or cardstock.
3. On each heart, write a way of showing love to other people.
4. Attach the hearts to the headband or crown.
5. Attach the crown together, and wear or display as a reminder of how we are called to show the love of Jesus!



John 14:16 NIV

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever





Word Search Puzzle

Truth - Commandment - Helper - Father - Holy - Spirit

Peace - Heart - Judas - Love - Jesus - Teacher

I	J	P	K	D	D	K	M	V	W	A
L	R	H	E	L	P	E	R	P	D	F
C	O	M	M	A	N	D	M	E	N	T
D	U	T	E	A	C	H	E	R	M	C
H	E	D	T	H	U	E	L	U	V	Y
J	U	D	A	S	Z	I	T	O	C	U
P	E	G	P	Q	F	T	H	O	L	Y
G	Z	S	W	L	O	V	E	W	K	F
F	T	R	U	T	H	I	A	J	W	R
D	G	A	F	S	P	I	R	I	T	Q
C	I	S	P	R	F	A	T	H	E	R

Word Search Answers

