



TNCC
CHILDREN'S
CHURCH

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: LOVE

HOOK

Suggestions that help kids discover that the love we show others is a reflection of God's love in us.

Mirror, Mirror

Get 3-4 kid volunteers.

3 of the volunteers have to leave the room and be out of sight from what's happening in the room.

Get the first kid volunteer (Kid #1) to strike the funniest position he/she can think of. (Nothing crude or vulgar)

Kid #2 comes in. Get Kid #2 to mirror Kid #1's pose. Then get Kid #2 to strike another funny pose.

Kid #3 comes in and mirrors the position, then strike his/her own funny pose, etc etc.

In this activity, your friends were mirroring each other. When we see what Jesus does for us – how much He loves us – we will be able to mirror His love to all around us!

-- or --

Reflection

Show a picture of a bright moon in the sky and one of Armstrong landing on the moon.

Have you ever looked up in the sky at seen the moon glowing in the dark? Do you know the moon does not have any light of its own ... unlike the stars? When man landed on the moon, it was just full of craters.

So where does the moon get its light from? Yes, it reflects the light from the sun.

The sun shines its light and the moon mirrors the light so we can see at night.

[Optional illustration: <http://www.learnplayimagine.com/2014/06/how-does-moon-give-us-light.html>]



LESSON: LOVE

[Idea: Write out the various verses in **blue** below on heart-shaped papers. You can hide it around the room and get the kids to look for them. And they can read them out during the lesson.]

Galatians 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

Today we are going to learn more about the fruit of the Spirit called, "Love."

What do you think of when you hear the word "love"? A lot of times, we think of love as a feeling — like we love ice cream, or we just love it when our birthday comes. Although those feelings are good, it's important to understand that love is not just a feeling.

Today we're going to learn that love is a Person. And that Person is ... Jesus!

God is Love

What does the Bible say God is? *God is love.* (**1 John 4:8**)

Everyone, say that with me again out loud. *God is love!*

Love is not just something God does. Love is the very nature of God. It's who He is. Love rules everything that He does.

How did God show His love for us?

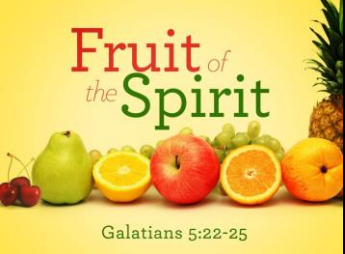
By sending His son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sin. Jesus loved us soooooo much that He gave His life for us. Even when we didn't deserve it. Even when we hated Him. Even when we were His enemies.

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

John 15:13 *Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

Romans 5:8 *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

So if we ever doubt whether Jesus loves us or not, look to the cross. That's the clearest sign of His love.



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Jesus' love is in us!

Jesus tells us that God the Father loved Him, so He loved us. ([John 15:9](#))

And we are to remain in this love — keep being full of it!

And the one command He gives us is to:

[John 15:12](#) *Love each other as I have loved you*

That seems like such a difficult thing to do! Jesus' love is unconditional and perfect. How can we love others unconditionally and perfectly? The truth is ... we can't. Not on our own.

On our own, we're selfish and unkind and self-seeking. Just like the moon, we have no light of our own.

That's why it is so important to know how much Jesus loves us — so we can be filled with His love to love others around us.

[props: empty glass, jug of water, large bowl]

See this glass? This is us. When we are empty, we cannot love others. We have no love to give.

[Put glass in the bowl]

Now, what happens when I pour the water from this jug into the glass? It gets full.

What happens if I keep on filling? It overflows.

When the glass is full of water, it overflows all around.

When the moon faces the sun, it reflects its light all around.

When I am full of Jesus' love, it overflows to those around me.

So when there are difficult people to love, when someone doesn't deserve it, when someone is my enemy, I can show them Jesus' love because I am full of it!

[1 John 4:19](#) *We love because he first loved us.*

Remember ... Love is a Fruit of the Spirit. The Jesus tree produces Jesus fruit. And we are part of the Jesus tree! It's not us trying to squeeze a durian out of a banana tree!



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ACTIVITY SUGGESTION

Song: Fruit of the Spirit (by Steve Green) — revision

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLJt_85MNLY

Song: Jesus loves me, this I know

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zYRvoaCHAes>

Craft: Anything related with any of the “love” verses.

Close in prayer. Thank you Jesus that you love me so I can love others!

Invite those who want to abide in Jesus to ask Him into their hearts.