

# Love God, love others

**Bible verses:**

John 15:12-17

Jesus is like a vine

**Aim:**

To explore Jesus' command to love each other

**Today's fruit:**

Kindness



In our session today we return to John 15, where Jesus describes himself as the vine and us as the branches.

Jesus shared with his disciples the importance of showing love to others, just as he loves us. Today we will think about what it looks like to show kindness to others and why it is so important to share God's love with everyone we meet.

Kindness is about caring for others and being generous to them. The way God loves is kind, and with the Spirit's help we can grow in kindness to others.

## Each child will need:

- *Explore It ideas* handout
- Elasticated cord for bracelet making, scissors, tape, colourful beads (at least 16) and three letter beads: L, O and A
- Pens/pencils and paper

## You will need:

- A flip chart and pen
- Today's fruit sign: *Kindness*



## Start it

**Say:**

Today we are thinking about Jesus' command for us to love others. We can do this by showing God's love in the way we act towards them. There are lots of ways we can show kindness to others.

Explain to the children that they are going to watch a clip of a young woman who decided to celebrate her birthday by showing kindness to others. Watch the clip and discuss all the different ways the lady was kind – though remind the children that some of the ways are only appropriate for adults.

## Video

**20 random acts of kindness** by Yasmin J (3:05)

Discuss and list on a flip chart as many ways as possible that the children could show kindness to others. Give each child the *Explore It Ideas* handout and ask them to write their name on it. There is space on the handout for the children to write three acts of kindness they can try during the following week. Once the children have chosen their acts of kindness, then the handouts can be collected to take home at the end of the session.

## Sing it

### Say:

In our Bible story today Jesus commands us to love one another. Our song reminds us how important it is to love others, just like Jesus loves us.

## Song

**'Love one another'** (Yancy and Little Praise Party official music video) by YancynotNancy (2:43)

## Share it

### Say:

In our first session this month we listened to Jesus describe himself as the vine and God as the gardener.

### Ask:

What part of the plant did Jesus describe his followers as?

### Say:

Our memory verse reminds us that we are the branches and also explains how we can grow the fruit of the Spirit. Let's share our memory verse together.



## Memory verse

**'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.'**

(John 15:5 *NIV*)

### Say:

We're going to watch a clip that reminds us what it means to be connected to Jesus, the vine.

## Video

*Vine and branches* by LifeKids (1:51)

### Ask:

How can we stay connected to Jesus?

### Say:

Our Bible passage for today picks up from this point. Jesus has just described himself as the vine and explained how we can grow spiritually if we remain close to him. He then gives a command for his disciples, and for us, to follow.

### Read:

**'This is my command: love each other as I have loved you. The greatest love a person can show is to die for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I don't call you servants now. A servant does not know what his master is doing. But now I call you friends because I have made known to you everything I heard from my Father. You did not choose me; I chose you. And I gave you this work, to go and produce fruit. I want you to produce fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you anything you ask for in my name. This is my command: love each other.'**

(John 15:12-17 *ICB*)

### Say:

After telling the disciples why they should stay close to him, Jesus tells them that they need to love each other as well. In fact, he says that they need to love each other the same way he has loved them.

### Ask:

- In The Salvation Army, we have a phrase 'Love God, love others.' Have you heard this before? What do you think it means?
- Which part of this is Jesus talking about in his passage?
- Jesus said, 'Love each other as I have loved you.' In what ways has Jesus loved us?
- How can we love others in the same way?

## Say:

Jesus says that the greatest love someone can show is to die for their friends. At this point in the story, the disciples do not know what is going to happen. In the past two sessions we looked at the story of Easter, and we know what Jesus meant.

## Ask:

- Jesus died for his friends – for all of us. What does this verse mean for us? Rather than dying for our friends, what could it be about?
- When you think about the way God loves you, and the idea that Jesus died for you, how does that make you feel?

## Action it

Display the *Kindness* sign.

## Ask:

- What is the kindest or most loving thing someone has ever done for you?
- How did it make you feel?

## Say:

This week our fruit of the Spirit is kindness, and we are going to take a moment to show kindness to people in our church community.

Explain that the children are going to make 'Love one another' (LOA) bracelets to gift to members of the congregation. The clip explains how to make the bead bracelets. After the session the children can gift the LOA bracelet to a member of the church community.

## Video

*Love one another bracelets for the golden rule* by Sermon4Kids (1:58)

## Pray it

Ask the children to sit in a circle each holding the LOA bracelet they have made. Go around the circle and ask each child to name the person they will gift the bracelet to. If they feel comfortable, they can explain why. When each child has shared, take time to pray for the people they have mentioned.



## Optional activity

Our sessions this month have focused on the amazing sacrifice Jesus made for us and the way he showed his love for us. To bring the session to a close you may like to share this thank you prayer song together.

## Song

**'Thank you, God'** (a fun Christian song for kids, animated Bible song) by Redefined TV Kids (2:44)

## Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



## Love God, love others

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



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John 15:12-17



**Aim:**  
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**Today's fruit:**  
Kindness

### **Love**

Write down three acts of kindness you can do this week to show God's love to others.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### **Share**

Watch the clip with the people at home and discuss all the different ways you could show love to each other.

***The best way to love others is ...***  
(animated Bible stories for kids) by Minno  
- Bible Stories for Kids

### **Song for the week**

'Love one another' (Yancy and Little Praise Party official music video) by YancynotNancy

### **Memory verse**

'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.'

(John 15:5 NIV)