



Don't Just Teach Character—Lead Kids into the Freedom of Christ

The Fruit of the Spirit: 9-Week Children's Ministry Curriculum is more than a lesson plan—it's a rescue mission.

Our kids are trapped in a culture that twists happiness into selfishness and makes self-worth something they have to *earn*. They're told to perform, to prove themselves, to chase approval. But Jesus offers them something far greater—true joy, lasting peace, and a life where love, kindness, and faithfulness *naturally grow* from a heart transformed by the Holy Spirit.

This curriculum is a lifeline, guiding children away from the world's exhausting demands and into the freedom only Christ can give.

The World is Lying to Our Children—And It's Crushing Them

They hear it everywhere: You're not good enough. You're not smart enough. You're not popular enough. The pressure to perform, to seek approval, to chase after empty happiness—it's relentless. And we see the cost. Anxiety. Comparison. Exhaustion. Even at a young age, they are weighed down by the fear of never measuring up.

A Better Way: Raising Kids Who Thrive in God's Love, Not the World's Pressure

For nine weeks, children will embark on a journey through Galatians 5:22-23—a radical invitation to step off the exhausting treadmill of trying to be "good enough" and into the freedom of a life transformed by the Holy Spirit.

Rather than striving to meet impossible expectations, they'll experience how love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control aren't things they *achieve*—they're gifts that *grow* when they walk with Jesus. Through Scripture-rich lessons, engaging activities, and honest conversations, they'll discover that real character isn't about trying harder. It's about letting God work within them.

Let's free our children from the pressure to measure up—and lead them into the lasting peace of a heart changed by Christ.

Main Idea for Kids: The Holy Spirit Sets Me Free to Be Who God Made Me.

I don't have to try to be "good enough." I don't have to work hard to make people like me. I don't have to be perfect. When I follow Jesus, *His Spirit changes me on the inside*. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control grow in my heart—just like fruit on a tree!

I don't have to do it all on my own. God is helping me every day to be more like Jesus. That's real freedom!

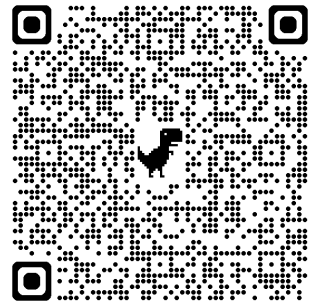
More Than Lessons—A Spirit-Led Journey to True Transformation

We've included clear, simple definitions of each fruit of the Spirit so kids can understand what God is growing in them. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness—these aren't just good ideas; they are real ways the Holy Spirit changes our hearts.

Everything is tied back to Jesus' example—not as a comparison that makes kids feel like they can't measure up, but as inspiration to see what God can do in their lives. When children see how Jesus lived, they realize the Holy Spirit is at work in them too—helping them grow, love others, and live in the freedom of Christ!



👉 You are viewing the week #1 lesson plan as a free sample. [Click here to get the complete 9-week curriculum series](#) and take **\$25 off with code NEW25** at checkout.



9-Week Curriculum Overview

Week 1: Love

- **Bible Story:** The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)
- **Main Idea:** We don't have to earn God's love—it's a gift through Jesus!

Week 2: Joy

- **Bible Story:** The Prodigal Son Returns (Luke 15:11-32)
- **Main Idea:** True joy comes from knowing Jesus, not from what happens to us.

Week 3: Peace

- **Bible Story:** Paul and Barnabas Make Peace (Acts 15:36-41)
- **Main Idea:** Jesus gives us peace that nothing can take away.

Week 4: Patience

- **Bible Story:** Abraham Waits for God's Promise (Genesis 12-21)
- **Main Idea:** Because God is patient with us, we can be patient with others.

Week 5: Kindness

- **Bible Story:** David's Kindness to Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9)
- **Main Idea:** We show kindness because God has been kind to us.

Week 6: Goodness

- **Bible Story:** The Good Shepherd (John 10:1-18)
- **Main Idea:** We don't do good things to make God love us—He already does! His love helps us do what's right.

Week 7: Faithfulness

- **Bible Story:** The Parable of the Faithful Servant (Matthew 24:45-51)
- **Main Idea:** We can trust God because He is always faithful.

Week 8: Gentleness

- **Bible Story:** Jesus Welcomes the Children (Mark 10:13-16)
- **Main Idea:** Jesus leads us gently, and His Spirit helps us be gentle with others.

Week 9: Self-Control

- **Bible Story:** Jesus Resists Temptation (Matthew 4:1-11)
- **Main Idea:** We don't have to let our feelings control us—the Holy Spirit helps us make good choices.



Week 1 – Love

Bible Story: The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37)

Main Idea: We don't have to earn God's love—it's a gift through Jesus!

Jesus' Example: Jesus showed love in everything He did—helping the hurting, forgiving enemies, and giving His life for us. Because He loves us first, His Spirit helps us love, even when it's hard.

Video Bible Stories: Use this link to access recommended Bible story videos and bonus content for this curriculum series.

<https://linktr.ee/fruit.of.the.spirit.lesson>



Week 1 – Supply List

Group Games

- ☐ Open space for Love Tag game
- ☐ Optional: Heart stickers or small tokens to represent acts of love

Object Lesson – Overflowing Cup of Love

- ☐ A clear cup or glass
- ☐ A pitcher or bottle of water
- ☐ A tray or towel (to catch spills)

Craft Activity – Love in a Heart Craft

- ☐ Construction paper (variety of colors)
- ☐ Scissors (for teacher prep, not for kids)
- ☐ Markers or crayons
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Stickers (optional for decoration)

Printed Student Handouts (one per child) Provided Below

- ☐ Word Find Worksheet
- ☐ Coloring Page
- ☐ Parent Connect Take Home Sheet



Introduction Game - Love Tag

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Open space for sitting or standing,
- Optional Heart stickers or small heart tokens (to symbolize acts of love during the game)

TEACHER: Welcome, everyone! We're starting a series about the *Fruit of the Spirit*. Now, when I say "fruit," you might think of yummy things like apples, bananas, or oranges. But in the Bible, *fruit* is a word picture. It means something that grows in us as we follow Jesus. Just like a tree grows fruit, we grow good things like *love, joy, and peace* in our hearts when we believe in Jesus.

Did you know that we don't have to earn God's love—it's a gift through Jesus!

Since we're talking about *love*. Can anyone give me an example of someone who loves you and how they show it? (Allow for responses.)

Those are some great examples. Love means caring deeply for others, just like God cares for us. And the really amazing part? Because God's love is a gift through Jesus, we can share that love with others. We don't have to earn it or work hard for it—God loves us no matter what! And He helps us show that same love to the people around us.

Let's play a game called "Love Tag" to think about how we can show love to others. Since we're inside, this is a no-running version—so it's safe. Here's how it works:

1. I'll choose one person to be "It."



2. The person who is "It" will walk around the group and gently tap someone on the shoulder.
3. If you get tapped, you freeze like a statue.
4. But you won't stay frozen for long! Another player can "show love" by giving you a high-five, thumbs-up, or even a kind word to unfreeze you. (Or use the optional stickers in the supply list.)
5. After a few minutes, we'll switch who is "It" so everyone gets a chance to show and receive love.

TEACHER (after the game): You all did a great job showing love to one another in the game. That's just like how God's love works. When we care about others and help them, we're sharing the love that God gave us.

Before we do our next activity, let's talk about what love really means.

- Love is caring for others the way God cares for us. It's not just words or feelings—it's something we do!
- And here's the best part—we don't have to earn God's love. It's a gift! And when we know we're loved, it overflows to others.

Now, let's see what happens when love fills us up! (Move into the Overflowing Cup of Love object lesson.)



Object Lesson – Overflowing Cup of Love

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- ☐ A clear cup or glass
- ☐ A pitcher or bottle of water
- ☐ A tray or towel to catch spills (optional)



TEACHER: I have a fun demonstration about God's love. Remember it's a gift that fills our hearts and spills over to help others.

Look at this cup. Imagine that this cup is like your heart. Now, we all need love to fill up our hearts, right? But sometimes, we might feel like we don't have enough love or kindness to share with others. That's where God comes in.

This pitcher of water represents God's love. God doesn't give us just a little bit of love—He gives us more than we can ever imagine! Watch what happens when I start pouring water into this cup.

(Start pouring water slowly into the cup.)

As God's love pours into our hearts, what happens? Our hearts begin to fill up. But God doesn't stop when we have just enough love for ourselves. He keeps pouring His love into us, so much that it overflows! Look!

(Continue pouring water until the cup overflows into the tray or towel.)

God's love is so big, it overflows, and we can't help but share it with others. Just like the water from this cup spills out, God's love spills out of our hearts and reaches the

people around us. That's why we can love others—because God's love fills us up and flows out!

The cup doesn't have to "try harder" to share the water because it's just too much to keep inside. In fact, it would be impossible to keep the water inside. That's just like God's love in our hearts – loving other people is automatic when our hearts are open to Jesus his love will spill out of us too!

Great job! Let me tell you the best part. Jesus didn't just talk about love—He *showed* it in the most amazing way. He gave up His own life on the cross to give us eternal life. Because of Jesus, we are forgiven, and that fills our hearts with His love. And when we believe in Jesus, His love helps us love others.



The Good Samaritan Shows Love



Bible Story – The Good Samaritan

After this lesson, students will be able to:

- ☐ Summarize the main events in the story of The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37).
- ☐ Identify the central message: We don't have to earn God's love—it's a gift through Jesus!
- ☐ Describe how the different characters responded to a person in need.
- ☐ Make connections between the story and their own experiences of receiving and showing love.

Main Idea: We don't have to earn God's love—it's a gift through Jesus!

Approximate Teaching Time: 25–30 minutes

TEACHER: Imagine you're walking home from school, and suddenly—BAM!—you trip and fall. Your books go flying. Your knee is scraped. You need help.

Now imagine you see someone you know from church walking toward you. You feel relief—they'll help! But then... they look at you, shrug, and keep walking.

Ouch. That would hurt, wouldn't it? Not just your knee—your feelings, too.

Now imagine a second person—maybe a teacher or a friend's parent. Surely they will stop. But nope. They walk right by.



But then—here's the twist—someone you don't really get along with... maybe that kid you argue with at recess. But instead of ignoring you, they help. They give you a hand, pick up your books, and walk you home.

That's what Jesus' story is all about—what real love looks like and how God's love changes us.

Today, we're going to hear a story Jesus told about a man who needed help—and the surprising person who showed him love.

The story we're about to hear is from Luke's book. Luke is one of the books in the New Testament that tells us all about Jesus—His life, His teachings, and how He showed God's love. In this story, Jesus explains who our "neighbor" is and what it means to truly love others.

READ: Luke 10:25–28

This guy, who thought he knew the Bible inside and out, was chatting with Jesus. Trying to show off, he decided to ask Jesus a super hard question to try and stump him.

A lot of times, we think of our "neighbor" as just the people who live near us. But Jesus told this story to show us something bigger—love isn't about who is closest to us, but who needs us.

READ: Luke 10:29–32

That's really sad, isn't it? Those men saw someone hurting and just walked away. And what's even more surprising—they were supposed to be people who knew and



served God! But here's the thing: when God's love is truly in our hearts, we don't have to force kindness—it overflows naturally.

Now, let's pause for a moment and make our best "sad" face —how do you think the hurt man felt, lying there, watching these two people just pass him by? (Pause for responses.)

- Maybe he felt scared—what if no one ever stopped?
- Maybe he felt lonely—why didn't anyone care?
- And definitely sad—why would people just ignore him?

Have you ever felt like that? Like you didn't measure up? Like other people seemed more important or more liked than you?

Sometimes, the world makes us feel like we're not good enough—like we don't belong. People might ignore us, judge us, or act like we don't matter.

But hold on—Jesus' story isn't over yet! Something surprising is about to happen, and it's going to show us what real love looks like.

READ: Luke 10:33–35

Now, this is where the story takes an unexpected turn! Samaritans had a bad reputation back then. So when Jesus told this story most people wouldn't have expected this guy to help. . But when this unexpected hero saw the hurt man, something inside him wouldn't let him walk away.

Let's all make our best thinking face. What made the Samaritan stop when others didn't? It wasn't about being the "better person" or proving anything. Love was already in his heart, and when love is there, it can't be hidden—it overflows!



When God's love is in us, we don't have to force it—it flows out naturally. Just like in this story, we are free to love, no matter who it is.

Gospel Connection: The story of the Good Samaritan isn't just about being kind—it points us to Jesus. The Samaritan stopped to help when no one else would, just like Jesus came to rescue us when we were lost and hurting in sin. But Jesus didn't just help—He gave His life to set us free!

Because of His love, we don't have to earn our worth or try to be 'good enough.' When we trust in Jesus, His love fills our hearts and changes us. His Spirit helps us love others, not because we have to, but because we are already loved."



Discussion Questions & Prayer

TEACHER: I'm really proud of each of you for paying such close attention.

Remember, God's love is a gift through Jesus, so we can love others. Just like the Good Samaritan showed love by helping someone in need, we can show love to the people around us.

Now, I have a few questions for us to talk about together.

1. The Samaritan helped someone who was hurt. Can you think of a time when someone showed you love by helping you? How did it make you feel?
2. The priest and the Levite didn't stop to help the hurt man, but the Samaritan did. Why do you think the Samaritan chose to help, even though the others didn't?
3. Jesus showed us the greatest love by dying on the cross for our sins. What's one way we can show love to others this week, just like Jesus and the Samaritan did?

Now, before we pray, I'd love to hear if there's anything you'd like us to pray about.

Dear God, thank You so much for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to show us what real love looks like. Help us to remember that Your love is a gift, and because You love us, we can love others. Please help us this week to show love to the people around us by being kind and helpful, just like the Good Samaritan. We also lift all shared prayer requests. Please be with each of us, and help us to feel Your love in everything we do. We love You, and we pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.



The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)



Word Search Puzzle

BANDAGE - CARE - COINS - DONKEY - FORGIVE - GOOD

HELP - INNKEEPER - LOVE - NEIGHBOR - ROAD - SAMARITAN - TRAVEL

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



Word Search Answers

BANDAGE - CARE - COINS - DONKEY - FORGIVE - GOOD

HELP - INNKEEPER - LOVE - NEIGHBOR - ROAD - SAMARITAN - TRAVEL



Craft Activity – Love in a Heart Craft

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- ☐ Construction paper (variety of colors)
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Markers or crayons
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Stickers (optional for decoration)



TEACHER: Today, we learned that because God's love is a gift through Jesus, we can love others. We're going to make a special heart-shaped card that you can give someone to show love and kindness. This could be a friend, a family member, or anyone you want to make feel special!

1. First, pick a piece of construction paper in your favorite color.
2. Fold the paper in half, then use your scissors to cut out a heart shape by starting at the folded edge. (You might need some help with this part!)
3. Once you have your heart shape, open it up so you have a big heart card!
4. Now, on the inside of the card, use your markers or crayons to write a simple message. It could be something like "God loves you!" or "I'm thankful for you!"
5. Next, you can decorate the outside of your heart card using markers, crayons, or even stickers. Be as creative as you like!
6. When you're done, think about someone special you can give this heart card to, and share God's love with them!



Parent Connect – Week 1 – Love

Scan this QR code to access free Bible story videos, kids' worship songs, and printables to continue learning at home.

Bible Story: The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37)

This week, your child learned about real love through the story of the Good Samaritan. We focused on the truth that we don't have to earn God's love—it's a gift through Jesus!

When we truly understand His love, it fills our hearts and overflows to others.

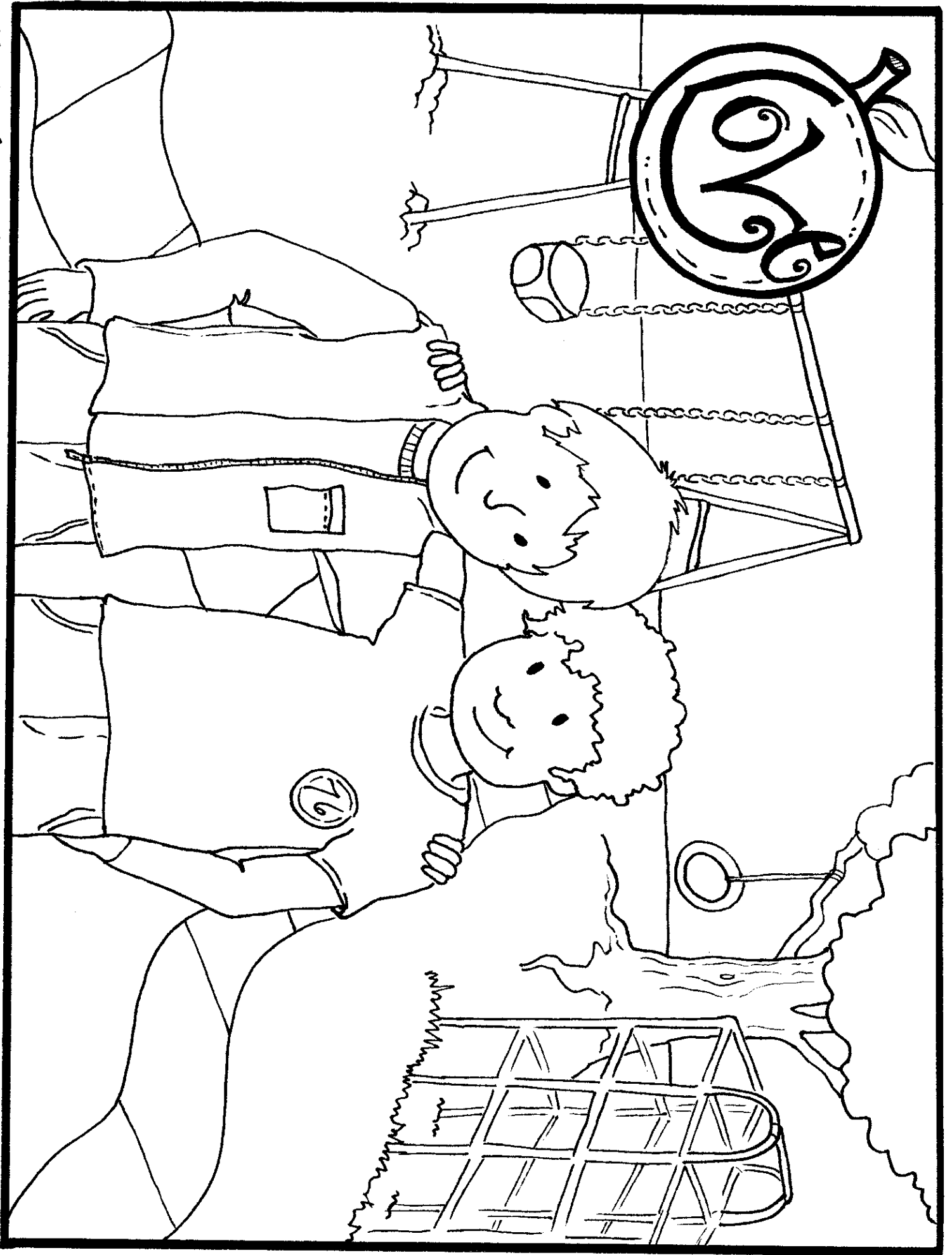
The Samaritan helped someone who was hurting—not because he had to, but because love was already in his heart. That's the kind of love God grows in us when we follow Jesus!

This was lesson 1 of 9 in our curriculum series, The Fruit of the Spirit. We want to celebrate your commitment to your child's growing faith. We are grateful to share in this journey with you!



Mandy Grace '11

Ministry-to-children.com



Word Search

Directions: Find the words given in the word search.

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

