

Lesson One

Love

Love is putting others first and helping those in need.

1. Welcome and Worship

When introducing today's Super Hero, *Dr. Love*, the worship leader should ask, "Why do they call you Dr. Love?" Dr. Love answers, "I was a very grumpy doctor. I couldn't stand sick people all day long. They would complain about this pain and that pain. I'll tell you what – they were a real pain! You know how some doctors give away suckers to kids... well, not me! I gave all the kids shots – whether they needed them or not! Then one day everything changed. You see I got very sick and needed to go to the hospital – I actually had a heart attack and while I was in the hospital, some of the patients that I had treated so badly came to visit. They brought me flowers and candy and teddy bears and get well cards. After I treated them so mean, they showed me love! They were Christians and they told me about Jesus' love for us. Even though we have all done bad things, He still loved us and died for us. When I left the hospital, I was a new man – a real Super Hero, and now people call me Dr. Love."

2. Key Verse

"A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34

Have a clothesline stretched across the stage. Paper hearts are hung on the clothesline. Each paper heart has one word of the verse written on it. Dr. Love reads the verse and tells the kids that this is his favorite Bible verse. When he was in the hospital, he learned how much God loves him. He saw it in the love shown to him by the Christians when he was sick. Now he tries to love other people. He teaches the verse to the kids by removing one heart at a time and having them read along with some of the words missing.

3. Bible Lesson

You will need a large paper heart and a marker for this lesson.

Dr. Love shows the kids several different fruits that grow on trees. He asks them to tell him what kind of tree they grew on (apples grow on apple trees, etc.). He asks them, "How do you know this apple grew on an apple tree? How do you know it didn't grow on a pear tree?" He points out that when you see a tree, you can tell what kind of tree it is by the fruit it has on it.

You can also tell what kind of a person somebody is by the things they do. Their actions can be called their "fruit." Dr. Love reads the "Fruit of the Spirit" passage: Galatians 5:22,23. If a person belongs to God, he should show spiritual fruit – all of the things mentioned in this passage.

The first thing that is mentioned is love. What does it mean to show love? It means to put the needs and desires of others above your own. Have the kids tell some things that show

love. Dr. Love writes these suggestions in the large paper heart.

Dr. Love asks the kids, “What did I used to give to all of the kids who came to see me?” After they answer, “shots,” he tells him that now he’s one of those doctors who gives kids suckers. He thanks them for being such good listeners and gives everyone a sucker.

4. Fruit Man Puppet Skit

The script begins on page 12.

5. Fruit Stand Object Lesson

The fruit for today’s taste test is an apple.

Ma and Pa choose a cadet to come forward, put on a blindfold, and taste the apple. After the cadet has guessed which fruit he tasted, continue with the following discussion.

Ma talks about how she used to be a teacher and the kids would all bring her apples on the first day of school. She tells Pa that they gave them to her because they loved her. Pa says, “How could they not love a pretty thing like you?” Ma tells him that the kids didn’t have a crush on her – well, not all of them anyway! The kids were glad that their teacher liked them and that she taught them new things. That’s the kind of love we’re talking about. So, when we see apples, we should remember the word “love.” Apples even kind of look like hearts.

Add an apple to the Spiritual Fruit tree.

6. Fun and Games

Choose 2 kids from the audience. Show a string licorice with a Life Saver tied in the middle. Put one end of the string in each contestant’s mouth. They will race their way to the center with their hands behind their backs. Whoever gets the Life Saver in their mouth wins. You can do this race several times.

Today’s **Fruit Game Review** sign is a hug. Randomly recite the Fruit of the Spirit. Whenever you say, “love,” they are to hug someone else. If they can catch someone with his arms down, that person is out and must sit down.

7. Closing

**A NEW COMMANDMENT
I GIVE YOU: LOVE ONE
ANOTHER. AS I HAVE
LOVED YOU, SO YOU
MUST LOVE ONE
ANOTHER.**

JOHN 13:34

(NIV)

The Adventures of FRUIT MAN on the 'Fruit Patrol'

Episode 1: LOVE: Deciding to Put Others First

SETTING: Takes place on the way to, and in, a store.

PUPPETS: Fruit Man (Super Hero), 2 boy puppets (Andy and Scott)

PROPS: Candy (M&M's bag)

Andy: 'Bout time I got my allowance!

Scott: Yeah! Me too! Now we can go get us some yummy M&M's!

Andy: There's just something special about a bag of chocolate M&M's.

Scott: We must be best friends – we both love M&M's.

Andy: Hey, we're almost there. (Enter store.)

Scott: Where are the M&M's?

Andy: They're over there, right next to the Reese's' Peanut Butter Cups.

Scott: OH NO! (Yells and looks over at Andy.)

Andy: What's the matter?

Scott: There's only one bag of M&M's!!!

Andy: You know what that means!

Scott: What?

Andy: (Grabbing them) ... That you don't get any M&M's!

Scott: HEY! Those were mine!

Andy: How are they yours? I grabbed them first!

Scott: But I was here first!

Andy: But you just stood there, so I got them.

Scott: (Grabs from Andy.) It's not fair; I found them!

Andy: Hey! Those are mine! Quit it!

Scott: MINE! I got my allowance first!

Andy: It was my idea to come to this store!

(THEY BREAK INTO A FIGHT OVER CANDY.)

SUPER HERO MUSIC STARTS... they both stop fighting, but still holding on to the candy, they both look up into the sky. FRUIT MAN APPEARS!

Fruit Man: Greetings, boys.

Scott: Who are you? (Andy's jaw is open.)

Fruit Man: I am (dramatic pause) Fruit Man – and I am on the Fruit Patrol!

Andy: Well, they don't sell fruit here, only candy, soda, chips, and stuff like that.

Fruit Man: I am not looking for the fruit you eat. I am on patrol for situations where the Fruit of the Spirit could come in handy. Like right now with that candy.

Scott: Fruit of the what? (Still holding on to the candy and still gently tugging.)

Andy: Sounds kinda fruity to me. (Still holding on to the candy and still gently tugging back)

Fruit Man: The Fruit of the Spirit are the actions that should be seen in the lives of boys and girls who call themselves Christians. I believe both of you go to church and have asked Jesus to be your Savior?

Scott: Yeah – but what's that got to do with my candy?

Andy: He means, MY candy!
Scott: YOUR candy? It's MINE!
Fruit Man: You see boys, you are both being selfish and fighting over that candy. The first Fruit of the Spirit is LOVE. Don't you boys love each other?
BOTH: YUCK!
Andy: Love is for girls!
Scott: Yeah – we're not into all that huggy, kissy stuff.
Fruit Man: I'm not talking about that kind of love. There's a place for that. But I am talking about the kind of LOVE that God wants to see in all of our lives.
Andy: What kinda love is that?
Fruit Man: The LOVE that God is looking for is the love that means you are deciding to put the needs of others above yourself. You two are very good friends – so if you love each other with God's love, you will find more satisfaction in seeing the other enjoy the candy than in getting it for yourself.
Scott: So we can show love without hugging or kissing?!
Fruit Man: You sure can.
Andy: That's a relief!
Fruit Man: Just put the other's needs or desires above your own.
Scott: We can do that. (Releases the candy.)
Andy: Yeah, me too. Here, Scott, you can have it.
Fruit Man: I'll be leaving now! Gotta get back on the Fruit Patrol. Later!
Scott: No, Andy, you have it.
Andy: No, I insist – it's yours.
Scott: Wait – what's that say on the wrapper?
Andy: (Looks at it.) Well, whadda ya know! It says, "Buy One Get One Free!"
Scott: We can split the cost of this one – and then share it.
Andy: Yeah! Then we'll both share the FREE one too when the store gets more!
Scott: Wow – that's cool. As soon as we both wanted to give – we ended up with more in return.
Andy: Putting others first sure pays off!
Scott: Beat ya to the counter! (They exit excitedly on their way to the counter.)

The End.