Fruit of the Spirit
Galatians 5:22 | The fruit of the Spirit is...kindness

Kindness | Going out of your way to make others happy.

Episode 1
Love (How to be a Christian)
Romans 12:9–21

MEMORY VERSE
Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.—Romans 12:10 (NKJV)

KEY POINT
When you love others you want to show them kindness.
Let’s Play

EARLY ARRIVAL *(before service)*
- Have some upbeat music playing.
- Welcome children warmly.
- Have some simple toys available to make the environment welcoming.
- Teachers should take this time to engage in conversation with children as they sit to play with them. Ask them about their week, school, and home. Begin to establish relationships.

BEGIN CLASS *(service time)*
- Introduce yourself and your assistants.
- Before the discussion questions, PRAY that the Lord will bless your time together.
- Have a set of supplies for yourself to demonstrate as you explain.

SUPPLIES *for game*
- Animal crackers or other small treat
- Small paper plates or towels
- Pitchers of water or juice
- Small cups

PREP it :: instructions
1 Divide class into several groups with no more than six children in each group.
2 Select two children in each group to play host or hostess.
3 Have a hostess area set up with the pitchers of water, cookies, cups and plates.

PLAY it :: instructions
1 Explain that we are having several parties. Each group will have their own hosts to serve them.
2 Have the two hosts in each group serve their guests. They need to ask questions and meet their needs as best they can. Afterward ask the guests how well they were treated.

NOTE: The hosts at a party may not get to enjoy the activities of the party because they are usually too busy making everyone else happy. So the host at our party may not have time to enjoy that treats. But you may give them their treats later during the Bible story for being kind to their guests.
**CONNECT it**: Good hosts are kind to their guests. We are going to be talking about the virtue of kindness this month. Being kind to others is one of the fruits of the Spirit and it is important to God that we show kindness to others. We are going to learn that being kind shows others how much we love them, but it doesn’t stop there because God also wants us to show kindness to our enemies and to strangers. We will have a great month learning about kindness. Let’s watch Virtuality now and get started!

**MEMORYVERSE**

Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another. —Romans 12:10 (NKJV)

**WATCH it**: Go to large group to see the Virtuality DVD, Fruit of the Spirit Series DVD (VOLUME 5, EPISODE 1)
Let’s Talk Bible

BIBLE STORY: Love (How to be a Christian)
Romans 12:9–21

BE PREPARED

► Read the Bible story and study the background information at home.
► Before you begin reading today’s Bible story tell children the background information in your own words.

BACKGROUND information: SAY IT in your own words

The book of Romans was a long letter written by the apostle Paul around AD 57 to the Christians in Rome and believers everywhere. It is believed that the church in Rome was started by Jews who were present at Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came. None of the apostles had visited this church yet and Paul was eager to meet the brothers and sisters there. He tells them his plan in the letter, “I am planning to go to Spain, and when I do, I will stop off in Rome. And after I have enjoyed your fellowship for a little while, you can send me on my way again. But before I come, I must go down to Jerusalem to take a gift to the Christians there (Romans 15:24–25 NLT).

Paul did go to Rome, but not exactly as he had planned. The Sanhedrin in Jerusalem was in an uproar over the message of Jesus Christ and they had Paul flogged and arrested for sharing the Gospel. However, when it was discovered that he was a Roman citizen, he was shipped out to Rome to stand trial and to protect him from those that were plotting to kill him. (Acts 22) As it turned out, Paul’s stay in Rome was a bit longer than a short visit in passing. He was under house arrest and for two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him (Acts 28:30).

In this letter to Rome Paul writes a detailed presentation of the Good News of Jesus. Often referred to as the “Romans Road to Salvation,” he explains who needs a Savior and how to find and accept Him. Paul also writes about how to live in submission to Jesus as our Lord. That’s the part of the letter we are going to read about in today’s class.

PREP it: props and characters

1. Pair everyone up with a partner. If you have a odd number of children, have one group of three.
   Throughout the story everyone will say the instructions in parenthesis to their partner. As you read the story, be animated as you read. If you are excited, they will be also.
READ Scripture

**READ Bible Story :: ROMANS 12:9–21**

Your love must be real. *(Say to your partner, “Have real love.”)*

Hate what is evil. *(Say to your partner, “Hate evil.”)*

Hold on to what is good. Love each other like brothers and sisters. *(Say to your partner, “I love you.”)*

Give your brothers and sisters more honor than you want for yourselves.

Do not be lazy but work hard. Serve the Lord with all your heart. *(Say to your partner, “I work hard for Jesus.”)*

Be joyful because you have hope. *(Say to your partner, “I have hope.”)*

Be patient when trouble comes. Pray at all times. *(Say to your partner, “Pray all the time.”)*

Share with God’s people who need help. *(Person on the right, say, “I need help.” Person on the left, say, “I will help you.”)*

Bring strangers in need into your homes. Wish good for those who do bad things to you. Wish them well and do not curse them. *(Person on the left, say, “I did something bad.” Person on the right, say, “I will wish you well anyway.”)*

Be happy with those who are happy. *(Person on the left, say, “I’m happy.” Person on the right, say, “I’ll be happy with you.”)*

Be sad with those who are sad. *(Person on the right, say, “I’m sad.” Person on the left, say, “I’ll be sad with you.”)*

Live together in peace with each other. Do not be proud, but make friends with those who seem unimportant. Do not think how smart you are. *(Say to your partner. “You’re important; want to be my friend?”)*

If someone does wrong to you, do not pay him back by doing wrong to him. Try to do what everyone thinks is right. Do your best to live in peace with everyone. *(Say to your partner, “Let’s work it out.”)*

My friends, do not try to punish others when they wrong you. Wait for God to punish them with his anger. It is written: “I am the One who punishes; I will pay people back,” says the Lord. *(Say to your partner, “I won’t take revenge.”)*
But you should do this: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if your enemy is thirsty, give him a drink. Doing this will be like pouring burning coals on his head.” Proverbs 25:21–22

(Person on the right, say, “I’m hungry.” Person on the left, say, “Here, have some food.”) then (Person on the left, say, “I’m thirsty.” Person on the right, say, “Here, have some water.”)

Do not let evil defeat you. Defeat evil by doing good. (Say to your partner, “Fight mean people with kindness.”)

**CONNECT it : : : SAY**
On first glance it seems odd to fight evil with good, but let’s think about it. Let’s say there is a bully, someone who is constantly mean to you, but you never do anything mean in return. If you continue to be nice, hopefully one day he’ll give up being mean and start being nice back. But even if he is never nice to you, God says to be kind to him anyway. God will take care of his punishment.

**MEMORYVERSE**
Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another. —Romans 12:10 (NKJV)

You are responsible for what you do and the bully will be responsible for what he does. But guess what? When that mean person asks you how you can be so nice, you can say, “because I have the Holy Spirit in me and you can too.” That is the best way we can share God with someone else.

**KEYPOINT**
When you love others you want to show them kindness.

Behaving with kindness is just the way Christians ought to behave.

**LET’S PRAY : : : SAY**
Heavenly Father,
Thank You for taking care of our enemies. Thank You for showing me grace for all the unkind things I have done. Help me follow Your Word and teach me to be kind to everyone with joy in my heart. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.
TODAY’S LESSON

Bible Story | Love (How to be a Christian)
Location | Romans 12:9–21
Memory Verse | Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.—Romans 12:10 (NKJV)
Key Point | When you love others you want to show them kindness.

TIME FILLERS

• Ask if anyone would like to “play the teacher” and review today’s lesson with the class.
• Play games to help children memorize today’s Bible memory verse.

TAKE HOME SHEETS

• VIRTUE Quest is the take-home sheet designed for children to do with their parents. The sheet contains information about today’s lesson. The goal is to partner with parents to continue and to reiterate the lesson. Be sure to hand all parents a sheet as they pick up their children.

This Month’s Verse

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS...KINDNESS

KINDNESS

Going out of your way to make others happy.