

Chattabox
session
Sunday 27th
September
2020.

Fruits of the
Spirit: Love

Welcome

Hi guys,

Even though we can't meet at church like we normally do, we can still have Chatabox!

There are some things here for you to do, and we would love you to share them with us after.

To share what you've been getting up to, please email children@newburybaptistchurch.org



Last Week

Do you remember what happened last week? We looked at one of the parables Jesus told, about the sower.

Can you remember what the story teaches us?

How many people did you tell the story to this week?



Let's Sing

This week we're starting a new series all about the Fruits of the Spirit. The grown-ups are learning about this too at the moment so you probably already know the first song but do you remember all the actions?

The Fruit of the spirit's not a song...[click here](#)

We've got the Fruit of the Spirit song...[click here](#)

The Fruits of the Spirit

The Fruits of the Spirit are something that is written about in the Bible, in the book Galatians, chapter 5.

The fruits are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self control. So they're not really fruits like apples and strawberries. What it means is that they are things that God helps us to have and do when we work to live as He wants us to.

Some of them we find easy, some more difficult but all are important to ask God to help us with as we live as a friend of Jesus.

Getting Started

How do you stay in touch with the people that you love?

On your own or together, list as many different ways as you can think of to communicate with other people.

Are there any new ways you have used this year while we can't meet people as much as we want to?

Sending a message

Did you come up with second a message in code as one of your ways to keep in touch?

There are lots of ways to write a code but we're going to use one that the Romans used at the same time as Jesus was alive.

You will need:

A rolling pin OR similar long cylinder

A long, narrow, strip of paper

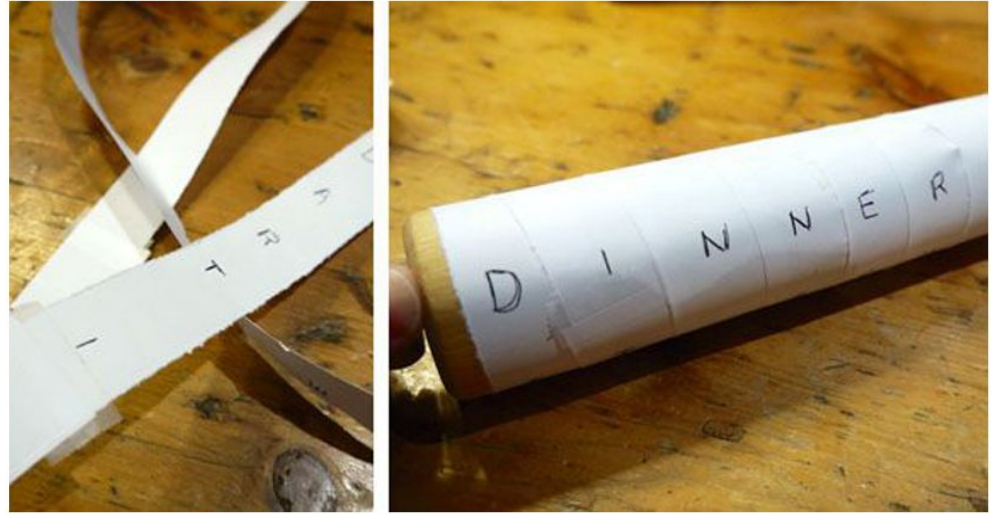
A Pencil

Sending a message

First wrap your paper around the tube.

Then write your message (use a * to mark the start).

Unwind the paper & see how you can't read it any more.



Pass the paper & tube to someone, they can read the code by wrapping the paper around the tube. It only works if the tube they use is the same size - try it with a thicker one and see what happens!

Story Preparation

Have you worked out yet how this all fits with the fruit of the spirit?

Do you remember who Paul was? If not you'll find out again in today's story.

Paul wrote lots and lots of letters to his Christian friends. Sometimes these friends didn't know what to do for the best. Sometimes they made mistakes. Paul wrote to encourage them and to help them get things right and to remind them of how Jesus wanted them to be.

Because Paul loved his friends and wanted to help them, we can still read and learn from his letters in the Bible today.

Story Preparation

Today's fruit of the Spirit is LOVE - as you read the story stop and think about how each character shows Love and what might have happened if they didn't.

As you read the story, I've written a message in code to you. I'll tell you the code at the end of the story but can you crack it before then?!

Story Time

Let's hear the story of how Paul became a Christian and learned of Jesus' LOVE.

When Paul was born he was called Saul. He grew up in Jerusalem and was very clever and learned lots about God's Law.

Even though Saul believed in God and followed the law he did not follow Jesus. In fact he hated people who followed Jesus and was their enemy.

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Story Time

Saul wanted to destroy the church. He put people in prison for believing in Jesus. At the beginning of our story, Saul asked the High Priest in Jerusalem for letters so he could take them to the city of Damascus. Then the leaders would help him arrest Christians there.

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But when Saul was walking along the road to Damascus something totally unexpected happened.

Story Time

A bright light shined down on Saul and made him blind!

Then Saul heard a voice say, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” (Persecuting means hurting)

Saul heard the voice but could not see. “Who are you?” he asked.

Then he heard the answer, “I am Jesus, and you have been persecuting me. Now get up and go into the city.”

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Story Time

Saul was shocked. This was Jesus! Now Saul knew the truth and realised he had been wrong before.

The other men traveling with Saul saw the light but could not hear the voice and they didn't go blind. Saul was completely helpless, so they helped him carry on and get to the city.

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Story Time

Ananias was a Christian man who lived in the city of Damascus.

Jesus came to Ananias in a vision and said that Ananias should go and meet Saul. Ananias was very frightened, this was the man who hated Christians.

But Ananias loved Jesus and trusted Him, so he did what he was asked and found Saul.

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Story Time

He touched Saul and said, “Brother Saul, Jesus, the one who appeared to you on the road, has sent me so you can see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

As soon as Ananias said this something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes and he could see again. Then he got up and was baptised.

Now that Saul knew the truth about Jesus he wanted to tell everyone and share Jesus’ love with them.

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Story Time

Even though Saul had changed there were still many Christians that remembered how he had once been their enemy. In Jerusalem the Christians did not trust Saul and did not want him to be with them.

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But a Christian named Barnabas believed Saul had changed. He asked the Apostles and the other Christians to accept Saul.

He started travelling (do you remember when we learnt about his journeys?) and told many people about Jesus.

Story Time

When he left a place, Saul (now called Paul) didn't forget about them, he wrote letters and stayed in touch with the friends he had made.

We can see in the letters how much Paul loved his friends and Jesus and how much he wanted to help them get to know Jesus more and to share the Good news about Jesus to more and more people.

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Did you crack my code? If you read every other letter only you will find the hidden message.



What Next?

Can you remember today's fruit of the spirit? Love. We all need to ask God to help us love other people, not just the people who we like and who love us but all of the people God has made...that's everyone!

Paul knew that this kind of love wasn't always easy. He knew that loving Jesus meant he had to tell everyone about how to be his friend, but that meant his old friends didn't like him anymore. In fact, they kept putting him in prison!

Pick someone you find difficult to love and pray that God will help you see them as He does think we see, as a person made and loved by God. As you pray think about what you can do this week to love that person and show them that God loves them too.



Let's pray

Dear God

*Teach us the fruits of the spirit
and help us grow more like you.*

*Help us to love people like you
do and to show them your love
this week.*

Amen

First, let's say this prayer together then you pray for something you want to say to God.

God loves the whole world, pick something you've heard in the news this week and pray for it; maybe for the people trying to find a cure for the virus; or for places where there is not enough food.

Remember God will always listen to you when you pray.



Fruit of the Spirit Tree - Love

Each week we're going to add to our fruit of the spirit tree until you have them all to remember.

This week you will need:

A jar/pot

Some rice/beans/stones (to put in the jar)

A nice branch

Some paper/card

String



Fruit of the Spirit Tree - Love

Step 1: put your branch in the pot filled with rice/beans/stones so that it stands up.

Step2: Choose a fruit to be Love. Draw & cut out that fruit shape. Write “Love” on the fruit

Step3: make a small hole at the top and then ties some string and hang your “love” fruit from the tree.

Step4: make some more “love” fruits. This week when someone in the family shows love, add another fruit to the tree.



Pass the Parcel

First write look up and copy (write or draw) the Bible verses listed. You can add your own too if you'd like.

Then wrap up a Bible & create a pass the parcel with one of the verses in each layer.

Then play pass the parcel with your family, talk about the Bible verses as you play. Why do you think the Bible in the middle is the big present for this game?

John 4 v16

Romans 8 vv 37-39

1 John 3 v1

Colossians 3 v 14

1 Corinthians 16 v 14

Write a letter

Pick someone you love but haven't see face to face for a long time - maybe a family member or a friend.

Write them a letter and put it in the post, you could send them a gift in the envelope too, maybe a bookmark or picture from today's story or showing God's love.

As you write your letter think about Paul, look in the Bible at how long some of his letters are - they must have taken days to write! (you don't need to write yours to be as long!)

Next Week

I hope you enjoyed Chattabox today!

Be Wise this week :)

Remember to send in pictures of what you've been getting up to or if you want to ask any questions about today's story you can email children@newburybaptistchurch.org

We'll be back next week!

From the Chattabox team :)

