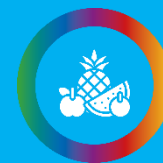


Faith Adventures Youth Resource



Free to use – please acknowledge when using beyond local church children's and youth work so others can find and use the resource themselves.

Embedded in Faith Adventures: Children Together, this youth resource is intergenerational in nature and designed to foster God-connection in church, home and beyond.

For guidance on the purpose of the resource and how to use it as a launch pad for your engagement with children and families, please use this link: www.bit.ly/How-To-FAYR

Title: Leviticus 19:9-10 & 18 Fruits of the Spirit – Love

Theme: Love is giving rather than expecting

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Introduction: What would be helpful to know in my planning?

Leviticus is the third book of the Bible and it focuses on the worship of God. The people of Israel has left Egypt and are at the foot of Mount Sinai, where they camp for two years, listening to God and entering a covenant relationship with God. God loves them and wants to be in relationship with the people of Israel.

This is why we have chosen Leviticus 19:9-10 & 18 for today's passage. This verse is preceded by lots of "do not's", which some people think being a Christian is like – following a set of rules. In reality, how to be a Christian is revealed/demonstrated by today's verse: loving our neighbour as ourselves. God's way of loving, and how we should try to love, is to give without expecting anything in return, because we can, not because we should. This includes love of people but also love of God's world and of ourselves. We hope you enjoy exploring this theme with your groups.

Point to note:

The word 'love' in the English language has limitations. For "I love chocolate", "I love my church" and "I love my mum", we use the same word, whereas the Greeks used different words. For older children it might be worth exploring this with them. (The four main Greek words are: *Eros* –

romantic love; *Philia* – friendship; *Storge* - familial love; *Agape* - universal love, such as the love for strangers (and this also refers to Christian charity).

Together – prayer and games

Let's start our time with God and each other well

Use this opening prayer or encourage young people to open the session with a prayer of their own.

All mighty God,

Be with us as we learn more about you through stories and people in the Bible.

Help us to walk in your way and follow your path.

Be with us as we make decisions that affect our lives, and the lives of those around us.

Amen

Alternatively, you may join with the widgeit prayer found in Faith Adventures: Children Together, or else the Lord's Prayer found at the end of this session.

Active game – Fruit salad

Love is one of the fruits of the Spirit. Soft fruits are often attributed to the different fruits of the Spirit e.g. love = strawberry.

Create a circle of chairs, one fewer than there are players.

The person without a chair stands in the middle. Assign each person a fruit of the spirit (or two if they would cope): strawberry, banana, apple etc. The person standing calls out the name of a fruit. Those assigned that fruit have to stand up and run clockwise around the chairs, while the person in the middle attempts to get into one of the chairs before the other players, leaving someone else standing in the middle. If "fruit salad" is called, everyone has to find a new seat.

Quieter game – Love and hate

The Bible passage invites us to explore what loving might look like. This game opens up participants to thinking about what they love – and what they don't love.

Designate one end of the space 'love' and the other end 'hate'. Explain to participants that you are going to make suggestions about things that they might, or might not, love. After each item they should stand somewhere on the line between 'Love' and 'hate'. There are no wrong answers – we are all different. We offer you some suggestions here – but you can come up with your own. You know your group best.

Crunchy peanut butter
Milk chocolate

Dark chocolate
Singing hymns
Playing football
Taylor Swift songs
Custard
Maths lessons
Beefburgers
Going to church on Sundays

Experience – Bible story and songs

Hear, watch and sing the Bible story

This link takes you to Leviticus 19:18 in the Easy-to-read version

[Leviticus 19: 9,10, 18 ERV - "When you cut your crops at harvest - Bible Gateway](#)

You may wish to research different versions of this reading on www.biblegateway.com
Recommended versions to try are NRSV, Easy-to-read, The Message, NIRV

Watch: Love your neighbour, by Little Blessings Studio
<https://youtu.be/NR5tzDfZbgA?si=AkW7XibaTpcCLSEo>

An opportunity for reflection

- Who is your neighbour?
- What if your neighbour has been mean to you?
- What stood out in the song for you?

Explore – ways into the theme

Ideas and activities to explore this week's Bible passage together

A new way to explore the theme

This is a new way to explore the Bible passage and the theme for this week.

Alternatively, you may wish to use the Explore section from this week's Faith Adventures: Children Together to guide your exploration of the theme this week.

Love

This week we are beginning a series on the fruits of the Spirit. To begin the series, we are looking at the fruit of 'Love', and specifically loving our neighbour.

To explore this, we suggest you ask someone from the church or local community who is doing amazing things to show "love your neighbour" in action: someone (or some people) who does things which help others in need or welcome others in.

Provide a hot seat for them to sit on and ask them some questions to explore why they do it, and what motivated them to get involved.

This could be someone who helps at the local foodbank, or someone who is a welcomer in church. It could be a Junior Church leader or youth leader; or even the minister or Church-Related Community Worker.

Do not feel you need to have more than one, but you might choose to have lots of people.

Here are some suggested questions:

- Why did you start this in the first place?
- How did you get involved?
- What difference does it make to others?
- How does this show love?
- Do you get love in return?
- Do you think this helps love to grow?

Modern parables

This section includes references to TV programmes, films, books, TED talks, TikTok etc aimed at this age group that will have been widely seen, or where a clip is available to use as a stimulus for discussion. You may also enjoy the picture book recommended for Faith Adventures: Children Together and explore the relevance of the story to the theme of the session in more depth – young people and adults are often well tuned in to the deeper meanings in materials aimed at younger people and the authors are often very aware of the adults reading the books to or with younger ones.



9/11 refuge revisited: Gander airport, by CBS news

<https://youtu.be/nGEe01oTT9I?si=jqSp99VKTU3rmipZ>

This news item describes how, when tragedy struck, a town stepped up and showed what loving your neighbour looks like in action.

- Can you think of any other similar stories?
- What do you feel inspired to do as a result of watching this video?

Group discussion

- What do you think the following quote means? “Love is giving rather than expecting”
- How do you know if someone loves you?
- How can you show love to someone you know and someone you don't?
- Is loving someone different from liking someone?
- I wonder why poor people get the fruit that falls to the ground rather than the good fruit

Personal reflection

- Is there something you have plenty of that you could share with others?
- Who is your neighbour?
- If you are not a farmer, how do you manage to do verses 9 and 10?
- How do we forget the wrongs people do?

Express – prayer and creative activities

Praying together: enabling your group to respond spiritually

Praying together

Prayers Respond to the theme by writing or saying a short prayer. Alternatively, use the creative prayer from Faith Adventures: Children Together for this session, or use the prayer activity below. Alternatively, light a candle and play some music while you listen and talk to God together.

'Love your neighbour as you love yourself.'

Make a simple heart or use a heart shape that you have. God loves everyone and wants the best for their lives. As you hold the heart, think about the people who you want to know God's love. Quietly name the people you are thinking about. As you continue to hold the heart, think about the people that you find hard to love sometimes and ask God to help you show them love. Ask God to help you share God's love with others.

Spoken Prayers

God,

You are generous and just,
and everything we have comes from you.

Forgive us for the times we hold on too tightly –
to our time, our possessions, and our comfort –
while others go without.

Give us eyes to notice people who are overlooked,
the ones it would be easy to ignore.
Give us courage to treat others with real love,
not just words, but action.

This week, challenge us to give something up –
time, money, attention –
so that someone else might be blessed.
Help us to choose kindness when it costs us something.

Shape us into people who live differently,
who love our neighbour as ourselves,
because that's the way you have loved us. Amen.

Responding together

This is an opportunity for a social justice challenge, some research, craftivism, or a craft or STEM activity. You may have a specific activity chosen but free choice is also an option. Here are some suggestions for this week's theme. Choose whatever will work best for your group.

Ubuntu

Love can be seen in different ways across the world. In some cultures there is a word for the sort of love we show another person. It is “Ubuntu”, which means “I am because we are”.

Vilia, a lady who lives in Dominican Republic, talks of a time a hurricane hit her town and what she did to help those around her. Her story is a love-in-action story.

Watch Vilia's story from 2:29 in the link

https://youtu.be/3KuCEPMnxkM?si=4jM7D_1YGFpINZx-

- What can we learn from Vilia's story?
- I wonder how we can help
- Where in your life could you practice Ubuntu?

Challenge

Discipleship doesn't stop when you walk out of the church door – it is a part of everyday life. Take a challenge with you and try to make it part of your week.

You may think of your own suggestion of what you as an individual or a group might do in the coming week in response to what you have explored today. If not, here are some suggestions:

- Use one of the “conversation starter” questions or the question below to talk with someone of a different generation or from a different setting and share your questions, thoughts, insights together. **I wonder which love language you identify with?**
- Research something suggested by JPIT Resources (jpit.uk) or *Commitment for Life* (cforl.co.uk)
- Commit to doing something loving for someone each day.

Thank you for exploring the **Leviticus** passage with us.

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing sharon.lloyd@urc.org.uk or by sharing it on www.bit.ly/FACT_FB


The Lord's Prayer

 Our  Father,  who art  in  heaven,  hallowed be  thy  name.

 Thy  kingdom  come,  thy  will  be done





 on earth  as it is  in  heaven.

 Give us  this day  our  daily  bread

 and  forgive us  our  sins  As  we  forgive  those  who  sin  against us

 Lead us  not  into  temptation  but  deliver us  from  evil

 For thine is the  kingdom, the  power  and the  glory

 For ever  and  ever .  Amen

