

A full-page background image featuring a bright sun in the upper center, creating a lens flare effect. A bird is captured in flight, silhouetted against the sun's glow, positioned to the right of the word 'DEPLOYING'. The sky transitions from a pale blue near the sun to a deeper blue at the bottom.

DEPLOYING LOVE *into the world*

TO USE THIS GUIDE WITH CHILDREN,
FOLLOW THE BULLET POINTS MARKED WITH *

* Life minus love equals zero.

* = KID FRIENDLY!

share

- ◆ Greetings, introductions, covenant, housekeeping
- * ◆ Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—these are the nine characteristics of the Fruit of the Spirit found in **Galatians 5: 22-23 (NRSV)**. Notice how perfectly these words describe everything we know about Jesus. Wouldn't it be something to have those words fit each of us so perfectly? Well, that's exactly what God is growing in us! God's plan for us, his people, is for us to become growers and bearers and sharers of this spiritual fruit so the world will know God's Son, Jesus. Take a good, long, look in the mirror today—40DAYS from now, you just might see someone quite different!
- * ◆ As we begin, which of these nine characteristics do you think may be the most evident in your life right now? Who do you think would agree with you?
- ◆ Which are the least evident? Why might that be?

read

- * ◆ Jesus says in **John 15:4 (GW)**, "Live in me, and I will live in you. A branch cannot produce any fruit by itself. It has to stay attached to the vine. In the same way, you cannot produce fruit unless you live in me."
- * ◆ Being spiritually connected is like being attached to a living vine or tree. A disconnected branch just isn't going to grow fruit, no matter how hard it tries! The same is true if you are trying to grow in the qualities of the Fruit of Spirit but don't' stay connected to the Vine (Jesus). It's probably not going to happen. Only by staying connected to Him is growing this kind of fruit possible!

talk

- ◆ Can you think of time when you were not producing fruit characterized by love, joy, peace, patience...in your life? Would you say, in retrospect, it's because you had disconnected from the True Vine?
- ◆ What does it mean to you that all of these characteristics are evidence together of the Holy Spirit living in you—one fruit—not a list of fruits that you get to pick and choose from?

read

- ♦ The first characteristic of the Fruit of the Spirit is love. God created us to love and to be loved. It's love that makes our lives meaningful. Love has been described as an emotion—something you feel—or a commitment you make in an action you live out. Some people think love is difficult to describe, but they know it when they see it.
- * ♦ How would you describe love?
- * ♦ The Bible clearly describes and defines what love is, and what it is not. Read **1 Corinthians 13:4-8a**. Make sure to also read your Bible's study notes.

talk

- * ♦ So, what does the Bible say love *is*? What does it say love *does*?
- * ♦ What does the Bible say love *is not*? What does it say love *doesn't do*?
 - ♦ In your own life, when or how has love's true meaning been misunderstood?
- * ♦ Think of someone you know who is loving. Share some of the specific ways in which they demonstrate love to and for others.
 - ♦ Compare your experiences of this person with what the Bible says about love in the 1 Corinthians text we just read.
 - ♦ What qualities of love are you in the most need of working on in your life right now?

pray

- * ♦ Pray for each other. Ask God to help each of us, our families, our church, our schools, our workplaces, and our world become more loving.
- ♦ Pray for the empty chair in your group to be filled.

bless

- * ♦ Say these words while making the sign of the cross on one another's foreheads:
"Be blessed to LOVE in Jesus' name. Amen"

action

- * ♦ Every morning this week pray, "God, show me how I can put your LOVE into ACTION today?"
- * ♦ Keep a list of ways you share LOVE .
- ♦ Keep a similar list of the times you fall short, and notice what keeps you from releasing the LOVE of God in you.

* WEEK 1 MEMORY VERSE

*"And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three;
and the greatest of these is love."
1 Corinthians 13:13*

40DAYS commitments

1. HEAR all messages in the Action series
2. READ the daily Bible verses
3. CONNECT in a small group
4. REMEMBER the weekly memory verse
5. SERVE on Impact Weekend Nov 6-7
6. PRAY we are all moved to ACTION to deploy the Fruit of the Spirit into the world
7. SHARE at least one characteristic of the Fruit of Spirit each day

* daily Bible readings

Try reading the passages in the translations suggested (biblegateway.com) Conclude each reading with, "Please, God, help me put your love into ACTION."

1. John 13:35 (MSG)
2. 1 John 3:18 (GNT)
3. Romans 12:9a (AMP)
4. Galatians 5:6b (NLT)
5. Hebrews 10:24 (NLV)
6. 1 John 3:11 (NLT)
7. Romans 13:10 (ICB)



LOVE GOD ♥ LOVE OTHERS ♥ SERVE #WORLD

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