

Walking in the Spirit

Week 2: Fruit of the Spirit: Love

Key Scriptures:

- John 3:16
- 1 John 4:19
- John 13:34
- 1 Corinthians 13:4–7, 13
- Ruth 1:16–17

Focus: Sacrificial, steadfast love

Key Truth: *God loves us—therefore, His love in us overflows to others.*

Female Example: Ruth

Scripture Reading

Have volunteers read aloud:

- John 3:16
- 1 John 4:19
- John 13:34
- 1 Corinthians 13:4–7, 13
- Ruth 1:16–17

While we're reading listen for:

- What God's love is like
 - How we are called to love others
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1. The Source of Love – God First Loved Us

“We love because He first loved us.” (1 John 4:19)

- Love does not begin with us—it begins with God
- John 3:16 shows the **ultimate expression of love:**
 - God gave what was most precious—His Son

Important Truth:

We are not called to manufacture love—we are called to **receive it and reflect it**

2. The Standard of Love – Christ's Example

“Love one another: just as I have loved you...” (John 13:34)

- Jesus sets the standard:
 - Sacrificial
 - Humble
 - Unconditional

This is not:

- Loving only when it's easy
- Loving only those who love us back

This *is*:

- Choosing love even when it costs something

- Loving through inconvenience, hurt, or fatigue

This kind of love is only possible through the Holy Spirit

3. The Description of Love – 1 Corinthians 13

Paul gives a clear picture of what love looks like in action:

- Patient
- Kind
- Not jealous or boastful
- Not easily angered
- Keeps no record of wrongs
- Bears, believes, hopes, and endures all things

Key Insight:

Love is not just a feeling—it is **a way of living and responding**

4. The Example of Love – Ruth

“Where you go I will go... your people shall be my people, and your God my God.”
(Ruth 1:16–17)

Ruth’s love for Naomi was:

- **Sacrificial** → She left her home, culture, and security
- **Loyal** → She stayed when she had every reason to leave
- **Faith-filled** → She chose Naomi’s God

Ruth shows us:

Love is not based on convenience—it is based on **commitment**

5. The Overflow of Love

When we:

- Abide in Christ
- Walk in the Spirit

Then:

- Love becomes the natural overflow of our lives

Connection to Week 1:

We don’t try harder to love—we stay closer to Jesus, and His love flows through us.

Discussion Questions

Understanding

1. What do these Scriptures teach us about God’s love?
 2. Which description of love in 1 Corinthians 13 stands out most to you?
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Personal Reflection

3. Why is it sometimes difficult to love others consistently?
 4. In what situations do you find it hardest to show Christ-like love?
 5. How does knowing that God loves you personally change how you love others?
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Ruth Connection

6. What do you admire most about Ruth's love for Naomi?
 7. Have you ever experienced or given that kind of steadfast love?
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Deeper Application

8. What is one area where God may be calling you to love more sacrificially?
 9. How can we rely on the Holy Spirit to help us love when it's difficult?
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Life Application

Practical Ways to Grow in Love:

- Pause and pray before reacting
 - Choose patience in difficult moments
 - Offer encouragement instead of criticism
 - Forgive quickly
 - Look for ways to serve quietly
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Weekly Challenge:

Each day, pray:

“Lord, help me to receive Your love and show Your love today.”

Choose one:

- Reach out to someone who may need encouragement
 - Show kindness to someone you find difficult
 - Write a note, make a call, or offer practical help
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Closing Prayer

“Lord, thank You for loving us first. Your love is patient, kind, and never failing. Help us to receive that love deeply and to let it overflow into the lives of others. Teach us to love not just in words, but in actions and truth. Grow Your love in us this week. Amen.”

Takeaway for the Week

👉 *Because God loves me, I can love others—His love flows through me.*