

Lutheran Women in Mission

BIBLE STUDY

Fruit of the Spirit-Love by Marlys Taege Moberg

Opening

Sing "Love in Christ Is Strong and Living" (*LW 376*) or "Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower" (*TLH 399*) or "God Loves Me Dearly" (*All God's People Sing 109*).

Introduction

"Many people don't know real love because they are filled with lust, hate, envy or bitterness," a radio speaker asserted recently. What is real love? How would you define it?

Now expand your definition based on:

- **1 Corinthians 13:4-8**
- **Philippians 1:9 and Ephesians 4:15-16**
- **1 John 3:16-18**
- **1 John 5:3 and 2 John 1:6**
- **Ephesians 5:1-2**



What challenges do we face when we try to imitate God's love?

God's Love-And Ours

What does the Bible teach us about God's love? Read the following verses and jot down your thoughts.

- **1 Chronicles 16:34**
- **Psalms 103:8, 11**
- **John 3:16**

How does **John 3:16** demonstrate the greatness of God's love?

How difficult would it be for you to sacrifice a relative you love for the good of others?

A computer search of the *New International Version of the Bible* produces 710 verses that contain the word "love." How important does the Bible indicate love is? See **1 Corinthians 13:1-3, 13**.

Discuss this statement by Francis A. Schaeffer: "If we do not show love to one another, the world has a right to question whether Christianity is true."

How is love developed according to these verses?

- **Galatians 5:22**
- **1 John 4:16**
- **John 14:23**
- **Titus 2:4**
- **Hebrews 10:24**

Putting Love Into Action

Who are to be the recipients of our love?

- **Matthew 22:37-38**
- **Philemon 1:5**
- **1 Peter 4:8 and 1 John 4:7-8**
- **Titus 2:4, Ephesians 5:25 and 1 John 4:20-21**
- **James 2:8**
- **Matthew 5:44**
- **Deuteronomy 10:19**

How do we show our love:

- For the Lord?
- For other believers?
- For our family members?
- For our neighbors?
- For our enemies?
- For emigrants from other countries and international students studying here?

Being as specific as possible, discuss what your LWML society and your church can do to help you show Christ's love and your love to all these people, especially those whose lives we touch?
(Note: The LWML [catalog](#) has materials to help you.)

Closing

Close by asking God to help you be more loving. Then sing "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" (*All God's People Sing* 237) or "Jesus Your Boundless Love So True" (*LW* 280).

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