

Study Series: Absolute Surrender

Author: Andrew Murray

Lesson Title: “ ‘The Fruit of the Spirit Is Love’ ” (pp. 96-108)

Session 8

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The main point of this lesson is: Absolute surrender means the Holy Spirit overflows love from us.

Focus on this goal:To help adults seek the fruit of love in all aspects of their lives

Key Bible Passage:Galatians 5:22

To the Leader: When incorporating learning activities into the group time, be careful not to pressure learners to share personal information or reflection they might not feel comfortable sharing.

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Ask participants if they have ever used Google Earth© and if so, to describe what they used it for. State many have enjoyed using this computer program to gain a big picture view of the world and to zoom in on the details of their own homes.

Explain the first session of this study provided a big-picture view of absolute surrender. Invite volunteers to recall the main principles relayed in that session. Explain the remaining sessions will zoom in to look at specifics of what a surrendered life looks like. The first detail we see as we zoom into the specifics of absolute surrender is love.

Read the main point of this lesson statement (p. 107).

Step 2. The Holy Spirit and Love

Assert a life of absolute surrender is a life filled with the Holy Spirit. Discuss Day One, activity 1 (p. 97). Note: When God grants us His Spirit, we are able to know the enormity of His love, then His love can flow out of us. The fruit of the Spirit is love.

Explore how participants can make it a daily habit to seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of love.

Invite any volunteers of anyone who answered yes to activity 2 (p. 97) to share the impact being filled with the Spirit has had on their life.

Step 3. God Is Love

Declare the fruit of the Spirit is love because God is love. Analyze the difference between saying “God loves” and “God is love.”

Discuss Day Two, activity 1 (p. 98).

Ask why humanity needed Christ’s redemption. Examine how sin robbed the world of love.

Lead a discussion with: Did Adam and Eve sin because of selfishness, or did sin make them selfish, or both? What’s the problem with selfishness? How was Jesus’s earthly life the complete opposite of a selfish life?

Ask a volunteer to read John 13:34-35. Analyze what it means to love someone the way Jesus has loved us.

Step 4. Love Conquers Selfishness

Read the first paragraph of Day Three (p. 100).

Discuss Day Three, activity 1 (p. 100). Ask: What is the good news in all those sobering truths about self? Praying for the power of the Holy Spirit includes praying for the power to be delivered from ourselves. How can we know that deliverance has occurred?

Invite a volunteer to read the pull quote in Day Three (p. 101). Point out that the author states (p. 101) the reason many Christians fail continually at that kind of love is because “they have never learned to believe and accept the truth that the Holy Spirit can pour God’s love into their heart.”

Invite a volunteer to read Romans 5:5. Explore how many believers might read this verse in a limited, even selfish, sense. Read or summarize the Day Three paragraph (p. 101) that begins “That blessed text . . . .” Declare the kind of love the Spirit pours into our hearts involves self-sacrifice, just as Jesus demonstrated.

Read Romans 5:6-8. Ask: How can we learn to love like Jesus? Encourage participants to underline the author’s long sentence beginning with “Never until the Spirit of God . . .” in the last paragraph of Day Three (p. 101) as you read it aloud.

Step 5. Love Is God’s Gift

Invite volunteers to share their thoughts upon reading the Day Four pull quote (p. 102).

Explore what our tongues reveal about our hearts. Invite a volunteer to read Galatians 5:22-23. Describe the tongue and temper of a person whose heart is filled with the love of Christ. Discuss Day Four, activity 2 (p. 103).

Declare: This self-sacrificing love is not something we can work up in our own strength. Rather, we give ourselves in absolute surrender to God and He gives us His indwelling Spirit who flows out of us in love to others.

Issue the challenge from the last paragraph of Day Four (p. 104).

Step 6. Love Yields Greater Effectiveness

Read Acts 4:32. Ask if the phrase “of one heart and mind” could have described Jesus’s disciples while He was on the earth, and why or why not. (No. See Mark 10:35-45 and Luke 22:24.) Determine the reason for such a drastic change in these believers.

Read the Day Five paragraph (p. 105) that begins with “But the Holy Spirit came . . . .” Declare that Spirit-empowered love is essential for Christians to accomplish anything of lasting value.

Discuss Day Five, activity 2 (p. 106). Guide the group to use 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 to describe Christian work that is done out of an overflow of God’s love.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:8 and ask: Why can’t love that is the fruit of the Spirit fail?

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

Read the Day Five pull quote (p. 105). Declare: That’s the big picture. Now let’s zoom in to the details—what would it look like on a daily basis for us to seek and express the Spirit’s fruit of love in all aspects of our lives?

Read your prayer from Day Five, activity 1 (p. 105) as a corporate closing prayer.

