



Fruit of the Spirit— Discipleship
A Series that will bring Fruit to your Life

~ Troy DeFeo

Bible Study One:

“Building Lasting Relationships”

Love:

When you hear the topic of “The Fruit of the Spirit”, what comes to your mind?

Verse: Galatians 5:22-23— is where we need to begin

2000 years ago the Apostle Paul spoke about this very topic to the believers in Galatia. Every true Christian seeking to please Jesus aspires to a life defined by these character traits. yet living them out is as much a challenge now as it was in Paul’s time.

—One of the big take aways in this study is to allow the world to see God and to experience his love through us. 1 John 4:12— says this:

God wants us to be filled with the same passion and love for his Son, Jesus Christ. The story of Jesus and the sinful woman illustrates the kind of simple devotion that God desires for us to have.

Question: Think of a person who has “fallen in love.” How are his or her attitudes, priorities, and other relationships affected?

Read: Luke 36-50—

- * How would you describe the setting of this story (the place, the people present, and the atmosphere)? _____
 - * In what ways does the woman demonstrate lavish devotion to Jesus (36-38)?
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In Jesus’ day, it was normal to anoint a person’s head with olive oil, a cheap and plentiful substance, but this woman uses an alabaster jar of perfume (something very expensive) and anoints his feet.

- * Imagine yourself at Simon the Pharisee’s dinner table. What might you feel during the woman’s interruption? _____
 - * Why do you think her actions offended Simon? (v39) _____
 - * In what ways could you express extravagant devotion to Jesus today?
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- * How could this upset some people you know and who? _____
- * What did it cost this woman to publicly **show her love for Jesus?**

*What are the cost for you? _____

*What point does Jesus make for Simon in the parable of the two debtors?
(40-43) _____

**A denarius was a Roman coin equal to an agricultural laborer's daily pay—
see Matthew 20:2**

* Why does Jesus contrast Simon's hospitality with that of the woman? (46-44)

* According to Jesus, what does it indicate when a person has little love for him?
(47) _____

* What further blessings does the sinful woman receive from Jesus as a result of
her faith? (48-50) _____

* With whom do you relate more: Simon the Pharisee, who knows the bible and
is very active for God, or this woman, who loves God with reckless abandon
and love? Explain _____

**Simon, like the elder brother in the parable of the prodigal son, was moral
and respectable. The problem, however, as the 18th century preacher and
evangelist George Whitfield said, "is that these are "damnable good works"
because we can easily rely on our record or performance for God's love
versus the record and performance of Jesus on our behalf. The insidious
problem with respectability and goodness is that we can subtly become
convinced God owes us because we obey him!"**

*So why is passionate and reckless love for Jesus so vital if we are to have a
healthy, loving relationship with others? _____

*What obstacles in your life are hindering you from a single-minded devotion to
Jesus? _____

Memory Verse: John 17:26

_____.