



Lesson 5: “Heart Symptoms”

Online Crew Club Plan

<u>Key Teaching Point</u>	I need a new heart.
<u>Key Bible Verse</u>	“And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.” (Ezekiel 36:26 NLT).
<u>Scripture Passage</u>	“Every tree bears fruit” (Luke 6:43-45).
<u>Materials</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Bible• 05: “Heart Symptoms” Zoom Slides
<u>Mystery Bag</u> (Optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An individually-wrapped fruit candy, such as Runtts[®], Starbursts[®], or Skittles[®], one per student.

Relate (10 minutes)

Welcome crew members.

Greet crew members as they sign on.

Icebreaker Options (Choose one):

- Ask students to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Rosebud: Ask students to share a highlight or success from the week (a rose), a challenge or disappointment from the week (a thorn) and something they are looking forward to doing or experiencing in the week ahead (a bud).
- Open a discussion with the question, “Have you ever picked a fruit from a tree? When? What did you pick?”¹

¹ Instruct students to open up their mystery bags. Talk about the discussion questions as students are eating their sweet treat.



Play a game.

What am I? Mystery Challenge

Share your screen, and pull up the Zoom slides for lesson 5. Read the six clues aloud, one at a time, and ask the students to work together to guess the answers to the clues. To turn this game into a competition, divide students into two teams, and assign each team either the odd-numbered clues or the even-numbered clues. Give two points to the team that guesses correctly on their assigned clue. If they do not guess correctly, ask the other team to answer. If the other team guesses correctly, give that team one point for “stealing.” Add up the points at the end of the game. The team with the most points wins.

Alternatively, you may choose a different game from the [Zoom Playbook](#).



Receive (10 minutes)

Hear God’s Word.

What did all of the clues have in common?

Take student responses.

That’s right, they are all fruits! You might find it odd, but the Bible passage we are going to read from today talks about fruit. Let’s learn why!

Share your screen, and look up Luke 6:43-45 in the *New Living Translation* on [Bible Gateway](#).

Figs and grapes are both fruits. How do you think figs grow?

Take student responses.

Figs grow on trees!

(Share your screen again, and show the image of the fig tree on the Zoom slides.)

How do you think grapes grow?

Take student responses.

Grapes grow on vines—specifically a grapevine!

(Show the image of the grapevine on the Zoom slides.)



If figs grow on trees and grapes grow on vines, can we find figs growing on thorn bushes or grapes on bramble bushes?

Show the image of a thorn bush and a bramble bush on the Zoom slides. Then, take student responses.

That's right. No, we cannot! Just like a grapevine can only produce grapes, and a fig tree can only produce figs, a good tree can only produce good fruit, and a bad tree can only produce bad fruit.

Why are we talking about fruit? The Bible doesn't talk about fruit and trees so we will know where to find food! God's Word is teaching us something about our hearts because our hearts produce thoughts, actions and words in our lives just like trees, vines and bushes produce different kinds of fruit.

A good heart produces good thoughts, actions and words just like a good tree produces good fruit. A sinful heart produces evil thoughts, actions and words, just like a bad tree produces bad fruit.

Joy, love, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control: Do you think these come from a person with a good heart or a sinful heart?

Take student responses.

The Bible calls these the Fruit of the Spirit, because God, who has a good heart, is all of those things. A person who has a good heart just like God's heart will produce joy, love, peace and all the other Fruit of the Spirit.

What about lying, cheating, stealing, fighting, pride and greed? Do you think these come from a person with a good heart or an evil heart?

Take student responses.

The Bible calls such things sin, and they come from a person with an evil, sinful heart.

Just like it's not normal for a vine to produce an orange or for a tree to produce a pineapple, it's not normal for a person with a good heart to practice sin. Likewise, it's not normal for a person with an evil heart to show the Fruit of the Spirit such as love, goodness, faithfulness, kindness and peace in their life.



If we want to be someone who displays love, goodness, kindness, faithfulness and peace in our life, we need a good heart. How do we get a good heart?

Take student responses.

God says in his Word, “And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart” (Ezekiel 36:26 NLT). We can receive a good heart if we ask God for it and trust him to take away our old, sinful heart.

Ask students, **Has anyone ever asked God for forgiveness and a new heart? Would anyone like to do that now?**

Close in prayer.

Engage and explore the story.

Open a discussion:

- **What does the fruit reveal about the tree that it comes from?** (The fruit reveals if the tree is good or bad, if the tree is healthy.)
- **What would you expect to come from a person with a good heart?** (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control)
- **What would you expect to come from a person with an evil heart?** (greed, selfishness, pride, jealousy, fighting, lying, cheating)
- **What kind of heart do you have right now? What kind of heart do you want to have? How do we receive a new heart?** (Answers will vary. There is an opportunity to share the gospel here if the Holy Spirit leads.)



Respond (10 minutes)

Apply God’s truth.

If we ask God for a good heart, God is faithful to take out our sinful heart and give us a good heart instead. When we receive a good heart from God, the Bible tells us we will respond by “putting off” our old ways, our sinful thoughts, actions and words and “putting on” the Fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control.

Consider this: What does a doctor put on to go to work?



Take student responses.

That's right. They put on scrubs!

(Show the image of a doctor on the Zoom slides.)

How about this: What does a firefighter put on to go to work?

Take student responses.

A firefighter has to put on a lot of gear. A firefighter wears a thick and heavy uniform to be protected from heat and smoke. I have one more question. Would a firefighter wear a doctor's scrubs? Would a doctor wear a firefighter's gear?

Take student responses.

No! Who we are determines what we put on. If we were a doctor, we would wear scrubs, not a firefighter's uniform. In the same way, if we were a person with a good heart, we would "put on" love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control and put off sins such as greed, pride, lying, cheating, stealing and fighting.

Pray together.

Ask students to place their hands on their hearts.

Dear God,

Take out our hearts that are sick with sin, and give us healthy hearts that love God and love others. Teach us to "put off" sinful thoughts, actions and words, and help us to "put on" love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control.

Take prayer requests and close in prayer.

