

Lesson 12: Consider the flowers. They can speak to us about God's love and how we can love.

And God said, Let the earth bring forth fresh growth, the herb yielding seed, *and* the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed *is* in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. (Genesis 1:11).

There is clothing for the outward person, but we shouldn't worry about getting it. Why?

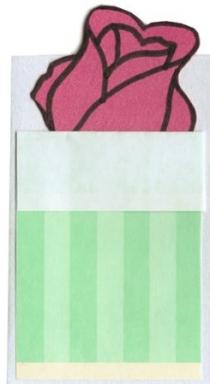
"Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more will He clothe you, O you of little faith!" (Luke 12:28).

There is clothing for the inner person.

"Your people will offer themselves freely on the day or your power in garments of holiness from the womb of the dawn" (Psalm 110:12).

"Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive any complaint you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which is the bond of perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, for to this you were called as members of one body" (Colossians 3).

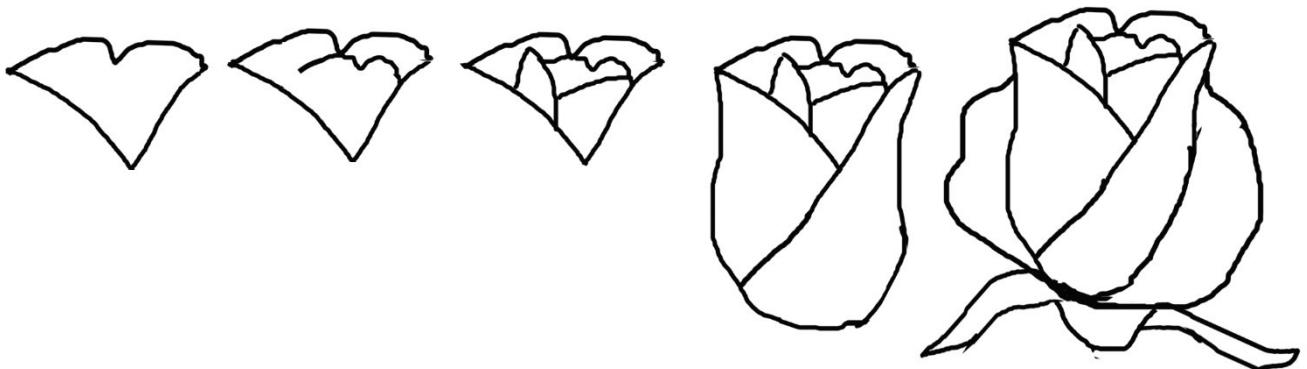
This clothing we should put some effort into wearing. How do we put on love?



Get Well Card



If drawing a rose you can start with heart shapes. You can make the corners pointed or rounded. This makes a rose a reminder of love.



What is God's love for us like? What is Christian love?

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

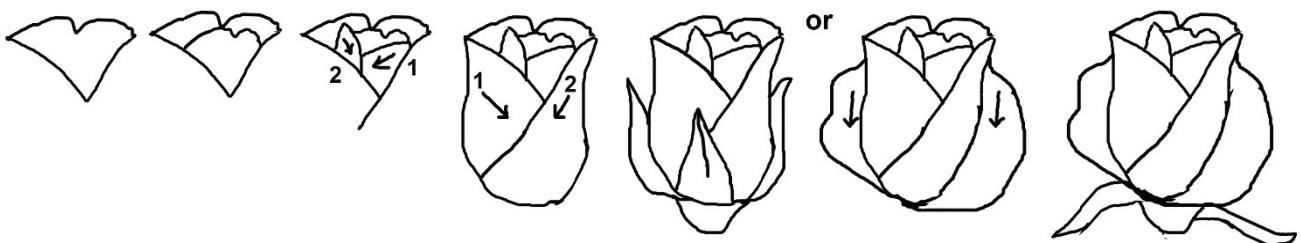


The Holy Spirit is given to us to enable us to love with embracing love. Christian love is not dependent on how others treat us. It is dependent on the choices we make and how much we allow the Holy Spirit to empower us. Sometimes this depends on how willing we are to follow His leading and spend time listening for His voice.

Richard Klysz wrote that rose petals were like "neighbourly arms." See how they come down embracing each other in his photo. He likened it to a chain of arms. Each one being embraced by the one before it, right into the centre. Choose one aspect of love and pray, or share something about it, or tell of a time when you or someone else (in the Bible if you like) demonstrated that aspect of love.



Activity: If painting, follow the arrows for brush strokes.



Use an angled shading brush. Add light pink to the long end of the brush and red the other.

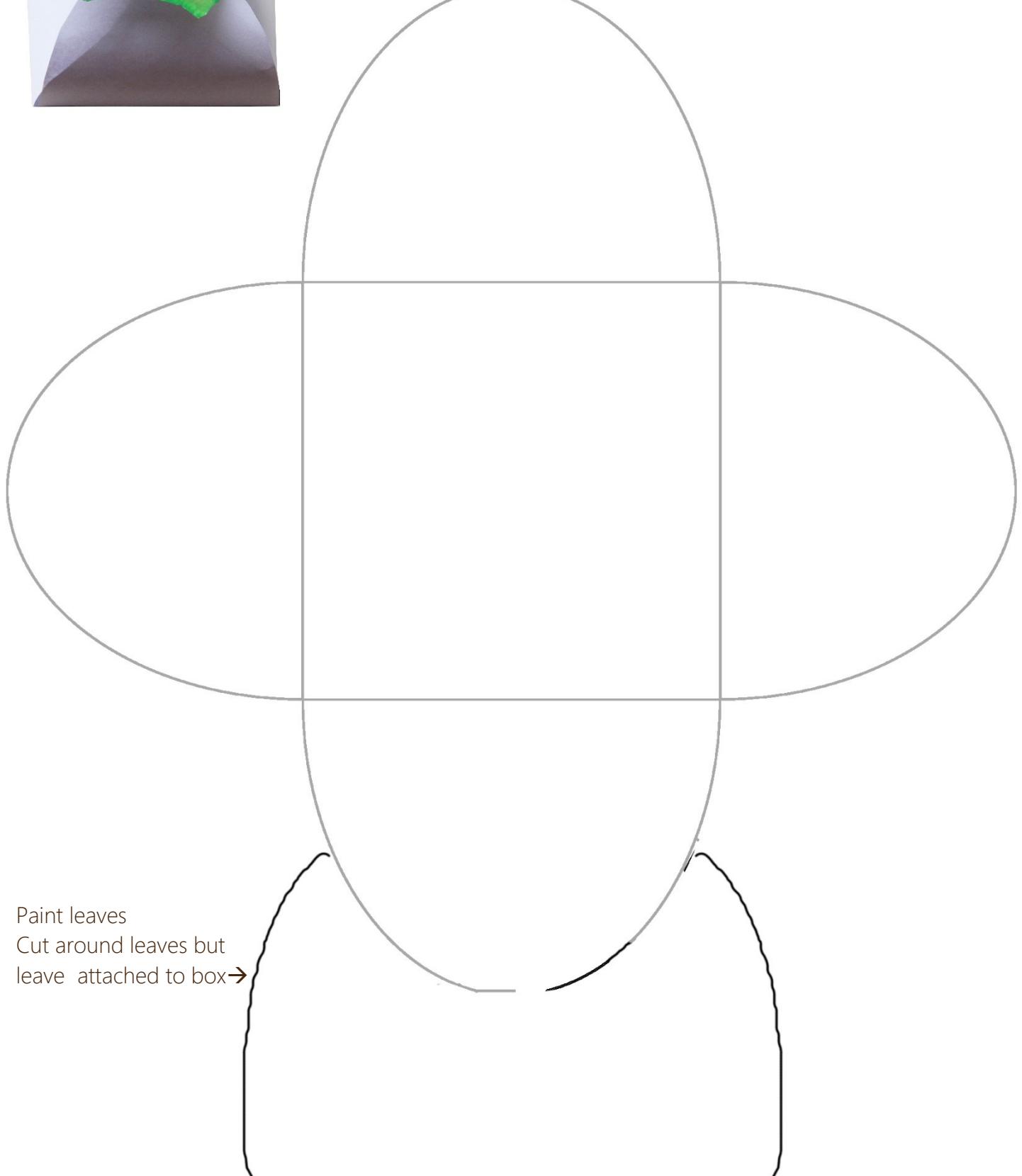
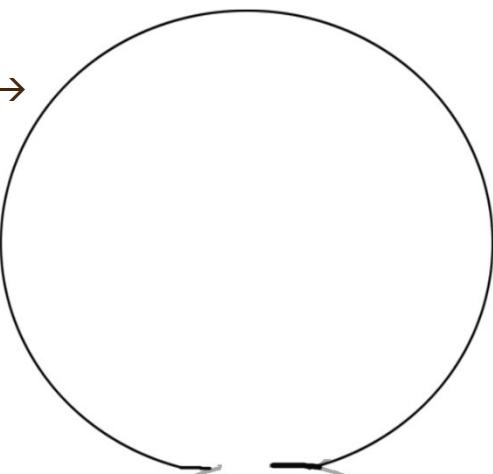


Activity: Paint a rose and leaves on the box template.

Take one of my gluten-free biscuits or make flower shaped biscuits and paint with chocolate and/or icing. Place in rose box and give as a gift to someone you know.



Paint rose in circle →



Paint leaves
Cut around leaves but
leave attached to box→