

# VALENTINE'S IDEAS

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FOR KIDS + CHURCHES

# GREATER LOVE

**We were created by a loving God, so it is only natural that kids need to feel loved in order to best develop and succeed. Many kids naturally have questions about love. What does it mean? What it looks like? How do you know if someone loves you? How do I show people I love them?**

**Valentine's day, while heavily commercialized, is a fantastic opportunity to start a conversation with your kids about true love and what it really means.**

*The Discipleship Ministry Team - Children*  
South Pacific Division

# ABBREVIATED HISTORY OF VALENTINE'S

The history of Valentine's day and the story of its patron saint is somewhat of a mystery. It is thought that this holiday's origins are in the ancient Roman festival of Lupercalia, a fertility celebration commemorated annually on February 15. The Roman Catholic Church changed this to February 14 around 496.

There are three main Christian legends about St. Valentine:

- \* He was a priest who continued to perform marriages after the Roman Emperor outlawed marriage.
- \* He was killed trying to rescue Christians imprisoned for their faith.
- \* He fell in love with a jailor's daughter while he was in prison for his faith.

# VALENTINE'S IDEAS



Kids naturally have questions about love, what it means, what it looks like, how to express and receive it. Valentine's day is a fantastic opportunity to start a conversation with your kids about true love and what it really means. Try to get intergenerational, build authentic relationships and make a few noteworthy memories together as a family or as a church.

We have put together the ideas below to help you get started:



**Write Jesus a love letter**

Have children make and decorate cards. After talking about Jesus and his love for us have them write inside the cards a private love letter to Jesus (or just a letter to Jesus).



**1 Corinthians 13 heart garland**

To make this DIY heart garland, all you do is fold a fan in strips about 6.5cm wide. Next, draw a half a heart connected on both sides as shown below. Cut it out.



Older kids can write the passage on the hearts. If your kids are younger write the different elements of the verses on each individual heart. As you write each one down discuss the meaning with your kids.

*Idea borrowed from <http://meaningfulmama.com>*



### **Make a bird feeder**

Love is not only for humans to show to other humans, we can show love to our environment and help the creatures in our neighbourhood. Making bird feeders is such a fun activity to do with the kids, and a great way to show our love and appreciation for our feathered friends.

There are a number of different recipes online, some using vegetable shortening, others using gelatine or peanut butter. Choose a recipe that works for you.

Either make these with your kids and have a conversation about Gods love for creation. Or for Sabbath school pre-make these and have the children package them for their families or church members with notes about how we love them and possibly include a bible verse.

*Idea borrowed from <http://alphamom.com/>  
<http://www.wineandglue.com/>  
<http://giving.innerchildfun.com/>*

## **Gifts and craft's for kids to create for others**

Have the kids in the Sabbath school classes create something to give to all the adults in church or to their neighbours to tell them that they love them and appreciate them. For example:



### **Woven heart filled with chocolate**

This is a Danish Christmas tradition, but is perfect for valentine's. Print and cut out the heart template (link below) and weave together. Once finished fill with something special and include a note.

*Instructions here* <http://www.craftster.org/forum/index.php%3Ftopic=363100.0>



### **The ABC's of love.**

Use this free printable to make a card and talk about the ABC's of Jesus' love for us. If you want you could attach a heart shaped chocolate where the heart is printed.

*Free printable here* <http://www.oopseydaisyblog.com/2012/01/abc-valentine-easy-peasy-valentine.html>



### **Printed message/Bible verse with gift attached**

Print a little card (the size of a business card) and attach a chocolate, packaged cookie, candy or anything else that is economical and message appropriate.

*Ideas here*      <http://allourdays.com/2013/01/so-loved-valentines-day-cards-free-printable.html>  
<http://simpleasthatblog.com/2015/01/eos-lip-balm-valentine-candies-printable-tags.html>



### **Non-food ideas gift ideas**

Similar to the previous idea but no-food to avoid allergies etc.

*Ideas here*      <http://www.theidearoom.net/2015/01/50-diy-kids-classroom-valentines-day-ideas.html>  
<http://lisastorms.typepad.com/lisa-storms/2013/02/printable-arrow-valentines.html>



### **Secret love messages from Jesus**

Print out messages from Jesus and hide them inside this fortune cookie like origami. Place them in baskets for kids to hand out or take home.

*Idea here*      <http://bunchesandbits.blogspot.com.au/2010/02/fortune-cookie-class-valentines.html>





**Paper Aeroplane with note:**

Print a paper aeroplane template on paper or provide each church member an A4 sheet of paper. Have them write a love note to Jesus or an encouraging note to someone else and then have them fly the planes after church outside or as a part of the service if there is an appropriate time to do so.

*Idea here*

*<http://www.nobiggie.net/paper-airplane-valentine/>*





### **Valentine's day love & thankfulness tree**

This is a fun idea for in the foyer or main auditorium of your church. It's an intergenerational activity that you can do together as a congregation (possibly as a part of the welcome). For this you will need a printer, pens, paper, scissors, string, branches, a pot or vase and white paint.

**How To:** Gather large branches and if you have time spray-paint them white (may require two coats). Stick them together in a plant pot of large vase so they stand up. Place this in the church foyer or auditorium. If you have time decorate the tree with a few clip on birds and pre-hung hearts (can make 3D or 2D hearts). Cut out as many hearts as you need for one or two, for each member of your congregation, thread sewing cotton or any other string through the hearts.

On Sabbath have a child or adult introduce the activity (have children hand out the hearts at the door or when everyone is seated) have each member in the church write on the heart one thing they love about Jesus, or the church, or that they are thankful for this week. Then have everyone come and hang their hearts on the tree.

Say a congregational prayer.

*Idea modified from <http://thehousethatlarsbuilt.com/>*



LOVE IS PATIENCE  
DOES NOT ENVY, IT  
IS NOT PROUD. IT DOES NOT  
OTHERS, IT IS NOT  
IS NOT EASILY ANGRY  
RECORD OF WRONGS  
DELIGHT IN EVIL  
THE TRUTH. IT  
ALWAYS TRUSTS  
ALWAYS PERSEVERES  
BUT WHERE THERE IS  
THEY WILL CEASE  
TONGUES, THE