

Showing God's Love: An Activity for Children

By Janet Zimmerman

February is the month for Valentine's Day! Children excitedly choose Valentine's Day cards for their classmates and other special people. They look forward to receiving cards and candy from their family and friends. School classes often hold parties. It is a fun-filled time.

Valentine's Day offers a great opportunity to focus on the love of God. In particular, we can show our love for God as we express our love for our family and friends. Encourage your children to adopt a group of people who may be forgotten on Valentine's Day. Your children can make cards, bake cookies, prepare bags of candy, or accomplish some other project for the group.

To find a potential group, contact a local nursing home, a children's home, a ministry that serves meals to homebound persons, a community-based organization, or even your own church. Encourage the children to express in their cards that they will be praying for the recipients and that God loves them.

This project will be fun for the children and will help them learn what it means to reach out to "one of the least of these."

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Agape!




"Love one another,
just as I have loved you."

—John 13:34

Prayers for February 2008

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 God, I pray that you will reveal opportunities that I might show love to others as you have shown to me. John 13:34	2 God, teach me to be patient and kind and not be envious, boastful, arrogant or rude. Corinthians 13:4-7
3 God, fill my thoughts with whatever is true and noble, right and pure, whatever is lovely and admirable. Philippians 4:8	4 God, let today be a day where I express my love for Christ in all my actions. Psalm 40:10	5 God, thank you for your love, compassion and salvation. Enter each of our hearts. Exodus 34:6	6 God, help me to teach others about Christ's unending love for them. 1 Chronicles 16:34	7 God, may all of us who are troubled find relief and comfort through our faith in you. Proverbs 3:3	8 God, show me a moment of quiet time when I might reflect on the awesome power of your love. Joshua 23:11	9 God, draw me nearer to you and enable me love you with all my heart. Deuteronomy 6:5
10 God, may your unfailing love rest upon us. We put our hope in you. Psalm 33:22	11 God, may the love of justice and care for humankind be the foundation of legislation passed in our state. Psalm 33:5	12 God, may the love in our marriages be a reflection of the devotion and love of Christ. Ephesians 5:33	13 God, be present with newlywed couples so that the love that brought them together grows with each passing year. Song of Solomon 2:2	14 God, thank you for all the people who care about me, support me, and love me. Psalm 26:3	15 God, we call on you to surround our children with your grace and love, to protect them and to guide them. Mark 10:14	16 God, help me to appreciate the love my parents have for me and to find a way to honor them. Exodus 20:12
17 God, enable my children feel the depth of love I have for them and to know the depth and love I have for you. Romans 8:14	18 God, thank you for loving the world that you gave your only son so that we may have everlasting life. John 3:16	19 God, let me not only show love by my words, but by my deeds. 1 Corinthians 16:14	20 God, remind me that nothing can separate me from the love of Christ. Romans 8:35	21 God, teach me to embrace love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23	22 God, help us to be completely humble and to respond to one another in love. Ephesians 4:2	23 God, create in me a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. 1 Timothy 1:5
24 God, show me an opportunity to offer a hand to someone in need. Proverbs 19:17	25 God, teach me to love my neighbor as myself. Mark 12:31	26 God, may my church be a place where all people feel love and acceptance. Psalm 84:1	27 God, prepare my mind and heart to show love to those who show adversity toward me. Proverbs 17:9	28 God, as my church grows let the love for each member be shown throughout all our churches activities. Romans 12:10	29 God, remind me to share a smile with a stranger and to be warm and generous to everyone I meet. 1 John 4:19	 www.ngumc.org