

A Gift for Valentine's Day & Beyond

**With faith, hope & love
from the
1 Corinthians 13 Parenting Team
Your experts in faith,
family & education**

1Corinthians13Parenting.com

Valentine Great Date

10 Great Dates & 1 Corinthians 13 Parenting

Valentine Great Date

Have a “Memory Lane”

Pre Date Preparation: Make reservations for two at your favorite restaurant.

Date Night Tips: As you enjoy being together, talk about your own love story. On this date you'll get to enjoy the past, celebrate the present and look forward to the future.

Enjoying the Past - Talk about:

- First time you saw each other
- First date
- First kiss
- Favorite dates
- When you decided to tie the knot
- Wedding day
- Honeymoon
- Most romantic moments

Looking Forward

What are some fun things
we can do to build
memories in
the
future?

Great Date

*For more Great Dates and resources,
go to www.10greatdates.org*

The Lord's Day and Groundhog Day!

1 Corinthians 13 Parenting

Draw a profile or silhouette of each of your kids by using their shadow. After tracing their profiles, use that as a pattern to cut the profile out onto black paper. Hang these the profiles of each family member in the kitchen or family room. These will be used later in the days leading up to Valentine's Day.



Valentine love from Lori Wildenberg
1 Corinthians 13 Parenting Co-founder

A Secret Cupid

Anonymous Acts of Kindness

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Pick a family member's name out of a hat. Keep the person's name a secret! Commit anonymous secret acts of kindness each day until Valentine's Day.



Ideas to get you started... make the bed, do the family member's chores, tuck a love note under the pillow, sneak a treat into a purse, schoolbag, or coat pocket.

Valentine love from Chris Carter

1 Corinthians 13 Parenting Team Member

I love you! Let me count the ways...

Encouragement on Silhouettes
1 Corinthians 13 Parenting

Give each family member Post-it[®] Notes, one for every person in the family. Write notes of encouragement. For example, "Your smile brightens my day." Put the notes on the silhouettes.

Help little ones by writing the words as they dictate. They may color a picture on the note too.



Photo credit:morguefile.com

Valentine love from Lori Wildenberg
1 Corinthians 13 Parenting Co-founder

1 John 3:1

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Memorize this verse about God's great love with
your family!

What marvelous love the Father has
extended to us!

Just look at it—

we're called children of God!

That's who we really are.

But that's also why the world doesn't

recognize us or take us seriously,

because it has no idea who he is

or what he's up to.

1 John 3:1 MSG

Valentine Fun

1 Corinthians 13 Parenting

- Cut out paper hearts, add clues, and send your family on a treasure hunt with a small treat at the end.
- Make an extra dinner and take a serving to a shut in or widow.
- Cut heart shapes out of English muffin bread. Brush with butter.
- Toast in oven for croutons to put in soup or in salad.
- Do a "color" dinner or breakfast - all red or pink foods.
- Let your kids make a romantic dinner for Mom and Dad.

Death by Chocolate

Make a 9x13 pan of brownies, from scratch or a box. Mix up 3 (3 oz.) boxes of chocolate mousse mix. (Dr. Oetker is the brand I like.) Whip up a pint of whipping cream, adding a little powdered sugar or use large tub of Cool Whip. Crumble brownies in glass trifle bowl or in individual glasses. Layer brownies, mousse, Heath bits, whip cream. Repeat. Sprinkle top with Heath bits. You could definitely do raspberries instead of Heath bits and add a chocolate heart on top!



Fancy Fast Chicken

4 chicken breasts. Put a slice of Swiss cheese on each. (Optional: sauté some mushrooms and put on top.)

Mix a can of cream of chicken or cream of mushroom soup with 1/4 cup white wine. Pour over chicken breasts.

Sprinkle Pepperidge Farm herb stuffing mix on top to cover. Drizzle melted butter over stuffing.

Bake for an hour at 350. Yummy!

From Laura Crosby
1 Corinthians 13 Parenting Team Member

Friday Night Festivities

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Build a fort with a card table, blankets, and pillows. Invite all the kids' stuffed animals too! Read valentine books together in the cozy fort!



Snuggle up to watch a good movie with the whole family! Talk about the film afterward. What was the moral of the story?



Valentine French Toast

1 Corinthians 13 Parenting



Valentine French Toast

6-8 slices bread

2 eggs

1/3 C milk

2 tsp vanilla

butter

maple syrup

Cut slices of bread into heart with a cookie cutter. Whisk eggs, milk, and vanilla together. Dip bread into egg mixture and place in heated pan which has been greased. Cook thoroughly.

Cut out hearts in slices of butter with a small cookie cutter to top off the French toast. Serve with your family's favorite breakfast meat, juice, and fruit.

Valentine love from Becky Danielson
1 Corinthians 13 Parenting Co-founder

Old Gifts can be the Best Gifts

1 Corinthians 13 Parenting

A few years ago my mother called shortly after Valentine's Day to talk to me regarding a comment my daughter had made. She assured me she didn't want to pry into my marriage but she was worried. She proceeded to explain my daughter told her "Mommy made Daddy cry on Valentine's Day." My mother was worried something was wrong and wanted to know how to support Rick and me.



After chuckling about the confusion, I was concerned my daughter hadn't understood what had happened. She hadn't realized Rick's tears were tears of joy, not sadness. I explained how I had re-gifted my sweet husband with letters he'd sent me while I studied abroad in Scotland, each and every letter carefully preserved from long ago. I gave them all back with a note, "Remember this my Love. I love you more now than ever before." This sentimental gesture brought tears to his eyes.



Have you keep a card or note from your spouse? Give it back with an added message. Write a new love letter about how much your relationship has changed or grown. Find an old picture or memento from days gone by and add a new twist of words to bring those loving memories back to life. You will be surprised by the outcome. I know that I was!

Enjoy this time and show your love through words and actions rather than new store-bought presents. Valentine's Day is about love; love for family, friends, life, and the Lord.

P.S. Let your kids in on the gift so they don't get confused if there are tears!

Valentine love from Megan Stone
1 Corinthians 13 Parenting Team Member



Secret Agent Prayers

Family Time Training & 1 Corinthians 13 Parenting

Activity: Secret Agent Prayers

Teaching Goal: Some prayers can be done in private.

Scripture: Matthew 6:5-6 And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen, Then your Father who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Ephesians 6:18 And pray in the spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Materials: 10 Sticky notes for each person
Pens
Option: Old magazines, scissors and glue

Why do we pray? Listen to answers. *Talk to God; share worries; thank Him; help others.* **What are some things you've prayed for this week?** Listen to answers. **Let's see what the Bible says about how we should pray.** Invite someone to read Matthew 6:5-6 and Ephesians 6:18. **The Bible tells us to always be praying which would include both publicly and privately.**

Sometimes we pray in front of people, which is publicly. Often times, when we pray publicly we are praying out loud. When do we pray publicly? Listen to answers. See ideas listed below. **Why is it okay to pray publicly?** Listen to answers. *Jesus and his disciples prayed publicly. Publicly is part of praying "all the time."*

Meal time	When driving
Bed time	At Sunday School
Someone is hurt	With a friend

Other times we pray by ourselves. This can be a prayer said out loud, or silently to ourselves. When do we pray privately? Listen to answers. See ideas listed below. **Why is it okay to pray privately?** Listen to answers. *Jesus would go away by himself to pray.* Invite a volunteer to read Matthew 6:5-6.

Laying in bed	Before a test
Thankful for a blessing	At school
Enjoying the beauty of creation	In our thoughts anytime and anywhere!

ACTIVITY: We are going to do some special private prayers called “secret agent prayers.” In a secret agent prayer, people will know that they have been prayed for but they will not know who did it! If we pray for someone and they find out, that is still a good prayer, it just isn’t a secret agent prayer. Secret agent prayers can be hard to do because sometimes we want the other person to know that we are the one who prayed. Remember, God knows and that is what’s really important.

Each person gets 10 sticky notes. Hand out the sticky notes. **Go find a place to be alone for the next 10 minutes.** Ask God to bring to your mind friends or family members who need a special prayer. Write 10 encouraging short prayers, one on each sticky note. Don’t sign your name...it’s a secret.

OPTION: Cut out letters from old magazines and glue them on the sticky notes to form the words in your prayers. Allow more time.

OPTION: Do the 10 prayers together as one family and send them secretly to other relatives, missionaries, friends, pastors, teachers, etc.

YOUNGER CHILDREN: An adult or older child may need to help prepare the sticky note prayers for younger children who cannot write. Both will need to keep the secret.

After 10 minutes, call everyone back together. **Over the next three days, we are going to deliver our prayers. Ask for help if you are trying to reach someone outside the home. What are some creative ways we could deliver our prayers?** Listen to answers. *Slip the prayer in a friend’s school book. Mail it in an envelope. Put the prayer in the equipment bag of a sports mate. Put it on the desk of a teacher.*

Memorize: **God hears my prayer
Anytime and everywhere.**

Close in prayer.

Pray and ask God to bring to your mind another family that would benefit from this activity. Make an extra copy of this lesson and *pass it on*. You may also know a children’s minister who would like to share this lesson with other families.

**Thanks to Family Time Training
for the fun family activity for
14 Days of Love!**



Love Journal

1 Corinthians 13 Parenting

LOVE JOURNAL

Choose whom you will co-create your Love Journal with (spouse or child).

- Purchase or make a journal that you can use long term.
- Use art, poems, pictures, and love letters to express yourself and share your love with the other person.
- The other person will write/create the next entry in the journal in response to your entry.
- Continue taking turns in the journal.
- Use this as a relationship builder for years to come and a way to strengthen the bond between you and your spouse or child.

Valentine love from Karla Marie Williams
1 Corinthians 13 Parenting Team Member

God's Valentine

Family Time Training & 1 Corinthians 13 Parenting

Activity: God's Valentine

Teaching Goal: Tell Jesus that we love Him.

<u>Scriptures:</u>	Love your Neighbor	Matthew 19:19
	Love the Lord Your God	Mark 12:30
	Love One another	John 13:34
	If You Love Me, Feed My Sheep	John 21:17
	Love Builds Up	I Cor. 8:1
	Love is Patient	I Cor. 13:4
	Love is Kind	I Cor. 13:4
	Love your Wife	Ephesians 5:28
	Love the Brotherhood of Believers	I Peter 2:17

Materials: Paper and Markers
Magazines

Valentine's Day is a day when we say, "I love you" to those people we love. We say, "I love you" to Mom, Dad, Grammy, etc. We give and receive Valentine's Day cards. Let's make a Valentine card for Jesus to say, "I love you."

Activity: Card for Jesus. Draw a big heart on a large piece of flip chart paper. Above the heart write WE LOVE YOU JESUS. Below the heart, write HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY. Cut out photos or pictures from magazines that symbolize scriptures about love listed above. It is a good idea to check the magazines in advance to make sure there will be pictures to match the scriptures. Also, use extra photos of family and friends to add to the valentine. Paste the magazine pictures and photographs inside the big heart. Write the scriptures next to the appropriate pictures. Display the valentine on a wall or the back of a door.

Memorize: **This card of valentine love,
Is for Jesus above.**

Close in prayer.

**Thanks to Family Time Training
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14 Days of Love!**



Valentine Strawberries

Sherri Crandall

20 fresh strawberries

3 oz. of cream cheese, softened

2 Tablespoons chopped walnuts

1 1/2 Tablespoons powdered sugar



Dice two strawberries and set aside. Cut the stems off of the remaining berries to form a base for the strawberry to stand on. Starting at the pointed ends and cutting most of the way, but not completely through the stem end, you will slice each strawberry into four wedges.

Beat the cream cheese until fluffy then stir in the diced strawberries, walnuts and powdered sugar. Spoon or pipe the cream cheese mixture into each strawberry.

Valentine Chocolate Covered Strawberries

Sommer Crayton

If you want to be a little creative, dip the strawberries in chocolate and then colorful sugar. Use red, pink, or tan cane sugar.



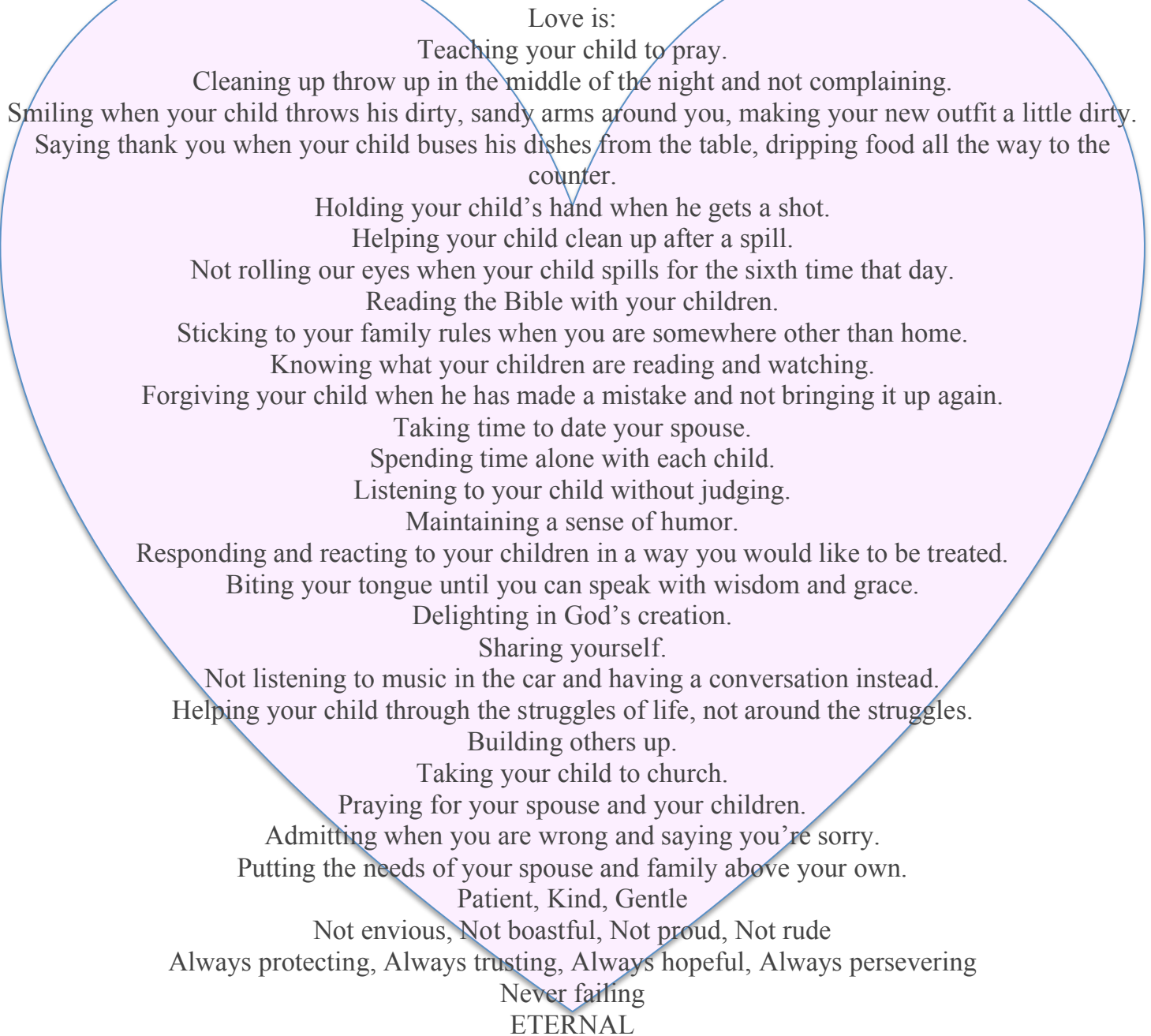
Valentine love from Sherri Crandall & Sommer Crayton

1 Corinthians 13 Parenting Team Members

Photo credit: morguefile.com

Love

By Lori Wildenberg



Love is:
Teaching your child to pray.
Cleaning up throw up in the middle of the night and not complaining.
Smiling when your child throws his dirty, sandy arms around you, making your new outfit a little dirty.
Saying thank you when your child buses his dishes from the table, dripping food all the way to the counter.
Holding your child's hand when he gets a shot.
Helping your child clean up after a spill.
Not rolling our eyes when your child spills for the sixth time that day.
Reading the Bible with your children.
Sticking to your family rules when you are somewhere other than home.
Knowing what your children are reading and watching.
Forgiving your child when he has made a mistake and not bringing it up again.
Taking time to date your spouse.
Spending time alone with each child.
Listening to your child without judging.
Maintaining a sense of humor.
Responding and reacting to your children in a way you would like to be treated.
Biting your tongue until you can speak with wisdom and grace.
Delighting in God's creation.
Sharing yourself.
Not listening to music in the car and having a conversation instead.
Helping your child through the struggles of life, not around the struggles.
Building others up.
Taking your child to church.
Praying for your spouse and your children.
Admitting when you are wrong and saying you're sorry.
Putting the needs of your spouse and family above your own.
Patient, Kind, Gentle
Not envious, Not boastful, Not proud, Not rude
Always protecting, Always trusting, Always hopeful, Always persevering
Never failing
ETERNAL

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