

Love, Sweet Love



The month of February is filled with hearts, hearts, and more hearts! Hearts in classrooms, hearts in stores, hearts in homes. That's because February 14 is Valentine's Day! Lots of people enjoy this time because it gives everyone—kids and grown-ups—the chance to show kindness and love to others.

God's Love Letter

Did you know that God sent love letters to us? The Bible is filled with reminders of God's love for us. Here are just a few:

- ♥ "I love you." (Jeremiah 31:3)
- ♥ "I will never leave you." (Deuteronomy 31:6)
- ♥ "My love for you is higher than the heavens." (Psalm 103:11)

God's Word is the best love letter ever written. In his letter, God tells us that he loved the world so much that he sent Jesus to die for our sins and rise again to live forever (John 3:16). That means we can have joy and peace in our hearts. People who believe in Jesus will live with him always. Valentine's Day reminds us of God's love for us—every single day! So as you make cards, pass out candy, or surprise friends and family with special treats, remember that God has given you the best Valentine gift of all.

It should say "Be Mine" not "Bo Vine" ...and we printed 8 billion hearts that way?



ILLUSTRATION BY SCOTT HOLLADAY

Be Mine!

Make someone's day by creating these **special cards!**

What you need:

- ♥ Construction paper
- ♥ Scissors
- ♥ Markers
- ♥ Heart stickers, glitter, sequins, etc (optional)

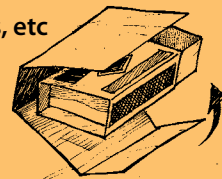
What to do:

Cut out hearts from colorful construction paper. With a marker write special messages such as "Be Mine" "You're Sweet" or "God Loves You." On the back of each heart you could draw a picture of a favorite activity you enjoy doing with that person, or write a verse that shares God's love with them.

Here's how to create a **homemade candy box** for Valentine gift-giving. Go ahead, show the love!

What you need:

- ♥ 1 large matchbox
- ♥ Construction paper
- ♥ Scissors
- ♥ Markers, crayons, stickers, etc
- ♥ Glue
- ♥ Yarn (optional)
- ♥ Small candies



What to do:

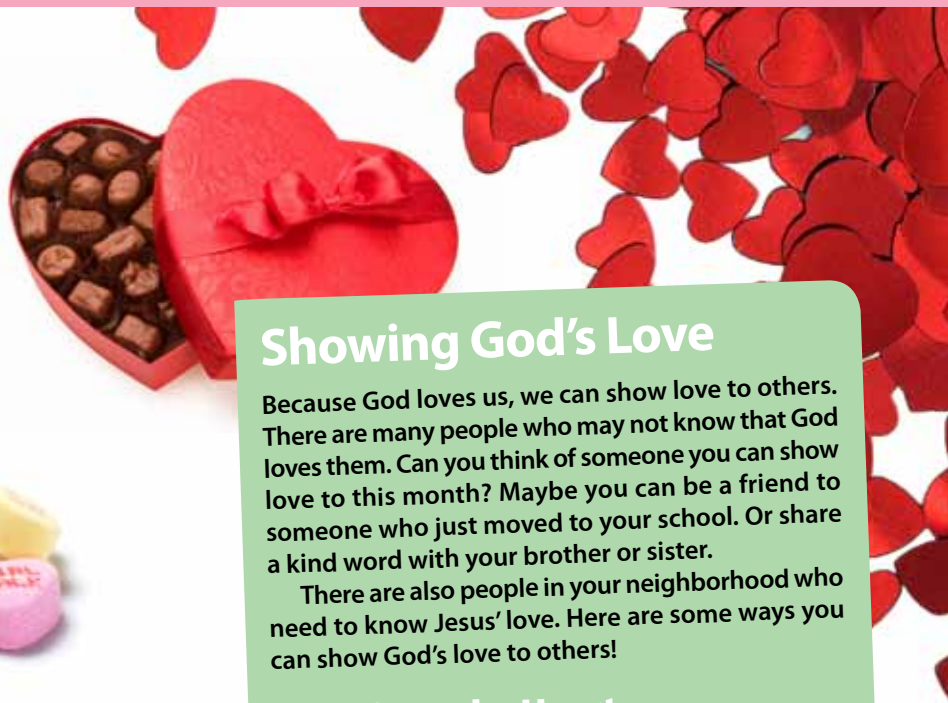
Cut out colored paper and glue it to cover your matchbox. Decorate with small cut-out hearts and write your Valentine's name on the box. Fill the box with small wrapped candies or candy hearts. Write a note to a friend and put it in the box.

FuN Facts

More than 8 billion Sweethearts candies are made each year—that's around **100,000 pounds per day!** They have fun sayings like "I love U," "Text me," or "Love Bug."

The **world's largest box of chocolates** came from London, England, and weighed 3,725 pounds!

In 1861 the creators of Cadbury chocolate created the first **heart-shaped box of chocolates.**



Showing God's Love

Because God loves us, we can show love to others. There are many people who may not know that God loves them. Can you think of someone you can show love to this month? Maybe you can be a friend to someone who just moved to your school. Or share a kind word with your brother or sister.

There are also people in your neighborhood who need to know Jesus' love. Here are some ways you can show God's love to others!

Food from the Heart

Collect food like peanut butter and canned goods. Ask your family to help deliver them to a local food pantry. Make Valentine's cards to tape to the food and write verses of God's love in the cards. Hint: you can find some on these pages!

Secret Valentine

Choose a "secret Valentine" in your family or school. Do special things for them without the person knowing. Here are a few ideas to get you started: make their bed, sharpen their pencils, or put their toys away. Write notes like "God loves you" or "I'm praying for you."

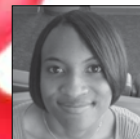
Prayer Pals

Pick someone in your church, school, or neighborhood and be their "prayer pal." Write a letter to that person and write a prayer for them. Send the letter in the mail and invite them to write back to you.

Book Blessings

Go to a library and read one of these books about God's love to a younger person in your family.

- ♥ *Thank You, God, for Loving Me* by Max Lucado
- ♥ *My Valentine for Jesus* by Laurie Lazzaro Knowlton
- ♥ *God Gave Us Love* by Lisa Tawn Bergren



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