

Valentine's Day

Bible Verse:

1 John 4:16

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.

Why We Celebrate This Holiday:

Valentine's Day is a day for showing our love and friendship to our friends and family. It became a mainstream holiday in the mid 1800s when people began exchanging cards, gifts and candy to loved ones. Today, it is common for people to celebrate this day by handing out cards, candy and spending time together.

Lesson Ideas:

1. This is a good opportunity to teach children that God loves them unconditionally. Explain unconditional love to them and how it applies to their everyday life.
2. Show them that Valentine's Day is a good day for showing others that they care. Talk about the ways that they can show others they care (sending cards, helping others). This also a good time to consider starting a project that will benefit others, such as collecting items for the church.
3. Children can also use this time to work on sorting and counting. Give them muffin tins and have them count and sort a jar full of Valentine candy such as colored M & Ms or conversation hearts. This teaches the children how to sort like items. You can mix the types of candy and they can sort by size, color, type or shape.

Decorations:

1. Use pink, red and white to decorate the room
2. Use heart cut outs and hang on the walls and from the ceiling.
3. Decorate a table with a red tablecloth, paper doilies and pink confetti.

Craft:

It is always fun to decorate a Valentine box during class. Have each child bring in a shoe box or other small box. Help the children cover and decorate their box using construction paper, paper hearts, scrapbook paper, stickers and even old valentine cards. You could also give out awards for the boxes. Just make sure that all the kids win an award. Make up funny awards such as "Most Stickers", "Most Creative", and "Fanciest".

Snacks:

1. Heart Shaped Cookies: Before class, make or buy heart shaped sugar cookies. Bring plenty of decorations and white and pink icing for the kids to use. Give them a selection of small candies, and sprinkles. Let the kids decorate their own cookies.
2. Love Punch: Mix a 2 liter bottle of 7-up, Sprite or ginger ale with strawberry punch (or any other red punch).

Game:

Heart Rely:

Cut out several large hearts out of construction paper. Cut them in half to resemble a jigsaw puzzle. Hand out the heart halves to the kids and see how fast the kids can find their heart match.

Gift Idea:

Stick Gum Butterfly:

Here is a cute craft you can make and give to your kids. Take a stick of gum (a long stick) and turn it into a butterfly. The gum stick will be the body. Add googly eyes and a mouth using a marker. Cut out two small hearts and glue them on the back for wings. Cut a pink pipe cleaner in half and glue on the back for antenna.