

YOUTH LOVE WEEK

The week surrounding Valentine's Day would be a good time for the youth group to show their love to others in a special kind of way. The group can first compile a list of all the people in the church (or elsewhere) that they would like to express their love and appreciation to and then think of meaningful ways to accomplish this during the week. The list of people can include workers in the church like the pastor, Sunday school teachers, parents, or perhaps senior citizens in the church.

The kids can then brainstorm ideas for something that they can do or give to each person. They might do things like bake cookies, make fruit baskets, take someone out to lunch, visit her, send flowers, baby-sit for free, send cards, books, singing telegrams, or make special valentines. The possibilities are obviously endless. Something like this can do wonders to build relationships

between different age groups in the church and to help the kids to put their love into positive action.

VALENTINE BALLOONS

In this activity, kids are asked to answer the question. What message would a Christian valentine carry? After discussion, the answers should be written on small pieces of paper and then enclosed in red balloons. The balloons should be filled with helium and released, thus spreading the message of "love" around as the balloons travel. Also on the note should be a request that people respond, so that the kids can see how far their "valentines" traveled.

VALENTINE'S DAY GRAFFITI

A simple way to get kids involved in sharing their thoughts on the subject of love would be to hang a large sheet of poster board in the shape of a heart on the wall. Written on the heart should be the words, "Love is." Hang it up several weeks in advance and ask the kids to write their definitions all over the heart. Some will be frivolous, but some will be worth discussing.

VALENTINE FOR A LOST WORLD

To introduce this idea, tell the group that you want them to create a love message that will give hope to a lost world. They should first think through what the message should be, and then each person should construct a "valentine" that would communicate that message. Provide construction paper, scissors, glue, magazines, tape, marking pens, paints and brushes, and so on. Allow the kids to design and complete their valentines. They should be approximately 8½ x 11 inches when folded. Have the group share their valentines with each other. Provide large envelopes for each person, in case she wants to mail her valentine to someone.

VALENTINE VERSES

Cut out heart-shaped pieces of red construction paper big enough to write on, or get some Valentine's Day cards that have room to write on them. You will need

one for each member of your group. On each heart or card, you should write a Bible verse that has something definitive to say about love. Examples: Colossians 3:14; 1 John 4:10; John 13:35; 1 Timothy 6:10; Romans 8:35; 1 Corinthians 13:4-6, etc.

Then allow each person to take a heart and to share her verse with the entire group. She can also comment on how that verse could be applied in a practical way in her life. Challenge her to keep that verse with her throughout the week and to try to make it a part of her life.