

Our Family's Adventure

Anchored in Christ February 2017

Our Family's

Begin devotion time by lighting a candle to remind your family that God is there with you.
OR, have your family come up with your own way to start your devotion time.

Adventure

What is the most well-known date that most of us might celebrate in February? That's right: Valentine's Day. Usually today, people celebrate either friendship or romantic love on February 14th. But did you know that the origins of St. Valentine's Day really look little to nothing like they do today? One of the earliest stories talks about a Christian priest named Valentinus who continued to perform marriage ceremonies for Roman soldiers and their brides, even after the emperor decreed that soldiers must remain single.

But whatever its origins, Valentine's Day has become an important day for friendship and love for many people today. In the Greek language of our New Testament, there are actually three words that we translate into English as "love." Eros is best understood as romantic love. Filios might be translated as "the love we have for family or our closest friends." Agape is "self-giving love," and is therefore most closely used when speaking of the love of God for us and for all of Creation.

Anchored

Read I John 4:7-12. Discuss:

- Of the three types of "love" in the Greek language, which ones do you think are being talked about in this passage? Why?
- How does God show God's love to us?
- What are some ways that we can show our love for God?

In Christ

- Create a new kind of Valentine's card this year. Write a list of people who you want to give cards to. After each person's name, write one thing that person does that you appreciate. On the cards, tape a small piece of candy (tootsie-roll, for example). Write a message that says, "You make life sweeter by [insert whatever you had written after their name on your list]."
- Talk about examples of each of the three types of love, as you see them around you in daily life.

Close in Prayer

Dear God, thank you for the gift of love. Thank you for our families and close friends, who are with us to celebrate the joyful times and help us through our sad times. Thank you for the gift of romantic love: for people we can share the special moments of our lives with. And, most of all, thank you for the gift of Jesus: your Son, who lived among us and loved us all the way to the Cross. The one who you raised to New Life, that we might all experience Life Eternal. In your Holy Name we pray. Amen

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