

# HOLIDAY

## HINTS & HELPS



VALENTINE'S DAY

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# CONNECTION

## Conversation Hearts Conversations

Conversation hearts are the classic Valentine's Day candy, essential. Some people hate them, some people love them, but when you think about Valentine's Day candy you think about big heart shaped boxes of chocolate and those little nuggets of chalky sweetness.

Their maker Necco, now offer a way to order them up with custom messages. Check out <http://mynecco.com/index.php/personalize>.

Consider creating your own set of hearts with a couple word (eleven characters per line) clue to be conversation starters for your family.

Have a bowl of them on the table or counter, allow your family members to pull one out here and there and ask a question related to the clue.

Here are a few suggestions:

- **Family Memory?**  
*What is your favorite memory of some thing we did as a family?*
- **How R We Blessed?**  
*What is one thing to be thankful for today?*
- **Y Do U Luv Me?**  
*Tell me one reason you love me today?*
- **1 Word 2 Describe?**  
*What is one word to describe our family?*
- **U R Special!**  
*Let me tell you one reason I think you are special to me!*

**It is a simple, sweet Valentine's style way to keep your family talking and sharing!**

# DATE NIGHT

## **Date Nights with Dad and Memory Moments with Mom...**

Whenever your family has chosen to allow your children to start dating, it is important to talk about dating well in advance. It is easy to include talking about dating during 'the BIG talk'. It is even better and bit more fun to learn by doing. Around Valentine's Day consider having a life lesson example by having a *practice* date with your child.

It might be something you already do, in your family having a night out with dad or mom, that you call a 'date', but why not do it up like you really would, or did when you were dating. Have a *real* Valentine's date with your child. Including the pick up at the door, walk out to the car, holding doors, dinner, special activity, and so forth.



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SHOW YOUR CHILD  
WHAT IT SHOULD  
LOOK LIKE TO BE  
ON A DATE AND  
THEN TALK ABOUT  
IT THROUGHOUT  
YOUR TIME AND  
THEN AFTERWARDS.

”

Don't hold back, show your child what it should look like to be on a date and then talk about it throughout your time and then afterwards.

It is a great way also to talk to your child about politeness, manners and etiquette. Allow this to be a time to talk about appropriate behavior and your expectations for them when it comes to dating and relationships.

Depending on the age of your children and family rules, make this a discussion starter that is part of an ongoing conversation about relationship, dating, marriage, and purity. It also is an outstanding way to have an interactive discussion about your Christian worldview of gender roles, behavior, and equality.



# SERVICE

## Hearts of Service

Make this Valentine's Day season more than a time about romantic love but also about showing Godly love. Go out and purchase a set of age-appropriate for your child/children's age, blank Valentine's Day cards. If your family and children are creative make your own blank 'heart-shaped' cards.

Have your family spend some time looking around for ways to serve your neighborhood and area. Come up with a list of ideas, needs, and "random acts of kindness" your family can do together on Valentine's Day or the weekend before or after. Pray about ways to be a witness to the area you live in and to the people that live near you.

As a family using the blank Valentines, write encouragement notes and/or Bible verses on them including a short note from your family. As you go about your projects and serving leave behind one of these "hearts of services" cards. It is especially fun if your family chooses to do something anonymously only leaving behind a "heart of serve" card.

**You might be surprised; it might just end up being a yearly mid-winter family tradition!**



# FLOWER POWER

Valentine's day is a day traditionally celebrated by couples. It is time when dating couples and married couples, do special things for each other. It is time of memories and surprises. It is a time to get dressed up, go out and for that special someone to bring you flowers.

What about those people who have lost that special someone? Valentine's Day can be especially hard for them. It is even harder for people who are also shut-in or in elder care community.

Call a near by elder care community or contact your church to get a list of older members who have lost someone. Create a list of people both women and men who could use a bit of Valentine's Day cheer.

Go to your local florist and buy carnations or if you can afford it, even roses. Have enough roses to give one to every women you are planning on visiting.



Also plan on visiting some men, as well. For men, have flowers made into boutonnieres or cut off just the flower and use a safety pin to create your own.

As a family go out and be the special flower delivery to the people on your list. Present the flowers to the women and for the men pin it on their shirt for them.

Take some time to visit, spread a bit of God's love, and even allow them to share about their lost loved one.

**They will be surprised and blessed but your family will be also, as you bring some Valentine's love and joy back to someone who needs it!**

LET'S GO  
ON THE  
JOURNEY  
TOGETHER.

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