

HAM LANE FLN

FAMILY LIFE NEWSLETTER

DON'T YOU JUST LOVE LOVE!?!

February is here! And along with it, a holiday that seems to have a polarizing response, Valentine's Day. Although the official origins of the holiday are lost to time, "one legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to marry couples in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered his execution" (history.com article "History of Valentine's Day"). Hence the romantic background of the modern holiday. But Valentine's Day doesn't have to be just for couples, when we consider that the Bible's message of love is for everyone and that Jesus' bride, described in the book of Revelation, is the church (you and me), we can all celebrate! So find a way this month to spread the love that you've freely been given in Christ. Happy Valentine's Day!

SOMETHING WE LIKE

My wife, Carrie, purchased this Bible Verse Jar off Amazon and placed it out in the open for our kids to pick out a verse whenever they were expressing certain emotions. Its been helping them learn that no matter the emotion, God's Word has something encouraging to help them through!



DID SOMEONE SAY FREE STUFF!?!

Need an inexpensive option for your kids' Valentine's Day card exchange at school? Group Publishing, creators of our Kids Praise curriculum, sent out free Christian Valentine cards, containing many of their most popular Bible buddy characters! Just click on the following link or copy it into your browser for the free pdf. <https://tinyurl.com/grouppubvalentinecards>

WRITING GOD'S WORD IN YOUR KIDS' HEARTS

Adapted from "Christian Parenting: Morning Minute." By Steph Thurling. 2026.

In Acts 17, Paul and Silas come upon the town of Berea, where we are told the people there examined scripture to see if Paul's teaching was true. As a result, many of them believed! God's Word is an essential element of our faith, but why don't we, like the Bereans, approach scripture with eagerness?

Memorizing Scripture can feel intimidating, especially if you are new to it. But it can be simple and so rewarding. God's Word strengthens us, keeps us encouraged, and reminds us of who God is and who we are in him. When Scripture is tucked into our hearts and minds, it often returns at just the right moment, guiding us when we need comfort, peace, or direction.

It's not about perfection. It is about giving our hearts truth to hold onto. A single verse that your family learns together can be a source of strength long before you realize you need it.

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Your home can make Scripture memory feel natural: write verses on sticky notes, kitchen chalkboards, lunchbox cards, or even the car dashboard. Sing a verse to a familiar tune or create a fun hand motion routine. Even listening to worship music in the car is a great way to do it! Small, simple repetition helps God's Word settle into your hearts with ease.

This month, listen to worship music in the car and see how much Scripture you can hear woven into the lyrics. When you notice a verse or biblical phrase, point it out to your kids and talk about where it comes from in the Bible.



FAMILY NIGHT SUCCESS!

This past Friday night we held our first, newly-revamped Family Night! We had a fun family competition with some Valentine-themed Minute-To-Win-It games, of which the Oates cousins took home the grand prize; a Menchie's gift card! Plus, we enjoyed lots of great snacks, ice cream, a movie in Greg's office, table tennis, battleship, corn hole, Nintendo games, and more! If you missed out this past month, don't worry, the next one is just a few weeks away. February 27 at 7pm. Join us!

FAITH CONVERSATION STARTERS

- Where have you seen God at work this week? Month?
- Who is someone who could use your prayers right now?
- What do you think of Valentine's Day?
- How do you express to someone your love for them?
- How do you like others to show their love for you?
- What is the most loving thing someone could do for another?
- How do we know God loves us?
- Do we know any Bible verses that talk about love?
- If you never heard about God, what's something that might give you a clue he exists and cares for you?

COMING UP THIS MONTH



It's time to bring the heat to our annual church-wide chili cook-off! Enter a chili and try to beat out the competition, or just come and taste test them all! This is a perfect event to invite the community to, so let's get inviting! Sunday, Feb 22nd, at 6pm.



If you still haven't joined the band app group, now's the time! This is the best place to get all the up-to-date info on events, class, and family news. And if you're concerned about privacy, don't worry, it's a private group.

MEMORY VERSE

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."

—Psalm 119:11