

Ponderings

A “FEBRUARY” DEVOTIONAL

I Corinthians 13:4...”Love is patience and kind...”

Many Christian couples include a reading from 1 Corinthians 13 as a part of their wedding ceremony. These words describe the kind of self-giving, self-sacrificial LOVE that keeps families together. The beauty and practicality of the description make it appropriate for weddings, to be sure.

This passage is more than that, though. Much more!

“Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand it’s own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.” (1 Corinthians 13:4-7. NLT)

It's tempting to read this passage asking ourselves, “How am I doing? Do I truly love my spouse, my kids, my co-workers, and people in general.?”

If you customarily think of these words as a kind of checklist, take a moment now to reread them through a fresh lens. This time, think about our Lord Jesus rather than yourself. Framed in that way, the passage sounds something like this:

Jesus is patient and kind. Jesus never envies or boast. He is never arrogant or rude, self-seeking, irritable, or resentful. He does not rejoice in wrong, but rejoices when justice prevails. Jesus never gives up on us. He is always faithful, always hopeful. Jesus bears with us in every situation.

To sum it up, Jesus' love has no end. It never runs out. His love for us is limitless. His commitment to us never fails.

That infinite love took our Savior all the way to Calvary's cross. That love suffered, bled, and died for you! That love defeated death and opened eternal life to all who believe!

Knowing and trusting this brings peace. It floods our hearts with contentment and confidence. What’s more, Jesus’ love makes it possible for us to love others – even those people in our lives who are very hard to love.

PRAYER... Jesus your love is astonishing, amazing, overwhelming! I do not deserve to be your beloved. But I am! Teach me to trust your love more deeply. Then, whisper to me ways I can love others as you have loved me. Amen

Devotional is taken from “Whispers of God's Love" by Jane L. Fry
Submitted by Nancy Rosendahl



- ♦ **Wednesday, February 5**
SLCW
Home Circle
- ♦ **Monday, February 10**
Samuel Deacons/Council Meetings
- ♦ **Sunday, February 16**
BP Checks at Samuel
- ♦ **Wednesday, February 19**
SLCW Bible Study
- ♦ **Wednesday, February 26**
Ash Wednesday Service at Samuel
- ♦ **Tuesday Mornings**
Quilting at Samuel
- ♦ **Wednesdays**
Confirmation

ATTENTION SAMUEL CONGREGATION:

1 Corinthians 13:13 "There are three things that remain-faith, hope and love-and the greatest of these is love." Our hearts are often the focus in the month of February!

Mark your calendar to attend church on February 16th. The congregation will have the opportunity to learn more about the new AED (Automated External Defibrillator) located near the entrance. Also, a free blood pressure check by Gayleen Rutherford or Barb Dooley will be available before or after the service.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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WOMEN

Holmes Women

HOME CIRCLE

Wed, February 5th @ 1:30pm

At The Meadows

Devotions/Lesson: Naomi Lette

Hostess: Marguerite Wagner

JANUARY FLOWERS:

Joan Gangestad



Samuel Women

SLCW

Wed, February 5th @ 9:00am

Program: Quilting

Hostess: Potluck

Bible Study

Wed, February 19th @ 9:30am

Lesson: Marge Brown

Hostesses: Marge Brown



FEBRUARY

Birthdays

HOLMES

- February 6th~ Maverick Burren**
- February 9th~ Grant Gangestad
Kevin Johnson**
- February 11th~ Mary Jane Derscheid
Vicki Iverson**
- February 14th~ Troy Schermer
Rick Manning**
- February 16th~ Kaylyn Gangestad**
- February 26th~ Gale Draves
Max Gangestad**
- February 28th~ Kevin Reed
Jacob Schermer
Brayden Johnson**

SAMUEL

- February 1st~ Hunter Baack**
- February 4th~ Sandra Thomason
Randi Willard**
- February 6th~ Marilyne Johnson
Sonya Middleton**
- February 8th~ Gayle Morgan
Pat Grandgeorge
Victoria Morgan**
- February 9th~ Steve Elston
Blake Morgan
Don Reed**
- February 10th~ Kayla McNew**
- February 12th~ Tim Dooley**
- February 15th~ Dan Jorgensen**
- February 19th~ Mark Ketchum**
- February 20th~ Shawn Rachu
Tony Rasmussen**
- February 22nd~ Laurie Krietlow**
- February 23rd~ Angelina Contreras
Reece Demuth
Anna Belle Hinz**
- February 26th~ Jaxson Baack**
- February 28th~ Abe Spangler
Josh Steig**

5 Days per week Bible Reading Program

Five readings per week gives you room to catch up or take a day off to focus on other Bible readings or spiritual disciplines. Here is your reading plan for February:

February 2-8

- ___ Genesis 1-2; Psalm 19; Mark 1
- ___ Genesis 3-5; Mark 2
- ___ Genesis 6-8; Psalm 104; Mark 3
- ___ Genesis 9-11; Mark 4
- ___ Genesis 12-15; Psalm 148; Mark 5

February 9-15

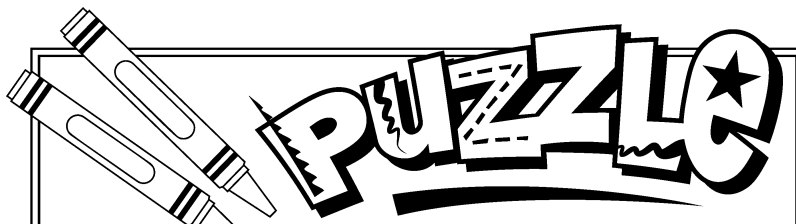
- ___ Genesis 16-18; Mark 6
- ___ Genesis 19-20; Psalm 1; Mark 7
- ___ Genesis 24-25; Psalm 4; Mark 9
- ___ Genesis 26-27; Mark 10

February 16-22

- ___ Genesis 28-29; Mark 11
- ___ Genesis 30-31; Psalm 11; Mark 12
- ___ Genesis 32-34; Psalm 145; Mark 13
- ___ Genesis 35-37; Psalm 12; Mark 14

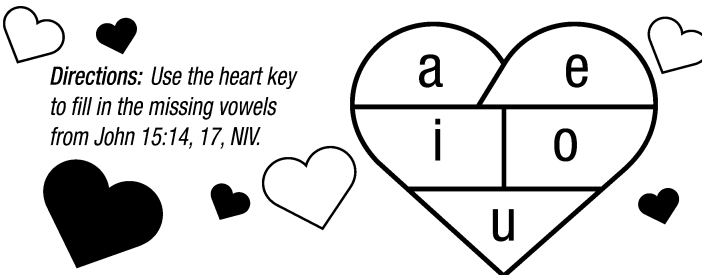
February 23-29

- ___ Genesis 41-42; Mark 16
- ___ Genesis 43-44; Psalm 24; Galatians 1
- ___ Genesis 45-46; Psalm 108; Galatians 2
- ___ Genesis 47-48; Psalm 25; Galatians 3



A friend in Jesus

In the Bible, Jesus shares what it means to be a true friend.



Directions: Use the heart key to fill in the missing vowels from John 15:14, 17, NIV.

“Y _ _ r _ my fr _ _ nds _ f
y _ _ d _ wh _ t _ c _ mm _ nd. ...
Th _ s _ s my c _ mm _ nd:
L _ v _ _ _ ch _ th _ r.”

JOHN 15:14, 17, NIV

Answer: “You are my friends if you do what I command. ... This is my command: Love each other.” John 15:14, 17, NIV

Friendship Squares

This tasty treat doubles as a game to play with a buddy.



What you need:

- Graham crackers
- Chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Zippered baggie
- Scissors
- Raspberries
- Blueberries

What you do:

1. Gently break cracker sheets in half to form squares.
2. Heat chocolate chips in microwave for 30 seconds. Stir, then continue heating for 30 seconds at a time until melted.
3. Spoon melted chocolate into baggie and snip a small triangle from one bottom corner.
4. On each cracker, squeeze chocolate lines to form a Tic-Tac-Toe board. Let cool.
5. Using the fruit as X's and O's, play Tic-Tac-Toe with a friend. The winner gets to eat the treat!