

February

Sweet Friendships

{ a Women's Ministries Program }



February is known as the month of love. Sweethearts exchange loving sentiments, copious amounts of chocolate is consumed, and much focus is placed on letting that special someone know how much you love them.

February can be a very lonesome month for many people as well. Widows, elderly, and those not fitting the picture of 'happily in love' can often feel left out, dejected, depressed, and unwanted. This is an excellent month to let people around you know how much you love and appreciate them, and more importantly, how much God loves them.

Bible Verse	Decorations	Theme Song
<p>Psalm 40:11 You, O Lord, will not withhold your compassion from me; your lovingkindness and your truth will continually preserve me.</p>	<p>Anything chocolate! Use brown and pink tablecloths, napkins, plate, etc. For centerpieces - use pink carnations cut short-place in a bowl of water (for height-rest bowl on a cake stand)- surround with chocolate candy</p>	<p>What A Friend We Have In Jesus</p>
Food		
<p>Quick and Easy: Tea & warm beverages, assorted miniature desserts Potluck: have women bring their favorite soup and cracker Elegant: High Tea – offer soup or salad, followed by assorted tea sandwiches, scones w/cream & jam, and assorted bite-sized elegant desserts.</p>		
Activities		
<p>S.I.P. Sisters In Prayer</p> <p>Have a basket of pink hearts and brown kiss shapes with pens available. Invite ladies to select a shape, write down a prayer concern and put it in another basket. At the end of your meeting, have ladies each select a prayer card to take home and include in their prayer time.</p>	<p>Ice Breaker Colorful Conversations</p> <p>For each lady you will need: several different colors of M&M candies put at each place before event begins.</p> <p>For each color of M&M assign a topic, such as: Red: My Favorite Memory; Yellow: Something that makes me happy; Orange: My favorite place to talk to God; Brown: When I'm Stressed I...; Green: A favorite thing I like to do is...; Blue: A great book I read was..."</p> <p>Make a chart - either one large one for in front of the room, or small ones for each table - listing colors and questions. Ladies should take turns going around the table selecting a candy and answering the corresponding question.</p>	<p>Ministry Love Notes From God</p> <p>Create envelopes using the template below. Colorful wallpaper makes a sturdy and attractive package - as do greeting cards. Fold on dotted lines and tape or glue closed</p> <p>Next, create small cards that fit into the envelope-printed with Bible verses about God's love such as: Psalm 13:5, Psalm 17:7, Psalm 31:7, & Psalm 40:11). Place in crinkle bags with a chocolate candy and tied with a pretty ribbon.</p> <p>Have everyone make one for themselves & one to give away to someone needing a reminder that God loves them.</p>

Devotional Thought

Friendship is quite possibly one of the sweetest gifts in life.

Think about it.

Who do you go to when you just need to vent?

To whom do you turn when you need sympathy? Comfort? Understanding?

Which person knows your 'dirt' and still chooses to walk with you? Without judging. Without forcing change. Without expecting perfection?

The Bible has much to say about friendship. Let's look at a few verses.

Jesus on Friendship

John 15:12-15 *"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.*

How To Treat Your Friends

Luke 6:31 *And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.*

Romans 12:10 *Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.*

Ephesians 4:29-32 *Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

Colossians 3:12-14 *Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.*

Importance of Friendships

Proverbs 11:14 *Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.*

Proverbs 17:17 *A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.*

Proverbs 19:20 *Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.*

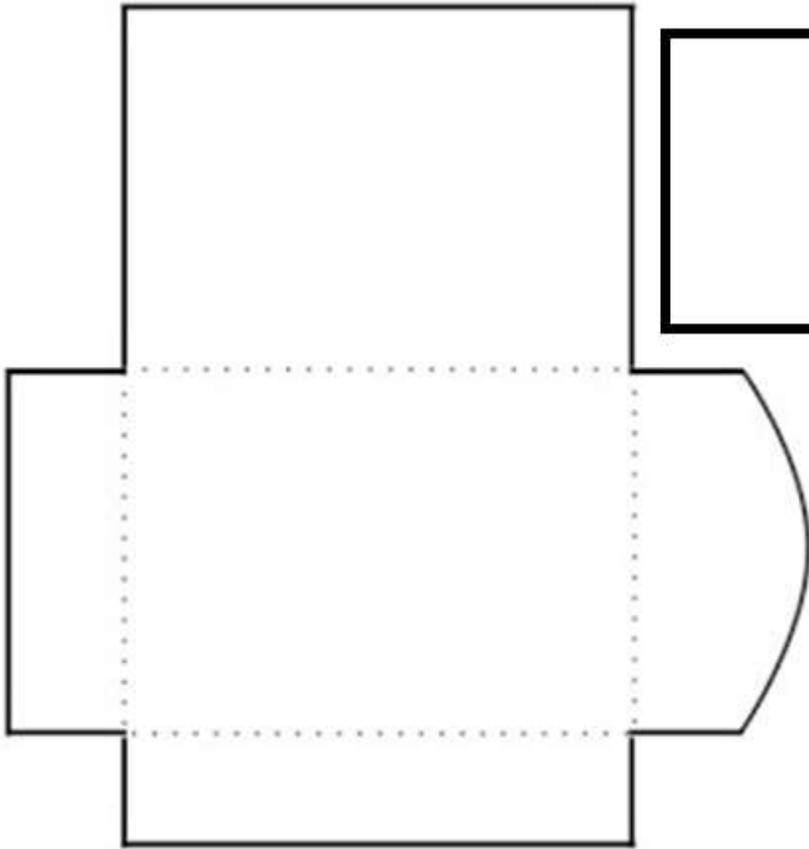
Proverbs 24:5 *A wise man is full of strength, and a man of knowledge enhances his might,*

Proverbs 27:17 *Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.*

Proverbs 18: 24 *A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*

Adapted from <http://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/bible-verses-about-friendship-20-good-scripture-quotes/>

This month – as you contemplate love and relationships – why not take some extra time to identify the friends in your life who have supported, loved, and walked with you; and give them a reminder of how sweet life is with them in it!



God's
Love
Notes