

VALENTINE'S DAY

Around the World

Valentine's Day is celebrated in most countries, but not always the same day or with the same name

In Brazil, Valentine's Day is June 12, and called "Dia dos Namorados" (Boyfriend/Girlfriend day). It is popular to go on a date night

Popular Valentine's Day traditions include exchanging gifts such as roses or chocolates, and a romantic night out or dinner

In Haiti, "Happy Valentine's Day" is "Bòn fèt Sent Valanten", and is celebrated similarly to the USA--if you can afford it

In South Korea, only the girls give gifts to boys on Valentine's Day. Boys give to girls on March 14, and singles celebrate on April 14

In Kenya, "Happy Valentine's Day" is "furaha ya siku ya wapendanao" and they send romantic messages called "ujumbe wa kimapenzi"

In some persecuted countries, specially Muslim majority countries, they don't celebrate Valentine's Day

In Tanzania, Valentine's Day is considered a holiday for the wealthy, the urban, and the young people

In India, many Hindus don't celebrate Valentine's Day. There are often protests, because they don't want the Western influence

In Uganda, you wear red and black, rather than pink, for Valentine's day. Most young people want to "hang out" together

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A Basic History

1

200-
300AD

Valentine served others and was killed

No one knows exactly, but the common tale is that Valentine was a priest who married people in secret when Rome declared it illegal. He was imprisoned, but wrote beautiful letters, signing them "Your Valentine." He was martyred by Rome and made a saint by the Catholic church much later in time.

2

1300s

Geoffrey Chaucer wrote about Valentine's Day

Around this time, it became popular to connect Valentine with love and romance, and it was connected to the specific day, February 14th, that was purportedly the day Valentine was martyred for defying Rome by marrying couples in secret.

3

1700s

Valentine's Day is popular in England

The main things we connect with Valentine's Day are now common: sending flowers, giving candy, and making Valentines cards. Around this time, the day was also connected with hearts, cupid, and doves.

4

Now

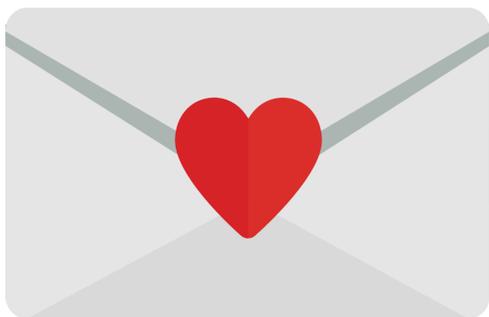
Valentine's Day is a Big Deal

Valentine's Day has its roots as a religious holiday, but now it is much more of a secular and commercial holiday. Kids don't get the day off of school, but most often share some kind of cards with their friends (especially younger children). Most of the world now celebrates this holiday, and over 20 billion dollars are spent on it each year.

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Connected to Missions

1



Write Valentine's Day cards to your missionaries and child sponsorships

Ask them how they celebrate Valentine's Day where they are, and how they would celebrate it if they had a million dollars. Tell them about how you celebrate Valentine's Day.

2



Have a Daddy Daughter Dance fundraiser

There are always a lot of needs with missions. You can ask your missions team or representatives if there are any specific goals, or just general funds you can give to.

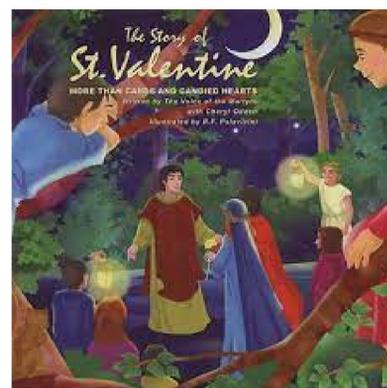
3



Use the 10 Activities from KidsEnjoyingJesus.com

This website has great Valentine's Day ideas, with videos, Bible verses, songs, and printable resources.

4



Learn more about Valentine, a Martyr

Voice of the Martyrs has a fantastic book called "The Story of St. Valentine" which is an easy and great way to talk about martyrdom, and serving others even when you could get hurt