

Kids Event Outline SM

MINISTRY CTA MESSAGE

Expanding the Impact of Your
Gifts of Encouragement



"You're Mine All the Time, Valentine"



Promises

Kids Event Outline



This event outline provides ideas for an hour-long event designed for Valentine's Day. It's perfect for Sunday schools that meet the second weekend in February. You might also think about adapting it for midweek classes and Bible clubs that meet during February.

We've planned your event for you—including a Bible lesson presentation, snack ideas with activities, craft ideas, and games for learners of all ages! May God bless you as you show the kids in your care Jesus' love and begin to explore all the promises he makes to us—because



of his love!



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God's Great

"You're Mine All the Time, Valentine"

Promises

Kid's Event Outline

Decorating Our Space

Promise Hearts Everywhere

As the children arrive (or perhaps the week before), enlist everyone who will attend your event in helping to decorate for it by using items from this list to make hearts.



Materials Needed

- ♥ Red, pink, lilac, and purple construction paper
- ♥ Markers, crayons
- ♥ Scissors (safety scissors for little ones!)
- ♥ Heart templates cut from poster board (optional)
- ♥ Red, white, pin streamers (optional)
- ♥ Foil, paper doilies (available in craft stores or bakeries, optional)
- ♥ Chenille wires (a.k.a. "pipe cleaners," optional)

Each heart the children make should include one of God's great "You're Mine All the Time, Valentine!" promises. (See the *Promises from God* magnet (item # VPG8MT), the *My Valentine from God Accordion Sticker Book* (item # VFG8ST), and the list below.)

Be sure the promise hearts become "conversation hearts"! Talk to the children about the promises they add to the hearts they make and about the holy, powerful, loving, saving Lord who has made these promises to us.

"You're Mine All the Time, Valentine!" Banner

Materials Needed

- ♥ Paper for brainstorming designs
- ♥ Paint, markers, or other art materials
- ♥ Banner for decorating (see ideas on next page)

Enlist some of the older children in creating a theme banner for your event. Several Internet sites offer relatively inexpensive blank banners in nylon or canvas. Lengths and widths vary. Or check with sign shops or printers in your local area. A long roll of butcher paper or art paper will work, as well.

Ask your banner team to sketch out several ideas on paper before they begin to apply paint or markers to the banner itself. You may want to have the team create several options and then ask everyone to vote on which design to execute.

Small-Group Activities That Teach

Create small groups of children (4–6 per group) and have them move from one activity to the next every 10 minutes or so. Mix older children with younger ones in each small group and assign one adult to accompany each group. Ask the adults to offer encouragement and show Jesus' love and care to the children in their group.



Building on the Promises

Materials Needed

- ♥ Several bags of Valentine's "conversation heart" candies
- ♥ Chart paper or a white board
- ♥ Markers

Pair the children up or let individuals work alone to see who can create the tallest "tower" of hearts in 30 seconds. Some children will want to try several times. Let them, as time will allow.

Some of these candies say silly things. Some are serious. But suppose these candies had come to us from heaven! Suppose God sent hearts like these to us. What do you think would be on them? Record suggestions on chart paper or a white board in colorful markers. Refer the children to the promises on some of the decorations they have made if they need help.

If God sent these hearts to us, they would not be blank on one side. Do you know what would be on the other side? A cross! The cross tells us how much God loves us—without using any words at all! The Bible says, "God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners" (Romans 5:8). Ask the children what they think this means and elaborate as time will allow.

Use your conversation to share the Gospel message—our sin and God's salvation in Jesus—especially with children in the group who do not seem to know Christ as Savior.

Before the children leave, pray briefly to thank God for Jesus. Give the children a few candy hearts to eat or take with them.

Valentine Promises from God—A Matching Game

Download the *Valentine Promises from God* game sheets from CTA's Web site (www.CTAinc.com/FreeResources—in the Miscellaneous box, choose "Valentine Promises" game sheet) and make as many copies as you anticipate needing, plus a few extras. Have one *Valentine Promises from God* break-apart magnet (item # VAL8MMT) per child. Let the children pair up and play several rounds of the game with a partner as time will allow.

When a few minutes remain, have each child select the promise they like most of all. Have each child read his or her favorite promise as you move around the table from child to child. (If time will permit, ask volunteers to tell why they chose the promise they did.)

Right before the group leaves, ask each child to hold the magnet piece with his or her favorite promise and fold both hands around it. Then pray together: **Thank you, God, for your great promises!**

Give each child a ziplock plastic bag in which to store their magnet pieces and a take-home copy of the game sheet.

God’s Great “You’re Mine All the Time, Valentine!” Promises Charades (preparation)

Materials Needed

- ♥ Two identical sets of large paper hearts. On one side of each heart, draw a cross. On the other side, write a promise from Scripture (see below).
- ♥ A large decorated box to hold one set of hearts
- ♥ A way to display the second set of hearts where everyone can see the promises displayed
- ♥ A box of props—some silly, others serious or practical (optional)
- ♥ A place to meet out of the sight of the other groups

When each group of children arrives, have a volunteer choose one heart at random from the box and read the promise written on it. Then have the group choose one prop and plan a way to use it as they act out a time when the promise would be helpful and encouraging. When everyone gathers later, their group will act out their scene and the other children will try to guess which promise goes with the situation they are acting out.

Encourage the older children to take the lead in planning, but make sure the younger children get to participate in some significant way in the scene they develop, too. Help all the children understand the promise they will act out. Each group will enact only one scene. One last rule: They may not use any words from the Bible promise in their skit/dialog. They’ll present their skits to the large group later on.

Here are some promises and situations to get you started:

- ♥ [Jesus said,] “I am with you always.” Matthew 28:20 ESV—in a scary time.
- ♥ [God says,] “I will hear.” Zechariah 13:9 KJV—when we’re upset about a problem and don’t have anyone to talk to.
- ♥ [God says,] “I will forgive.” Jeremiah 31:34 KJV—when we’ve hurt someone or disobeyed God’s commands and feel sad and sorry about it.
- ♥ [God says,] “I will help you.” Isaiah 41:10 ESV—anytime we need to do something we think is too hard for us.
- ♥ [God says,] “I have called you by name, you are mine.” Isaiah 43:1 ESV—when other people make fun of us or don’t want to be friends with us; when we feel lonely.
- ♥ “God is our refuge and strength.” Psalm 46:1 KJV—when we have a problem too big for us to solve; when we feel afraid and weak.
- ♥ “God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16 KJV—when we worry we might not make it to heaven, that God may forget about us or exclude us.

Large-Group Activities

God’s Great “You’re Mine All the Time, Valentine!” Promises Charades (presentation)

When each group has participated in all three of the small group activities, gather everyone in a large, open area. Have them sit down near the other members of their small-group, and then



call attention to the promises printed on the large hearts pinned to the board or curtain. Remind everyone that each group has had the opportunity to create a scene to act out for the others. Ask which group would like to go first. When that group has come to the front with their prop, remind them that they cannot use any of the words from the Bible promise in their skit.

Have each group, in turn, act out their skit. When each has finished, invite the other children to guess which Bible promise they were illustrating. When someone guesses the right verse, take it down from the display and give it to the person who guessed correctly.

Have each group in turn present while members of the other groups guess.

Pump Up Cheer

Teach the group the following cheer and perform it together several times. (Each X represents a clap.) It may help at first if you have five posters and five helpers to hold them up. Label the posters **solo**, **claps**, **everyone**, **girls whisper**, and **boys shout**.

Introduce the activity: **Let's learn a cheer that reminds us about God's love. First, we'll learn the claps** (*practice the clapping pattern by clapping the line twice, once for the children and once with them*). **Next, we'll learn the cheer. Repeat after me, "You are mine all the time, Valentine!"** (*Pause and let them repeat the line.*) **Now we're ready for the whole cheer. Our sign helpers will show us the pattern, and we'll repeat the claps at the end.**

Solo: **God says . . .**

Everyone: **XX** (brief pause) **XXX** (pause) **XX** (brief pause) **XXX**

Everyone: **"You are mine all the time, Valentine!"**

Girls whisper: **"You are mine all the time, Valentine!"**

Boys shout: **"You are mine all the time, Valentine!"**

Everyone: **XX** (brief pause) **XXX** (pause) **XX** (brief pause) **XXX**

Let's do it again! Repeat the cheer and make fun variations of it. For example, have everyone whisper each time or shout each time, change body positions each time you repeat—stand, sit, lie down, bend over, wiggle, stretch, spin, skip in a circle.

Summarize briefly: **You are God's "valentine." He loves you enough to die for you! He will never, never stop loving you—Jesus' cross and all of God's wonderful promises prove that!**



Snacks

Valentine Cupcake Walk

Materials Needed

- ♥ One cupcake for each child (could be prepackaged cupcakes)
- ♥ Numbers taped to the floor—as many numbers as there are children
- ♥ A bag, box, or fishbowl filled with number call cards corresponding to the numbers on the floor
- ♥ A CD or cassette of Bible songs

When the music starts, the children begin to walk around the room. When the music stops, they should step on the number closest to them, one child per number. Have a volunteer pull a number from among the call cards. The child standing on the number called gets to choose a cupcake and sit down. Remove that number from both the floor and the pack of call cards. Continue until every child has a cupcake.



Valentine Punch

Materials Needed

- ♥ 1 liter raspberry sherbet
- ♥ 2 ounces pineapple juice
- ♥ 2 liters white soda (7-Up, Sprite)

Put the sherbet in the punch bowl. (It works best if it's half-melted.) Add the pineapple juice. Wisk together until smooth. Add the soda slowly, mixing continuously until the punch bowl is full.

Valentine Smoothie

Materials Needed

- ♥ Low-fat strawberry yogurt
- ♥ Frozen strawberries
- ♥ Frozen bananas
- ♥ Orange juice
- ♥ Kiss candies
- ♥ Low-fat whipped topping
- ♥ A blender



Put the yogurt, berries, and bananas in a blender. Pour a little orange juice on top and blend on high until well mixed. Pour the smoothie into tall glasses and top with a little low-calorie whipped topping and a candy kiss.

Gelatin Hearts

Materials Needed

- ♥ Strawberry gelatin
- ♥ Finely chopped strawberries
- ♥ Fresh strawberries
- ♥ Baking dish
- ♥ Heart-shaped cookie cutters



Prepare a package of strawberry gelatin according to package directions. Fold in a few finely chopped strawberries at the end. Pour the mixture into a baking dish and allow it to set.

Use heart-shaped cookie cutters to cut out hearts. Top each heart with half a strawberry (cut lengthwise).



Closing

Gather everyone and use one of the free Valentine's Day Ministry Messages from CTA (www.CTAinc.com/FreeResources—click on Ministry Message Index and scroll down to Valentine's Day) as your closing worship thought. Distribute the gift associated with it.

Then repeat today's "Pump Up Cheer" one last time. Thank everyone for coming and make sure they have their take-home items. In addition, give visiting children a letter, brochure, or some other preprinted invitation welcoming them and those in their family to become a part of your church family if they don't already have a church family of their own.

After the event and cleanup, gather volunteers and pray for the children who attended, asking God to bless the Word he has planted in their hearts and that his eternal love for them will remain forever their most precious possession.