

WE ARE COMMITTED TO ASSISTING YOU IN BUILDING A STRONGER MARRIAGE. OUR CHALLENGE IS FOR EACH COUPLE TO SCHEDULE ONE DATE NIGHT EACH WEEK BEGINNING WITH VALENTINE'S DAY.

Hi everyone!

In these past few months, one thing we can all agree on is that it has been crazy! Even during the best of times, Valentine's Day can feel a little...cliché. Pressure to plan something that will be appreciated, while navigating the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has added another layer of difficulty. While we may be spending more time together, are we really connecting?

Our marriages are the most important relationship we have outside of Christ, yet often they do not get the attention they require to thrive. With that in mind, we are challenging everyone to be intentional about their marriages by scheduling quality time together in the form of a weekly date night. Our goal is to provide the support, you provide the time! Working together our marriages will become more fruitful and blessed!

Are you up to the challenge?

"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." ~ Hebrews 10:24-25



VALENTINE

WHAT'S INSIDE:

To help provide you with some fun and meaningful time together we've collected some suggested activities, questions, games, and recommendations to help make your Valentine's Day more memorable. Feel free to pick out the sections that work best for you or take up the challenge to do them all. You can even spread out the Digital Date Night packet over several nights.

CHALLENGE

GROUND RULES:

- Take a break from talking about the usual suspects money, kids, in-laws. This is not a time to take care
 of checklists, this is time to build your relationship.
- As much as humanly possible, stay off of technology (other than the content provided here of course). Only text or take a call if it is an emergency. Everyone and everything will be okay.
- In many relationships, there is a talker and a non-talker. If you are married to a non-talker, when he/she talks tonight, they might not do it as well as you. So believe the best in them as they find the words. Work to hear your partner not just respond to what your spouse is trying to communicate. Look for opportunities to ask questions to clarify rather than react.

NEWLYWED GAME

"Your beauty and love chase after me everyday of my life." ~ Psalm 23:6 MSG

Did you ever watch the Newlywed Game on TV? Not only can this be a fun game to play in front of others, but it can also be a meaningful time of discover between just the two of you. No matter how long you and your partner have been together, never stop learning about them. If you have kids at home, it can be fun to share these answers with them as well later.

HOW TO PLAY

Print out the following questions in advance. Choose to either go off to separate locations for about 5-10 min or sit in chairs back to back. Once you've both had time to record your best answers; join back together or turn your chairs around and compare answers.

Each person will need this sheet for answers, a pen, and possibly two chairs if needed. Answer each and every question at the same time your partner does (remember you are trying to guess what you think they will say). You can also take turns for each sections comparing answers before separating again to fill out the next section just to mix it up a little.

NEWLYWED GAME QUESTIONS - Here is a list of questions to get you started.

FOR THE HUSBANDS:

How many pairs of shoes does your wife have in her closet?_____ What is your wife's shoe size?_____ If your wife could pick a dream job, what would it be?_____ What would your wife say is your most irritating habit?_____ What food was served at your wedding reception?_____ Who would your wife say she spends the most time talking to on the phone?

When your wife says, "They're playing our song" what song is she hearing?______



What would your wife say is her favorite color?______ What would your wife say was your best date?______

What will your wife say was the first gift you gave her?_____

FOR THE WIVES:

GENERAL QUESTIONS FOR BOTH:

What was your first address together?
Where was your first date?
Who said "I love you" first?
What is your favorite TV show to watch together?
Our marriage would be perfect if we could just agree on?
What adjective best describes your spouse?
What is your spouse's most endearing habit?
What is your spouse's favorite movie?
Who is your spouse's best friend?
Who controls the TV remote?
What is something your spouse wears you like?
If you won the lottery, your spouse would buy?
What is your spouse's favorite junk food?
Your spouse prefers to play what kind of game (cards, board games, trivia etc)?
Your spouse's favorite ice cream flavor is?
What was the weather on your wedding day?
Do you know your spouse's Love Language?



FAMILY FRIENDLY ROMANTIC MOVIES

With so many streaming platforms available it is only natural to start looking for virtuous romance movies for Valentine's Day! For this reason, Sonoma Christian Home has put together a list of five of our favorite romance movies, each one perfect for the occasion. These movies range from new to old, and comedy to drama, but they all hold one thing in common: they bring us back to the perfect example of love: Jesus!

С

Н

You Tube RENTAL FIREPROOF— NEVER LEAVE YOUR PARTNER BEHIND VUDU

Ν

Е

Caleb Holt is a firefighter, but his marriage is anything but fireproof. In the years since their marriage, he and his wife have grown distant from each other. Only when Catherine threatens to leave him does he realize how much he's failed as a husband. Prompted by his father, who had a similar experience, Caleb takes a challenge: The Love Dare*. Half-way through, he realizes what's really missing from their marriage: Jesus.

Fireproof is timeless. It's a story of discovering true love and reigniting it. Splashed with plenty of comic relief, and an engaging plot, this movie can really, and has really, changed lives. There's nothing not to like about this movie! If you're in for a classic romance with plenty of humor, action, and love, this one is for you!

VUDU OLD FASHIONED – CHIVALRY MAKES A COMEBACK tube Roku

What ever happened to chivalry? Clay Walsh has left his past life behind, and now lives in a small college town. There, he becomes notorious for his uncanny, and especially outdated, theories about love and romance, as well as a visible love for God. Then Amber Hewson shows up – a restless and beautiful young woman who has her own ideas on what romance should look like. As they are undeniably attracted to each other, they attempt to do the impossible: pursue an old fashioned and God-honoring relationship in 21st century America!

Released in 2015, Old Fashioned has been a positive force in a world where mainstream media is drenched in sensuality. The film takes us back to what some may consider to be an "old fashioned" courtship, at the same time revealing what a pure and holy relationship can really look like. Old Fashioned is a sweet, compelling film that serves as a breath of fresh air for many.

PRINCESS CUT – TRUE LOVE IS WORTH THE WAIT

Grace Anderson dreams of the day when the perfect man will slip a diamond ring on her finger and devote his life and love to her forever. However, things haven't been going exactly as she planned. When her boyfriend rejects her in a bizarre turn of events, Grace is left wondering what true love really is, and if she will ever find it. Soon she meets someone else, but he clearly has different standards for their relationship. Knowing there is more to dating than what she's experienced, Grace embarks on a journey, with the help of her caring father, to discover the power of true, Christ-centered love in their rural Carolina town.

Princess Cut is a light, yet daring, little film. It reveals many of the common failures in romantic relationships but also sets a standard. It shows how much a relationship can thrive when it's honest, intentional, and faithful.

ONE NIGHT WITH THE KING – FEEL THE TOUCH OF DESTINY

SFARCH OR CLICK FREE @ https://youtu.be/r4saPofrlbA

SEARCH OR CLICK

The beloved story of Esther, Queen of Persia, comes to life in this epic, masterful retelling! Hadassah, a beautiful and spirited young girl, finds herself among the women contending for the king's affection. As an enduring love story

Continued on page 4

Ε

Ν



G

Е

Ε

Ν





unfolds, she discovers the awful plotting of Haman, the vizier in the king's palace. Ultimately, she has to make a decision: to ignore the cry of her people and potentially save herself, or take the bold step of letting God use her in order to save her people from destruction. The scope and scale of this movie conveys the importance of her role as queen, as well as focusing on the tender romance between King Xerxes and Esther.

If you like the story of Esther in the Bible, you will love this movie! While the director does take some artistic license with the film, the message is not lost. This movie is ideal for a romantic movie night!

I STILL BELIEVE – LOVE AND FAITH ARE TESTED **NUT VUDU COM RENTAL**

The true-life story of American contemporary Christian music singer-songwriter Jeremy Camp and his first wife, Melissa Lynn Henning-Camp, who was diagnosed with ovarian cancer shortly before they married. Camp's song "I Still Believe" is the film's namesake.

If you're in the market for role models, look no further: This couple is as wholesome as they come (the only villain here is cancer). They don't even kiss until they first say "I love you." In fact, their love is so idealistic that the only potential concern is that it might set up unrealistic expectations for kids. While iffy content is minimal and positive faith-based messages/themes abound -- including the value of communication, courage, gratitude, and humility.

There you have it! We truly hope you will enjoy these films, and cherish them as much as we do! Perhaps even more importantly, we hope they will serve as a reminder of the source of our love as Christians. After all, God loved us even before we were born! With that in mind, have a happy Valentine's Day! Please keep in mind that with streaming platforms always adjusting their content these titles may or may not remain with the providers listed.



VALENTINE **PAGE** CHALLENGE

GROWING DEEPER



"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."~ Ephesians 5:31

PRAYER FOCUS: INTIMACY IN MARRIAGE

"Heavenly Father, we ask you to strengthen the bonds of both physical and spiritual intimacy in our marriage. We're thankful that you have called us to intimacy with you first, and then intimacy with one another. – Amen"

20 QUESTIONS

To mix things up you can take these questions on the go. Pack a dessert or swing through the drive thru, park at your favorite viewpoint and take turns answering the questions below.

- 1. Name someone who inspires you and tell why?
- 2. What could you use from me right now, comfort or advise and solutions?
- 3. Name three things you feel we have in common.
- 4. What is one quality or ability you would want from God?
- 5. What do you value most in a friendship?
- 6. When did you last cry in front of another person?
- 7. What would you place inside a time capsule?
- 8. Describe yourself in three words.
- 9. If you're having a bad day, would you want me to leave you alone or spend time with you and cheer you up?
- 10. What are you most often wrong about?
- 11. Name something you've had to unlearn?
- 12. What's the best or worst advice you've ever received?
- 13. What is the biggest "no" from God you've had to adjust to?
- 14. If you could trade lives with someone, who would it be?
- 15. What are you most looking forward to this summer?
- 16. Would you take a more interesting job for a steep pay cut?
- 17. Name a mistake that has helped you grow?
- 18. Describe your day in 10 words or less?
- 19. Name one thing you will never stop doing?
- 20. What do you spend too much time doing?

VALENTINE 6 CHALLENGE

ROLL THE DICE GAME

Using a standard die take turns rolling and answer any of the following questions in order. Example: if you roll a 5 ask the first question under the number 5 then move on to the next number or question on the list of the corresponding number you roll.

• ONE

- 1. Blow a kiss
- 2. Send spouse a quick text message
- 3. Skip a turn
- 4. Make up a love poem "on the spot"

• TW0

- 1. Hug for 30 seconds
- 2. Stare into each others eyes for 1 minute
- 3. True or Dare challenge?
- 4. Spin Again

• THREE

- 1. Pay a compliment
- 2. Peck on the neck
- 3. Quick act of service (their choice)
- 4. Chase your spouse around the house

FOUR

- 1. Whisper "I Love You"
- 2. Share an Affirmation
- 3. Tell a silly joke
- 4. Thank your spouse for something they did today

DATE

FIVE

- 1. Kiss for 30 seconds
- 2. Do your best "FAKE" accent
- 3. Compliment your mother-in-law
- 4. Do a crazy dance move

- 1. Sing a love song
- 2. Give a 1 minute massage
- 3. Nibble on your spouse's ear
- 4. Share a favorite memory





DINE-IN ADVENTURES



VALENTINE'S SPECIALS FOR PICK & DELIVERY

Search the internet or call around and you'll find many of your favorite restaurants are offering "Sweetheart" deals this Valentine's. Here are just a few we've found.

OLIVE GARDEN - Valentine's Dinner for Two To Go and a Bake at Home Lasagna Bundle. The Dinner for Two To Go features the choice of house-made soup or salad, breadsticks, an entrée portioned for two(Chicken Alfredo or Five Cheese Ziti al Forno), and choice of dessert to share, starting at \$43.99. For a family-style option order the ready-to-bake Classic Lasagna that serves four, which includes a jumbo house salad, bottle of our signature Italian dressing, and ready-to-bake breadsticks, starting at \$56.99.

https://www.olivegarden.com/menu/valentines-dinner-for-2-togo/prod3560228 https://www.olivegarden.com/menu/bake-at-home-lasagna-bundle/prod7770035

BUCA DI BEPPO - \$59.99 Valentine's Lasangna Lovefeast. Perfect for two, you'll share a Mixed Green or Caesar Salad, Small Garlic Bread, Heart-Shaped Lasagna and Mini Cannoli! Online ordering will be available through February 14th.

https://www.bucadibeppo.com/valentines-day/

FAMOUS DAVE'S - \$41.99 Feast for Two includes generous helpings of St. Louis-Style Spareribs, Country-Roasted Chicken, choice of Texas Beef Brisket or Georgia Chopped Pork, plus Creamy Coleslaw, Famous Fries, Wilbur Beans, Sweet Corn and Corn Bread Muffins. Served family-style for 2-3 people. https://www.famousdaves.com/Menu/Product/famous-feasts/feast-for-two

CALIFORNIA PIZZA KITCHEN - Sweet Deal for Two Dine-in Menu \$35* Order between Feb 12 - Feb 14 and enjoy a Sweet Deal for Two (three-course dinner) listed on their website, also ask about Heart-Shaped Pizzas! https://www.cpk.com/events/valentines-day?dine%E2%80%91in-promotion

ROMANO'S MACARONI GRILL - Valentine's Dinner for Two Menu. \$45 for 2 choose from stuffed mushrooms, calamari fritti, chicken scaloppine, grilled salmon, chicken parmesan or steak + potatoes to name a few. Available through February 14. https://www.macaronigrill.com/valentine

CHICK-FIL-A - Grab some heart-shaped bites of love with Chick-fil-A heart shaped mini trays. Check what your location offers, but you'll likely find 10 Count Minis, 30 Count Nuggets, 6 Count Cookies and 12 half chocolate fudge brownies. These special trays will be available at participating restaurants while supplies last through Saturday, February 13.

PLAN A TRAVEL INSPIRED DINNER AND MOVIE

Look up an online travel video or rent one from your local library to watch while you dine on some cultural classics that you can prepare at home.

ITALY - Make homemade pasta or pizza together. This can be super easy with store bought dough or make it homemade.

FRANCE - Dine on a cheese and meat platter with some fancy sparkling water.

JAPAN - Learn to make sushi together (or pick up from local market). Simple sushi wraps can be made with a little mayo, cooked and chilled shrimp/crab and rice on a sheet of seaweed.

Continued on page 8



GREECE - Feast on a dinner of Mediterranean appetizers like Dolmas, Greek salad, olives, feta, hummus, artichoke dip.

MEXICO - Set up a make-your-own taco, nachos, or burrito bar.

TAKE IT FURTHER - PLAN A DREAM TRIP - Agree on a set budget and together or separately price out flights, hotels, cruises, tours etc. and see who can doing it the cheapest.

MORE ADVENTUROUS - ADVENTURES



VISIT THE MOB MUSEUM FOR FREE Feb. 14, Massacre exhibit: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m, Car show: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Live music by Amanda King: 9 p.m.

LIGHTS OF LOVE RETURNS TO ETHEL M CHOCOLATES

Through February 14, 5-10 p.m., 1-800-438-4356, 2 Cactus Garden Drive

The Lights of Love Display returns to Ethel M Chocolates with more than half a million pink, red, white and purple LED lights that brightly embellish the three-acre botanical cactus garden for the days leading up to Valentine's Day weekend. Stroll the illuminated cactus garden with a cup of Ethel M Chocolates' world-famous hot cocoa while capturing priceless photos. This experience requires a reservation and \$5 donation which goes to Three Square Food Bank. https://www.ethelm.com/lights-of-love

DAY TRIP TO VALLEY OF FIRE

One of the reasons we love the Las Vegas area so much is because of its proximity to amazing outdoor spots. The Valley of Fire is a great day trip that's only an hour from the city. It's a great option to socially distance too with plenty of hikes and rock formations to explore.

Pro Tip: The main road (Mouse's Tank Rd) shuts down at sunset, so be sure to explore everything there first.

TIE THE KNOT FOR FREE AT DENNY'S POP-UP CHAPEL

702-471-0056, 450 Fremont Street Denny's is putting the "Mmmm" in matrimony by offering Denny's fans the chance to get married or renew their vows in its pop-up Las Vegas Chapel on Feb. 14 – for FREE. This limited time offer is only available from 12 p.m. until 6 p.m. on Valentine's Day. The chapel is located at 450 Fremont Street in Las Vegas. No registration is required.

VALENTINE'S DRIVE-IN MOVIE*

Saturday, February 13, 6:30-8:30 p.m., 2240 Village Walk Dr. Henderson, NV 89052

The District at Green Valley Ranch will be hosting a FREE Valentine's Day Drive-In Movie featuring the romantic comedy film '50 First Dates' Located in the north parking lot behind REI, this event will also include pre-movie games and prizes.

While the event is free and open to the public, space is limited, so an RSVP (one ticket per vehicle, not per person) is required to attend. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/valentines-drive-in-movie-tickets-137489377429

Space is limited. Guests who RSVP, will be allowed to park in the lot at 5:00 p.m. Guests are asked to remain in their vehicles unless they are using the restroom. Walk-ins are not allowed; no motorcycles and no vans/buses or tall vehicles (minivans are ok.)

