



# VIOLET CASWELL

February 17th





# February: Amethyst

If you are born in February, Amethyst is your birthstone. It protects you from evil eyes. Amethyst stands for calmness and affection. You are a meticulous person. You like to lead the way in life. You love to learn about new things, you are versatile.

## Gratitude of the Bible: Cultivating a life of thanksgiving

Gratitude in the Bible is a resounding theme, echoing from Genesis to Revelation. It's not merely encouraged but exemplified as a way of life, deeply rooted in the relationship between God and humanity. In the Old Testament, we find gratitude woven into the fabric of Israelite culture, often expressed through psalms and sacrifices. It's a communal celebration, acknowledging God's blessings and mercy, a cornerstone of their covenant relationship with the divine.

Come the New Testament, the narrative shifts to a personal dimension in the life and teachings of Jesus. Gratitude becomes a hallmark of discipleship, an enduring thankfulness that endures regardless of life's storms, reflecting Jesus' own constant gratitude to the Father.

Gratitude, biblically speaking, is a transformative force. It's an invitation to view life through a lens of thankfulness, a catalyst for love, generosity, and justice. As we embody this spirit, we are continually reminded of the abundance of God's love and the interconnectedness of our lives. the top bible verses about gratitude

### 1 thessalonians 5:16-18

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Amidst the whirlwind of life, these words serve as a gentle reminder to find joy and gratitude at all times, anchoring us to a state of thankfulness that is not dependent on our circumstances.

### colossians 3:15

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful."

Gratitude is presented as a companion to peace, suggesting that a thankful heart is a peaceful heart, and together they guide the spirit of a community united in purpose.

### psalms 107:1

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."

This verse encapsulates the eternal goodness of God and the enduring nature of love, prompting a response of gratitude that echoes through eternity.

### james 1:17

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

This verse brings attention to the constancy of God's generosity, encouraging gratitude for the unwavering gifts bestowed upon us.

### psalm 95:2-3

"Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods."

A vibrant expression of gratitude through worship, this verse invites us to celebrate the divine with joyful acclamation, using the universal language of music and song.

### daniel 2:23

"I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors: You have given me wisdom and power, you have made known to me what we asked of you, you have made known to us the dream of the king."

In this verse, Daniel expresses his gratitude not for material blessings, but for the intangible gifts of wisdom and revelation. It's a profound acknowledgment that the gifts of understanding and enlightenment are as worthy of gratitude as physical abundance.

### leviticus 22:29

"When you sacrifice a thank offering to the Lord, sacrifice it in such a way that it will be accepted on your behalf."

This verse underscores the intentionality behind acts of gratitude. It's a call to give with a heart that is sincere, ensuring that our offerings of thanks are more than ritual—they are reflective of a genuine spirit of appreciation.

### philippians 4:6

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Here we are invited to replace anxiety with prayerful thanksgiving, a transformative approach that encourages us to view our challenges through a lens of gratitude.

### jeremiah 30:19

"From them will come songs of thanksgiving and the sound of rejoicing. I will add to their numbers, and they will not be decreased; I will bring them honor, and they will not be disdained."

Here, gratitude is intertwined with hope and promise. It's a prophetic assurance that gratitude leads to more than just momentary joy—it brings about increase, honor, and a lasting legacy.

### ephesians 5:20

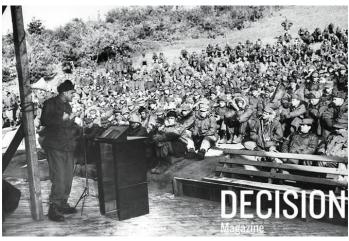
"Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

To give thanks for 'everything' is an invitation to embrace gratitude not just in moments of abundance but also in times of scarcity, recognizing the presence of divine grace in all aspects of our lives.

These verses, rich in wisdom, invite us to reflect on the profound simplicity of gratitude. They challenge us to cultivate a spirit of thankfulness in all seasons of life, recognizing that gratitude is not only a response to what we have but also a state of heart that shapes our interaction with the world. How might our days change if we carried these verses with us, as a continual reminder to live with an attitude of gratitude?

# Billy Graham: The love of God

by **Billy Graham** • *May 29, 2018*Billy Graham preaches to troops during the Korean War in 1952.



The following is adapted from the message Billy Graham preached June 3, 1973, to some 1.1 million at Yoido Plaza in Seoul, South Korea.

In 1952, I was here in Korea. It was at Christmastime, and it was very cold. I've never been so cold in all my life, and I toured along what is now the DMZ. I was at Heartbreak Ridge, and on Heartbreak Ridge there were 12 soldiers who were huddled together. An enemy sneaked through the line. He threw a hand grenade into the middle of them. It was going to go off in three seconds.

A soldier saw it and jumped on top of it. He grabbed it, held it to his heart, and it exploded. He died, but his buddies were saved. They took what remained of his body back to the United States, and when they held the memorial service for that soldier, the source of the sermon was the same text that I want to use today: John 15:13.

It says, "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends." Jesus said this just before He was going to go to the cross to die for the sins of the world. He was having His last meeting with His disciples. And He said, "I have one commandment to leave with you. Love one another" (Cf. John 15:12).

Billy Graham in 1970 at Shea Stadium in Flushing, Queens, N.Y. A big tornado hit not far from where I live. It destroyed many houses. One man was in the basement of his house, and he had two little boys. He heard the storm coming. He heard the house falling down. He grabbed his two little boys and put himself on top of them. People found them later. He was dead, but his two sons were alive. He had given his life for his sons.

The Bible says that <u>God loves you</u>. I want us to think about God for a moment. Do you believe in God? The Bible tells us what kind of a God He is. He is the creator of the whole universe. "In the beginning God created

the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1), the Bible says. God is not only the creator, but God is a spirit, the Bible says. God does not have a body like yours. And because God is a spirit, He can be everywhere at the same time. When I am here in Seoul, I cannot be in New York at the same time because I am limited by a body. But God is a spirit.

The Bible also tells us that God never changes. The Bible says, "I am the Lord, I do not change" (Malachi 3:6). The Bible teaches that God is a holy God. And because God is righteous and holy, He is also a God of judgment. There is a Judgment Day coming.

Jesus said, "Every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment" (Matthew 12:36). The Apostle Paul said God has appointed a day on which He will judge the world (see Acts 17:31). You will have to give an account of every word you ever said, everything you ever did, every thought that you ever had.

But the Bible also teaches that God is a God of love.

The reason God created the human race in the first place was because He loved. He wanted some other creatures in the universe to love. So He created man and woman and put them in a beautiful garden. God said, "You can have all the fruit in the garden except one tree. There is one tree in the garden that you're not to touch. If you touch it you will die" (see Genesis 3:2-3). And Eve looked at it, and then the devil came and whispered in her ear, "Take some of it. It will make you very wise, and it will make you like God, and when God said you would die if you eat it, He didn't mean it."

Eve could stand the temptation no longer. She picked up the fruit and started eating. She got sick. Then the man ate it, too, and he got sick. And every person since then has been sick with a disease called sin. It wasn't the fruit that made them sick. It was the fact that they had disobeyed God and broken God's law. And the whole human race has that disease. We read the newspapers. We watch the television. We know that



something is wrong with the human race. What is it?

The Bible says "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23), and "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

The Bible teaches that there are three kinds of death. There is the death of your body. All of you are going to die. We know that, but you can also be alive and your soul dead. Today there are many people whose body is alive but whose soul is dead toward God. And you don't have peace, you don't have joy, you don't have happiness, you don't have assurance that you're going to Heaven. It is your soul that's dead, and your soul needs God.

The third kind of death is when your body dies but your soul lives on, separated from God. And the Bible says for that soul, the future life becomes one of weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth. The Bible has many words to describe the future of the lost soul. The Bible uses the word perish. The Bible uses the word condemn. The Bible uses the word punishment. The Bible uses the words everlasting fire. The Bible uses the word hell.

Whatever word is used, this death is a terrible thing: "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?" (Mark 8:36).

But the Bible tells us that God sent His Son to rescue the world in spite of our rebellion, in spite of our sins. God said, "I love you. I love the human race; I want to forgive them of their sins."

But how could He do it? He said, "If you rebel against Me, you're going to die." He had to keep His word, or He would have been a liar. So, what did He do? His Son, Jesus Christ, volunteered to come and live among us.

"But the Bible tells us that God sent His Son to rescue the world in spite of our rebellion, in spite of our sins. God said, 'I love you. I love the human race; I want to forgive them of their sins."

-Billy Graham

He made the blind to see and the deaf to hear. But the real reason He came was not to heal. The real reason that He came was not to teach. He came to die. Because on the cross, He took your sins, your death, your judgment, your hell.

They took his clothes off Him. They took long leather whips with steel pellets on the end and beat Him until his back was bleeding. They put a crown of thorns on His brow until His face was bleeding. They put spikes in His hands and hung Him between Heaven and earth. And while on that cross Jesus prayed, "Forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (Luke 23:34).

He loves you so much that if you had been the only person in the world, He would have died for you. "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends" (John 15:13). You're a friend of Jesus. He laid down His life for you.

And then something else happened. On the third day, He rose again. He is alive! And some day, the Bible says, He is coming back. Someday we will look up, and riding on a white horse will be the King of kings and Lord of lords, our Lord Jesus Christ. And those of you who know Christ, those of you who have given your life to Him, you are going to reign with Him. What a glorious future we have, those of us who love Jesus Christ!

Now, what does He want you to do?

First, He wants you to <u>repent of your sins</u>. The Scripture says, "God ... now commands all men everywhere to repent" (Acts 17:30). If we are to be saved, if our sins are to be forgiven, we have to repent. Repentance means that you confess you are a sinner and are willing to turn from your sins.

Second, <u>receive Christ into your heart by faith</u>. The Bible says, "Without faith it is impossible to please him." You come by faith. You cannot buy your way. You cannot work your way. You come by simple, childlike faith—like a little child would come to his or her father.

Third, openly confess Christ. All the people Jesus called, He called publicly. You must be willing to take a public stand for Christ. Would you do that today? Let Him come and change your life. He will give you a new love for everyone. You will be concerned about your neighbor. It will make you a new father, a new mother, a new boy or a new girl. I am going to ask you today to receive Christ. Say today, "I am willing to turn from my sins; I want Jesus in my heart." ©1973 BGEA

Scripture quotations are taken from The Holy Bible, New King James Version.

# Use Valentine's Day To Teach God's Love

Valentine's Day is a great time to teach your children Bible lessons on all the ways God loves us and how we are to return that love both to Him and to others.



Consider some of these great verses and hands-on activities that you can use to teach your children some awesome Biblical truths that will change their lives and the lives of others that come into contact with them.

1. The proof that we love God comes when we keep His commandments and they are not at all troublesome. 1 John 5:3 (Message)

Have your children make a list of all the commandments that they think are easy to follow. (You can have your younger children say these out loud and then write their list for them.) When they are done, have everyone share their lists and discuss them as a family. To end the discussion, have everyone give one or two commandments they think are difficult to obey and have everyone in the family pray for each other that the commandments each person finds hard to follow will become easier.

2. The command we have from Christ is blunt: Loving God includes loving people. You've got to love both. 1 John 4:21 (Message)

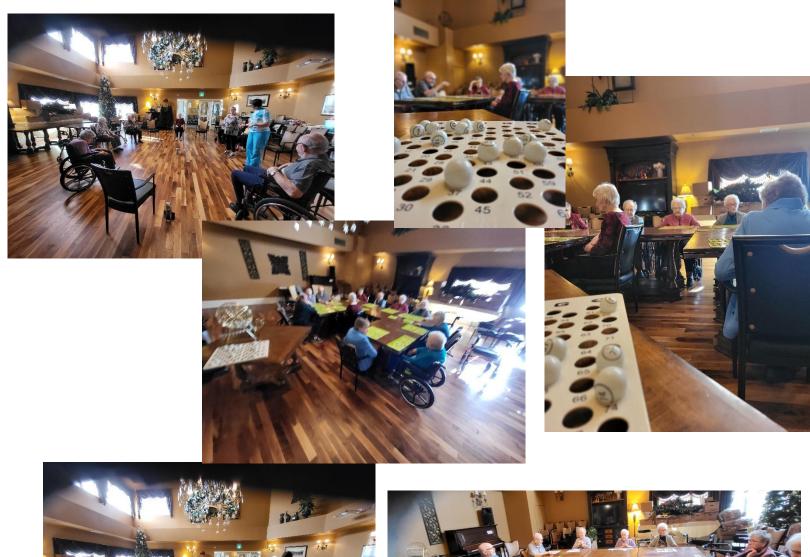
Give each child a wire hanger, five pieces of yarn, a pen, and five hearts cut out of paper. On each heart, have them write somebody's name that they love. Let them attach the hearts to the string and then tie the string on the hanger to make a mobile. Talk with them about why they love each person listed on their mobiles. When everyone is done, have each person say one person that they think is hard to love. (Try to keep this from turning negative and gossipy. Do not let them dwell on why they do not like other people.) Let the children take turns praying for the people that are hard to love and that God would allow them to start seeing that person the way God does.

3. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8 (NIV)

This is a great verse to use if your children have been going through a stage in life where they are arguing quite frequently. Tell the children that as a family, there are times when we will all do things that bother each other, but the Bible tells us that the love we have for others should help us love someone even when they do things that we do not like. Let the children talk through the things that are bothering them and then apologize to each other for the way they have been treating their family members. This is a great way to model the way we as grown adults should act when the people we associate with are bothering us.

- 4. The Love Chapter 1 Corinthians 13Divide the verses in this chapter up amongst the children in your family and then let them write a short story about the ways they can demonstrate their assigned verses. For example, if a child gets 1 Corinthians 13: 4, "Love is patient. Love is kind," his story could possibly be about letting his younger sister play with a toy that is his favorite. Read all the finished stories together and learn from each other. If your children are not old enough to write, take several days to cover one verse at a time and let them illustrate the verse instead of writing about it. This is also a great way for us to learn from our children as we listen for all the sweet ways they can think of to love others.
- 5. A friend loves at all times. Proverbs 17:17 (NIV) Talk about one way to show love is to reach out to others when they are hurting. Find a family in your neighborhood, co-op, or church that is going through a rough time. As a family, do something for them like mow their lawn, clean their house, or cook them a meal. This will allow both families to experience the love of God in a unique way: one through giving it and one through receiving it!

These are just a few ideas to get you going. There are enough love verses in the Bible that you could fill everyday in February with a verse and a related activity! Your life will definitely never be the same.



































# VALENTINES

# **WORD SEARCH**

| Н | S | Е | S | S | I | K | 0 | N | U | F |
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| D | I | Р | U | С | G | G | R | N | Е | R |
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| R | L | Н | Т | S | Е | I | R | L | 0 | S |
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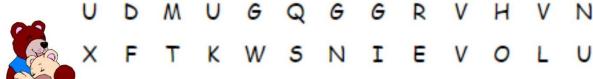
LOVE VALENTINES CUPID SMILE

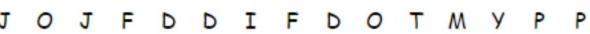
HEART KIND KISSES LETTER

SWEET FEBRUARY HUGS FLOWERS

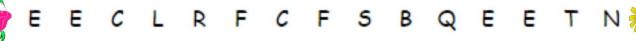
# Thir Happy Valentine's Day Ministration Word Search

Search for the hidden words going up, down, left or right.





Ι



I K

H X X

E X H

E A R

В Q 5 E Е Ι G

VALENTINE

FLOWERS 5

**GIFTS** 

PARTY

CARING

**FOURTEENTH** 

HEART

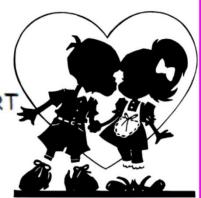
ROSES

**FEBRUARY** 

**FRIENDS** 

LOVE

**SWEETHEART** 



**Valentine's Day**, <u>holiday</u> (February 14) when lovers express their affection with greetings and gifts. Given their similarities, it has been suggested that the holiday has origins in the Roman festival of <u>Lupercalia</u>,

held in mid-February.



The festival, which celebrated the coming of spring, included fertility rites and the pairing off of women with men by lottery. At the end of the 5th century, Pope Gelasius I forbid the celebration of Lupercalia and is sometimes attributed with replacing it with St. Valentine's Day, but the true origin of the holiday is vague at best. Valentine's Day did not come to be celebrated as a day of romance until about the 14th century. What makes the history of Valentine's Day so complicated

Although there were several Christian martyrs named Valentine, the day may have taken its name from a priest who was martyred about 270 CE by the emperor Claudius II Gothicus. According to legend, the priest signed a letter "from your Valentine" to his jailer's daughter, whom he had befriended and, by some accounts, healed from blindness. Other accounts hold that it was St. Valentine of Terni, a bishop, for whom the holiday was named, though it is possible the two saints were actually one person. Another common legend states that St. Valentine defied the emperor's orders and secretly married couples to spare the husbands from war. It is for this reason that his feast day is Formal messages, or valentines, appeared in the 1500s, and by the late 1700s commercially printed cards were being used. The first commercial valentines in the United States were printed in the mid-1800s. Valentines commonly depict Cupid, the Roman god of love, along with hearts, traditionally the seat of emotion. Because it was thought that the avian mating season begins in mid-February, birds also became a symbol of the day. Traditional gifts include candy and flowers, particularly red roses, a symbol of beauty and love.

The day is popular in the <u>United States</u> as well as in <u>Britain</u>, <u>Canada</u>, and <u>Australia</u>, and it is also celebrated in other countries, including <u>Argentina</u>, <u>France</u>, <u>Mexico</u>, and <u>South Korea</u>. In the <u>Philippines</u> it is the most common wedding anniversary, and mass weddings of hundreds of couples are not uncommon on that date. The holiday has expanded to expressions of affection among relatives and friends. Many schoolchildren exchange valentines with one another on this day.

# Gnome-body Soves you like I zue you



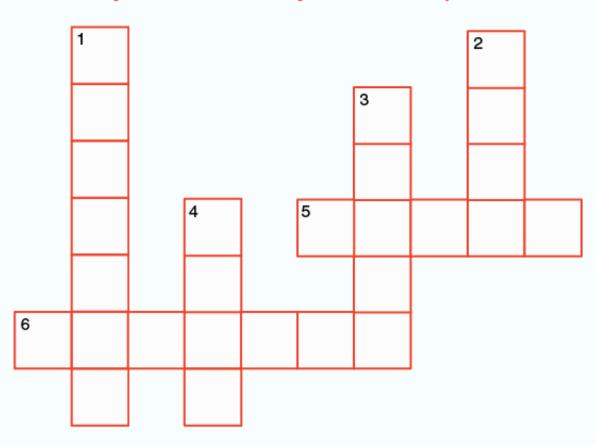




# Osmo

# **VALENTINE'S DAY CROSSWORD FOR KIDS**

Easy Valentine's Day Crossword puzzle.



# Across

5.



# Down

4



# Down

2.



6.



3.



4













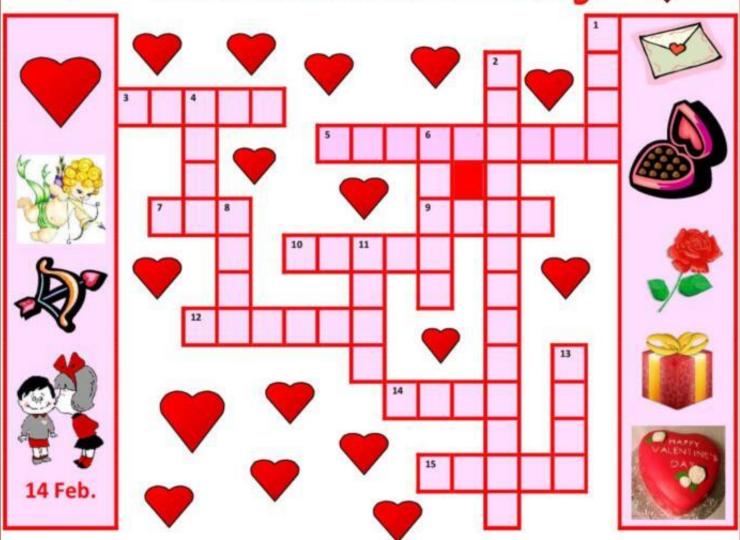






# Valentine's Day





### Across

- 3. What cupid shoots.
- 5. A Valentine's Day treat.
- 7. Valentine's Day color.
- 9. Something you wear on your finger.
- 10. He shoots love arrows.
- 12. Something often written on Valentine's Day cards.
- 14. Touch lips.
- 15. The symbol of love.

# Down

- 1. An emotion.
- 2. A day for love.
- 4. The flower of love.
- 6. People often exchange these on Valentine's Day.
- 8. Go on a \_\_\_\_\_\_. Go somewhere with your boyfriend or girlfriend.
- 11. Something a poet writes.
- 13. Present.

smita\_haldankar10@yahoo.com

# **Wacky Wordies**

- 1a Just between you and me
- **1b** Hitting below the belt
- 1c Head over heels in love
- 1d Shrinking violets
- 1e Bermuda Triangle
- 1f A mixed bag
- 2a Cry over spilt milk
- 2b Lying in wait
- 2c Unfinished Symphony
- 2d Pineapple upside-down cake
- 2e You're under arrest
- 2f Split-second timing
- 3a Nothing on TV
- 3b Fly-by-night
- 3c Raise a big stink
- **3d** Add insult to injury
- 3e Railroad crossing
- **3f** A person after my own heart
- 4a At the point of no return
- 4b The inside dope
- 4c Long underwear
- 4d Ostrich with its head in the ground
- 4e Lucky break

- 4f Corner the market
- 5a World without end
- **5b** Way behind the times
- **5c** Word to the wise
- 5d Search high and low
- 5e Go off half-cocked
- 5f No two ways about it
- 6a Hole-in-one
- 6b Down-to-earth
- **6c** Three-ring circus
- 6d One at a time
- 6e Better late than never
- 6f Get a word in edgewise
- 7a Let bygones be bygones
- 7b An outside chance
- **7c** Three degrees below zero
- 7d A terrible spell of weather
- 7e World Series
- 7f Cut loose
- 8a Reading between the lines
- 8b Chicken Little
- 8c Fourth of July fireworks
- 8d London Bridge
- 8e Change of pace
- 8f Square dance contest



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