



The Gathering

Connecting Through Faith

Don't Take it to Heart
Recipe that Says "I Love You"
Hints for a Happy Valentines Day

First Love Devotion

by Pastor Jodiann Schott

When I think of rekindling love, my first thought is to have an elaborate romantic candlelight dinner. Setting aside time to feel that love again and to say, “I love you”.

Remember the newfound joy and freedom we felt when we first came to Jesus? Called our “first love” for the Lord. In this tender love, the Holy Spirit witnessed that we belonged to Him.

How do we rekindle that love? A fast! Giving up dinner! Or all food, for a short time. What we call a biblical fast.

Biblical fasting can be defined as abstaining from food to draw closer to God. Focusing our thoughts on God. Reading the Bible, praying and worshiping Him during the time we would otherwise be eating. Fasting and prayer brings us closer to God and changes our hearts. When we fast and pray, we are taking time away from meals and devoting our entire being to focus on God. Making our heart

more sensitive to the voice of God.

Anna, lived most of her life with ONLY the love from God. (Luke 2:36-38) She was the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher, and was very old. She was a widow, for her husband had died when they had been married only seven years.

She was now eighty-four years old. She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshiping God with fasting and prayer. She came along just as Mary and Joseph brought baby Jesus to the temple and she began praising God. She talked about Jesus to everyone who had been waiting for the promised King. Anna’s devotion by prayer and fasting was an expression of her love for God.

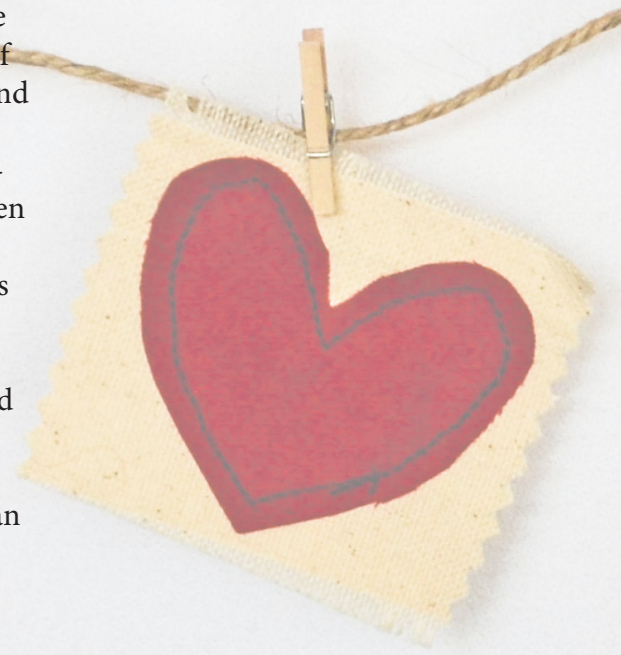
We can rekindle our love for God by adoring Him with fasting, singing his praises and blessing His holy name. A special dinner can move the heart of a man but

to move the heart of God, abstain from that dinner.

“But I have this [charge] against you, that you have left your first love [you have lost the depth of love that you first had for Me. Revelation 2:4 AMP

“ Fasting and prayer
brings us closer to God
and changes our hearts. ”

Unsplash: Debby Hudson



Don't Take It To Heart

by Pastor Jodiann Schott

*Proverbs 31:25 She is clothed with strength and dignity;
she can laugh at the days to come.*

A burr is a sticky spore covered with sharp hook-shaped bristles that cling to almost everything. You have probably found them embedded on your clothing or in your pets fur, after a walk in the park.

Interestingly, the hooks on these spores became the inspiration behind the technology of velcro. Even more impacting, is how we let words stick and bore into our heart, much like burrs hook onto our clothing. Festering, these take root until we are walking around with a heavy heart. Which leads us to the question, how can we “not take it to heart”?

Might I suggest, giving it to God? Yes, it can be that simple! Each time a prickly word or deed comes to you; give it to God. Dialogue with Him about it, visualize pulling on the bristly hurt and giving the problem to God. Surprisingly, it works!

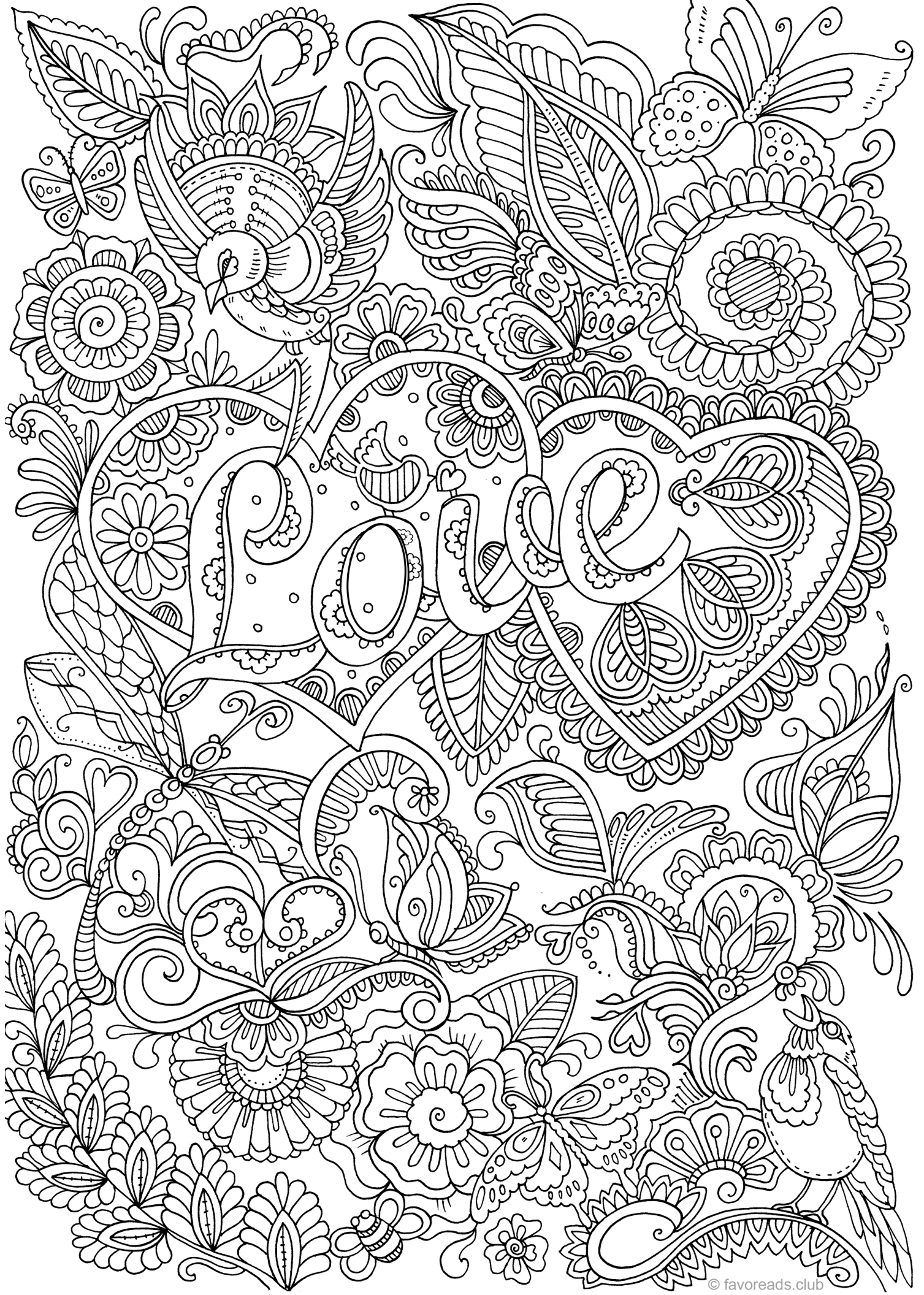
Because He loves us and no problem is too difficult for God.

Some of us take things to heart more easily than others. But with practice it can become easier to shake it off or be more assertive in quickly taking it to God. Resting in the knowledge that He loves us and His goodness, mercy, and power will remove our hurt.

Whatever comes our way, we can be vigilant to shake it off remembering God's love is the way in which we are clothed with strength and dignity. We can laugh at the days to come because we are filled with the Holy Spirit and live in the freedom of Christ. This kind of clothing, burrs can't stick to.

Love
Yourself





Top 10 Best Women's Perfumes of 2021

Options considered: 40

Country: Canada

Last updated: February 2021

Ranking criteria: value for money, customer review, popularity, brand trustworthiness

1

Dolce & Gabbana The One



2

Calvin Klein CK IN2U



3

GUESS Seductive



4

Sung by Alfred Sung



5

Oscar by Oscar De La Renta



6

Mackie by Bob Mackie



7

Versace Yellow Diamond



8

So? Kiss Me



9

Aqualina Pink Sugar



10

Christian Dior J'adore in Joy





HINTS FOR A HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

sending a shoutout to our GT Facebook sweeties for contributing this month



- 1. Dark, milk or white chocolate**
- 2. Musical serenade**
- 3. Massage gift certificates**
- 4. Walking hand in hand**
- 5. Flowers (carnations or red roses)**
- 6. Steak dinner**
- 7. Romantic movie**
- 8. Jewelry**
- 9. Handwritten notes**
- 10. Quiet evening**



Ingredients:

Pizza dough (homemade or store bought)
Pizza sauce
Mozzarella cheese
Pepperoni

How to:

1. Pre-heat your oven to 425 F. For the base of the pizza, sprinkle your dough with a little flour and shaping it into a large heart. Place it on a baking sheet or a pizza stone.

2. Add a layer of pizza sauce to your dough. Next, cover the top with grated mozzarella cheese – as much or as little as you like. To make the pizza extra special, use heart-shaped cookie cutters to cut the pepperoni pieces into little hearts.

3. Bake the pizza for around 10-15 minutes, until golden and bubbling.

Website Credit:
<https://blog.kitchenstuffplus.com/valentines-day-pizza-party/>

Valentines Recipe



Love Languages Book Review

Falling in love is easy. Staying in love—that's the challenge. How can you keep your relationship fresh and growing amid the demands, conflicts, and just plain boredom of everyday life?

In the #1 New York Times international bestseller, *The 5 Love Languages*, you'll discover the secret that has transformed millions of relationships worldwide. Whether your relationship is flourishing or failing, Dr. Gary Chapman's proven approach to showing and receiving love will help you experience deeper and richer levels of intimacy with your partner—starting today.

The 5 Love Languages is as practical as it is insightful. Updated to reflect the complexities of relationships today, this new edition reveals intrinsic truths and applies relevant, actionable wisdom in ways that work.

Includes the Couple's Personal Profile assessment so you can discover your love language and that of your loved one.

