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<p>Theme: Dear Valentine- How much do you love me?</p>	<p>Date: 15 February 2013</p>
<p>Scripture: Song of Songs 8:6 (NIRV) Hold me close to your heart like the seal around your neck. Keep me close to yourself like the ring on your finger. My love for you is so strong it won't let you go. Love is as powerful as death. Love's jealousy is as strong as the grave. Love is like a blazing fire. It burns like a mighty flame.</p> 	<p>Comment: Remember the children's story 'Guess How Much I Love You?' where baby hare keeps asking How much do you love me? Mummy hare's answers get ever more extravagant. True love has no sub clauses or "but if you..." True love is not free, but binds itself freely to the beloved – like a "seal around the neck" Valentine's day is always a challenge! "How much do you love me now?"</p> <p>Check to see if any "but ifs" have crept in to your thinking about your beloved partner in life. Ask God. Forgiveness is designed for the "but ifs" of life.</p>
<p>Prayer (as a couple): O God your love for us is as strong as death – you proved it in the cross. Forgive us for the times we give up on love and accept a paler substitute. Instead Lord plant your love in our hearts and help us cultivate the tender plant every day with each other as the garden. Help our love grow stronger as we learn to forgive and support each other Amen</p>	<p>Prayer (for others): Lord God thank you for marriage, which helps us, bind ourselves to our beloved. We pray for the institution of marriage in our society that it will be honoured and upheld in our nation. We pray for all couples planning to get married this year. Lord, as they make their vows, ratify them in heaven, and help them by the power of your name. You are LOVE Amen</p>
<p>Final quote:</p> <p>Above everything, love one another earnestly, because love covers over many sins. 1 Peter 4:8</p>	

Remember others will also be praying in this way this week. Together and with God we can make a difference.

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