

ใบความรู้ที่ 14 เรื่อง The Story of St. Valentine
หน่วยการเรียนรู้ที่ 2 แผนการจัดการเรียนรู้ที่ 14 เรื่อง The Story of St. Valentine
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Directions: Read for more information about The Story of St. Valentine.

Do you know why we celebrate Valentine's Day? Now it is mainly so that we can tell people that we care about them, give and receive cards, and enjoy chocolate and candy. But according to one legend, St. Valentine's Day is meant for people to remember a brave man, a martyr* whose name was Valentine.

The Story of St. Valentine

The Roman Emperor Claudius II was fighting many wars. He wanted a strong army, but many men did not want to be soldiers. Claudius thought the men wanted to stay home to be with their wives and children.

Claudius thought of an awful solution to his problem. He decided to cancel all marriages! No one in all of Rome could get married. Claudius thought that if the men couldn't get married, the men would ignore the women and want to be soldiers.

Valentine, who was a priest, believed that people needed to get married. He thought that if they were not married, they would be tempted to sin by living together without being married. So he secretly and illegally married couples anyway! He performed the weddings in secret places, so the Roman soldiers would not find out.

But they did find out. Valentine was arrested and brought before the Emperor. The Emperor thought Valentine was a well-spoken and wise young man, and encouraged him to stop being a Christian and become a loyal Roman. Valentine would not deny his beliefs, and he refused. He was sent to prison until he could be executed. While he was in prison, he sent out letters to his friends and asked to be prayed for by writing *Remember your Valentine*.

Valentine was killed on the 14th or the 24th of February in the year 269 or 270. We celebrate Valentine's Day on February 14th in honor of St. Valentine.

Although it is not known whether this legend is factually true, it is a good story anyway. It is nice to think of someone who believed in marriage and was willing to risk death to do what he believed was right.

**martyr comes from the Greek word martus, which means "witness". A martyr is a person who would rather suffer, and even die, than give up the things he or she believes in.*