

Help Your Kids Memorize Scripture

Can you recite the alphabet, the months of the year, the Happy Birthday song? Of course, you can. When did you learn these things? If you're like most adults, you probably learned them in childhood. Some of these items automatically come to mind — and you can't forget them, even if you try!

Do you have any Scripture verses that come easily to mind? If you know many Bible verses by heart, good for you! If you don't, think about the possible reasons why. Unfortunately, many of us (even those of us who grew up in the church) spent our prime memory years — childhood — internalizing many important facts *other than the Bible*.

Take on the Challenge

Parents, are you willing to disciple your kids? Will you help them know and love God's Word? Will you help them store up Scripture in their minds and hearts? Finally, will you show your kids how much God's Word means to you by making Scripture memory as important as school homework, sports practice, or music lessons?

Maybe you didn't learn God's Word in your childhood, but you can still be a wonderful encourager for your own kids. Heck, start memorizing Scripture right now, along with your children. The Scripture Rewards program provides an easy way to start. Even better, your kids will give you a built-in accountability system!

Below are several ideas to help you implement the Scripture Rewards Program into your family.

Scripture Memory Games

Feel free to change the games in any way that makes the game more fun, run more smoothly, include the whole family, or adjust to a specific time frame. Some of these games can easily be played while driving in the car or at mealtime.

Also, consider adding a little competitive incentive by setting up a family point system for the games. For example, when the child reaches a certain number of points, then something he/she would enjoy is received. This point system idea can also be expanded to include all the kids in the family as a group effort toward a fun family event.

The games also provide wonderful "gospel concept" teaching moments that will help bring the gospel message alive to your kids in a concrete way. Here are just two examples:

1. Every now and then when your child is really struggling to get a verse correct, demonstrate grace by saying the verse yourself and giving him or her the undeserved point *for what you have done*. However, do not let the heart of the lesson pass by unnoticed! Use the opportunity to explain how God's rescue plan is based on grace. We do not deserve God's forgiveness for our sins, but He offers to forgive us because of what Jesus has done for us.

2. Some verses contain words that are not typically found in everyday conversation like the word “repent.” Your child probably doesn’t know what repent means, but it conveys a very critical gospel concept that he or she must someday understand in order to understand what God requires of us. You can use these verses to help define terms your child may not understand. To help *you* out, here is a list of terms with a short definition:

Righteousness: Behavior that is right according to God’s perfect standards. God is always perfectly righteous through and through – it is who He is. Because of sin, people are incapable of understanding, let alone achieving God’s required level of righteousness.

Justice: The right response to a situation according to God’s perfect standard of righteousness. God’s level of justice means He perfectly rewards what is good and perfectly punishes what is evil. No thought or act escapes his judgment. God may choose to delay justice, but eventually, it must be enacted in order for God to exercise perfect justice. The Bible says God has set a day upon which He will examine and judge the lives of all mankind against the righteousness of Christ.

Sin: Rebellion against God by breaking his laws. All humans are infected with sin. It is our selfish, rebellious nature from birth that drives us to surrender to the power of evil rather than to God. Sin is the root cause of all evil that happens in the world – and God hates it. It is amazing to realize that God still loves us in spite of our sin nature and the fact that we often treat Him like He is the enemy.

Eternal Life: Eternal life is the amazing gift given by God to those who repent and trust Jesus. It is a new life with Jesus that starts here on earth and continues long after our sin-riddled bodies pass away to the grave. Because of sin, all people will experience the physical death of their bodies, but only those who receive God’s offered gift of eternal life will triumph on judgment day and escape the second death of complete separation from God in the Lake of Fire.

Salvation: The act of God saving a person by declaring him or her to be righteous because of their faith in Christ. Salvation does not make a person perfectly righteous from within, it is merely God declaring something about the person – that they are now in Christ and therefore have the righteousness of Christ. In offering salvation God is not excusing, ignoring, or condoning our sins. He is declaring that the just punishment for our sins has been paid-in-full on our behalf by Christ.

Grace: Extending favor toward someone who is undeserving or unworthy of such favor. Because God is so full of grace, He devised a plan to save us from the fury of His judgment of our sins. His plan involved such a great sacrifice that we can hardly fathom the cost. To be so willing to forgive and bless us abundantly, in spite of the fact that we do not deserve His kindness one bit, shows the amazing depth of God’s love, mercy, and grace.

Repent: A change of mind about something or someone that leads to a change of heart and a change of action. In relation to salvation, repentance involves changing your mind about your sin, your spiritual state, and the lack of importance you have placed on God to this point in your life, whether it be outright rejection of God, ignorance, or just disinterest. This change of mind produces heartfelt sadness and regret over your sinful ways. It is at this point, when your mind and heart agree with God's evaluation of your condition, that you choose to follow God's prompting to put your faith and trust in Jesus, turn from your old life, and embrace a new life with Christ as your Lord and Savior.

Faith: Simply put, Biblical faith is being so convinced that God truly is who He says He is and the promises He makes in the Bible will be kept that you are willing to trust and obey Him.

1. Read My Mind

[You will need: no extra supplies]

Determine how many times you will give clues before the round is over. For example, 3 points on first clue, 2 points on second clue, and 1 point on third clue.

The adult chooses a verse and then reveals a clue to the child. For example, "I am thinking about a Bible verse that teaches us that God does not like evil. What verse am I thinking about?" Or "I am thinking about a verse that teaches us that Jesus took our place on the cross in order to receive the punishment we deserved for our sins. What verse am I thinking about?" Or "I am thinking about John 14:6. What verse am I thinking about?" If the child can recite the verse on the first clue, points are received. If the child does not get it on the first clue, then give a second or third clue.

2. Guess the Missing Words.

[You will need: no extra supplies]

The adult chooses a Bible verse and begins to say it, but along the way stops and leaves blanks for the child to fill in. For example, "I am the _____ and the _____ and the _____. No one comes to the Father except _____." John __:____.

3. Putting it all Together

[You will need: several 3" x 5" index cards, a pen, and a timer]

Write a Bible verse with each word on a separate 3" x 5" index card. Mix up the cards so the verse is not in order. Decide on a time limit to complete the game. For example, 1 minute. The goal is for the child to lay out the verse in the correct order within the specified time allotment. A variation is to have two or three Bible verses mixed together.



4. Lobster

[You will need: paper and a pen.]

In the center of the page draw a lobster's body – without any of the 10 appendages. Below the lobster put underscore dashes on the paper for every letter, number, colon, and dash of the cite. For example, John 3:16-17 would look like this:

When the child guesses a correct letter, number, colon, or dash, the adult puts it in all the spaces it appears. If the child makes an incorrect guess, the adult draws one leg on the lobster (save the two front claws for last). The game continues until the verse cite is revealed or the lobster gets his ten appendages. If the lobster wins, the child can reverse the win by reciting the verse. If the child wins, the lobster can reverse the win if the child cannot recite the verse.

5. Bible Sword Fight

[You will need: a Bible for each person playing.]

This is a good game for the whole family to play. Each member can take turns being the Commander.

Each player holds their Bible in their hands. No peeking, no fingers marking pages, just holding Bibles, and listening.

The Commander calls out a Scripture verse cite and reads the verse. For example, "Acts 4:12. Acts 4:12 says "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." What verse are we looking for?

The players respond, "Acts 4:12."

The Commander says, "Draw your swords." All the players hold their Bibles way up in the air by the binding – all fingers must be showing.

When all the players are in proper position, the Commander says the verse cite again, "Acts 4:12," and then shouts, "Charge!"

NOW the players may lower their Bibles and try to find that cite. The first one to locate the verse, is the winner.

Daily Memorization Strategy

Print out this sheet. Put child's name on the top line. Cut along outside of frame line. Glue to the cover of a spiral notebook. Take a new verse every 2-3 weeks and follow the steps once a day.

Bible Verse Memorization Strategy



Read the verse out loud.



Copy the verse in your notebook.



Cover the verse with your hand,

and



Say it out loud - twice!