

The Importance of Helping Your Child Memorize Scripture

God's Word guides us, helps us worship Him, and gives us encouragement in time of need. What a wonderful resource we have as Christians. Won't you share this with your children? This handbook has been prepared to assist you with teaching your children to memorize Scripture. You will be equipping them for their future and preparing them for challenges they will inevitably face throughout their life.

The process of memorization for children is less challenging than for adults. Children enjoy learning and their minds are storing information constantly. Help them learn Scripture while their young minds can retain information more easily. You may be surprised and amazed at how quickly they can memorize Scripture.

How To Get Started

Start by choosing short verses to learn. This will build your child's confidence.

Remember to have fun while learning the verse. Keep the time spent brief to hold the child's attention. This should be enjoyable so if your child gets frustrated try again later.

Show your child where the verse is found in the Bible. Mark their Bible with a special color to identify verses they have memorized.

Say the book, chapter, and verse before and after the Scripture. Recite the verse several times a day in your child's presence so it becomes familiar to them.

Do not simplify the verses. God's Word is perfect the way it is. Clarify any words they don't understand.

Make flash cards with Scripture on one side and the book, chapter, and verse on the other. If your child is too young to read still use the card to help yourself and for future review. Take the cards with you when you go out so that you can review the verse at different times of the day (in the car while you are at a light, waiting in line at the grocery store, etc.). You can put a sticker on the card when the child has successfully memorized the verse. He/she will be encouraged by the accumulated cards.

Five Fun Ways to Help Them Memorize

Teach them one phrase or word from the verse at a time. Say a word (or phrase) then point to your child to supply the next word (or hand them an item when it is their turn to speak).

The last word of a phrase is easiest for them to learn first. For example, with Matthew 1:21, have the child first learn the words in italic. "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Bounce or roll a ball back and forth as each word of the verse is said. Start by saying the verse with the child as you pass the ball. As he/she learns the verse, each of you say a word of the verse as you pass the ball.

Put the verse to music or rhythm. Your child will enjoy singing and clapping their hands.

Use flash cards. Put one word on each 4 x 6 index card (or sheet of paper) then scramble the words. Have your child put them in the right order.

Do any activity to make the verse fun and easy to remember. Be creative. For example, for Matt. 10:13, "And even the very hair of your head are all numbered.", make paper plate faces adding yarn for the hair. Attempt counting the hairs on their own head.

After a Verse Has Been Learned

Reward your child when he/she has accurately memorized a verse. Make the rewards immediate if possible. Rewards could include small treats or prizes, a trip to the dollar store, or special time with mom or dad. Telling them you are proud of them and having them share their accomplishment by reciting it to someone else (grandparent, Sunday School teacher, etc.) is very beneficial too. Reinforce the verses they have learned at appropriate times throughout the day. For example, when your child is not playing nicely or not sharing, remind them of Luke 6:31, "Do to others as you would have them do to you". When words or comments are said that are unacceptable, ask your child if their words would make God happy. Remind them of Psalm 19:14, "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer."

Put your flash cards in a special envelope or container and review the verses they have learned so they do not forget them.

AGE 3:

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Psalm 118:24 This is the day the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Psalm 136:1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever.

Luke 6:31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Philippians 4:13 I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.

AGE 4:

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Mark 10:14 Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

John 8:12 Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 10:11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Matthew 22:37 - 39 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

1 Peter 5:7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

AGE 5:

Psalm 19:14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Psalm 23 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Psalm 139:14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (from Matthew 6:9-13)

"...Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."

Matthew 1:21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus because he will save his people from their sins.

GRADE 1:

Psalm 100:1-5 Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Matthew 7:7 Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

Matthew 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

John 14:1 Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

The Twelve Disciples:

Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Thomas, Matthew, James the Son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon, Judas and Bartholomew

GRADE 2-3:

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

Psalm 34:14 Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

Matthew 28:18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

John 1:1-4 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

John 10:14 I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.

John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

1 John 3:16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

1 John 4:7-8 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

GRADE 4-5:

Psalm 103:1-5 Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits-- Who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Isaiah 40:31 but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Matthew 7:7-8 'Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.'

John 11:25-26 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.'

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Ephesians 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast.

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Parent Handbook For Scripture Memory

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