

ParentPause

Ideas to Grow Your Preschooler's Faith at Home

SEPTEMBER 2012

ABCs, 1, 2, 3s, First Timothy

Close your eyes for a moment and recite the alphabet to yourself. Did you have any trouble? Did an alphabet song come to mind? Just for fun, recite some math tables, the months of the year, the eight planets in our solar system or the position of musical notes on a staff.

WHEN DID YOU LEARN THESE ITEMS?

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!

Which Scripture verses automatically come to mind? Say them or sing them in a song now. When did you learn these verses?

If you know many Bible verses by heart, good for you! If you don't, think about the possible reasons. Unfortunately, many of us spent our prime memory years — childhood — internalizing many important facts other than the Bible.

But parents can reverse this trend! Remember Timothy from the Bible? From his earliest years, his Jewish-Christian mother, Eunice, and grandmother, Lois, taught him the Old Testament Scriptures (2 Timothy 1:5). At that time, Jewish religious education began in the home and involved extensive memorization of Scripture, starting the moment a child learned to speak.

continued on page 2



continued from page 1

When Timothy became an adult, the apostle Paul encouraged him to lean on his early knowledge of the Scriptures, the Scriptures which were able to make him *wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 3:15)*.

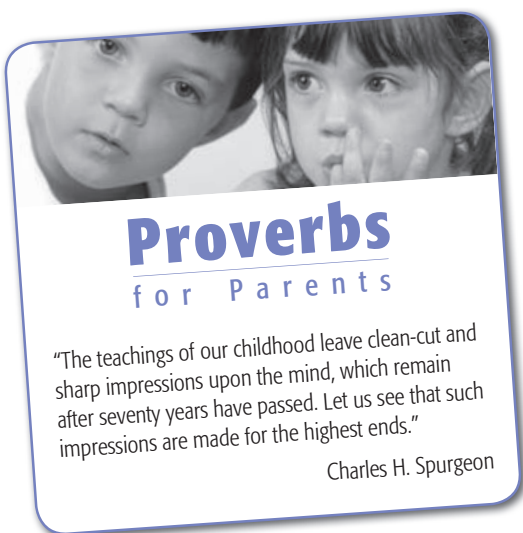
It is no surprise that Timothy stayed anchored in God's Word when the people of Ephesus tried to distort

the truth of the gospel. Because of God's Spirit working in him through the Scriptures, young Timothy displayed a wise, godly example for the other believers (1 Timothy 4:12).

Parents, will you be a Eunice or Lois in your young child's life? Will you help your daughter to know and love God's Word best of all? Will you help your son to store up

Scriptures in his mind and heart, so he will be wise in God's eyes?

Finally, will you show your child how much God's Word means to you? Maybe you didn't learn God's Word in your childhood, but you can start memorizing His Word right now along with your child. What an easy way to start! Even better, you have a built-in accountability system!



Recommended Resources

Do you have kids in Sparks® or T&T™? Check out the parent books that correspond to the kids' handbooks. Side-by-side, you and your child can grow spiritually and memorize handbook verses together. To order, visit awana.org.

Guide: Gaining and Training Biblical Worldview (for T&T Ultimate Adventure Book 1 handbook)



Beginnings: Studies in Genesis – Joshua (for Sparks HangGlider® handbook)

Parents in the Park

Parents like you are working hard to help their children memorize God's Word and put it into practice. Read a few of their stories.

"During a sermon, the pastor quoted Genesis 1:1: *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.* My 3-year-old daughter, Hope, turned to us and in a loud whisper said, 'I know that verse!' Everyone sitting near us looked over and smiled."

"My family recently started memorizing verses together. The older kids memorize the whole verse or chapter, while our 5-year-old just memorizes a short key phrase, often with hand motions. Last year, we learned Colossians 3. We reminded each other to think about clothing ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience as we got dressed each morning ... Memorizing verses as a family gives us built-in opportunities to discuss word

meanings, understanding of verses, and application in our daily lives."

"We helped our daughter Beth memorize Romans 8:38-39. One day, when a new children's worker told Beth (age 8) she could lose her salvation, Beth firmly shook her head and said 'No!' Without prompting from anyone else, Beth quoted these verses to her teacher. We had taught her to back up her beliefs with God's Word, and that's exactly what she did."

See if you can trace these words.

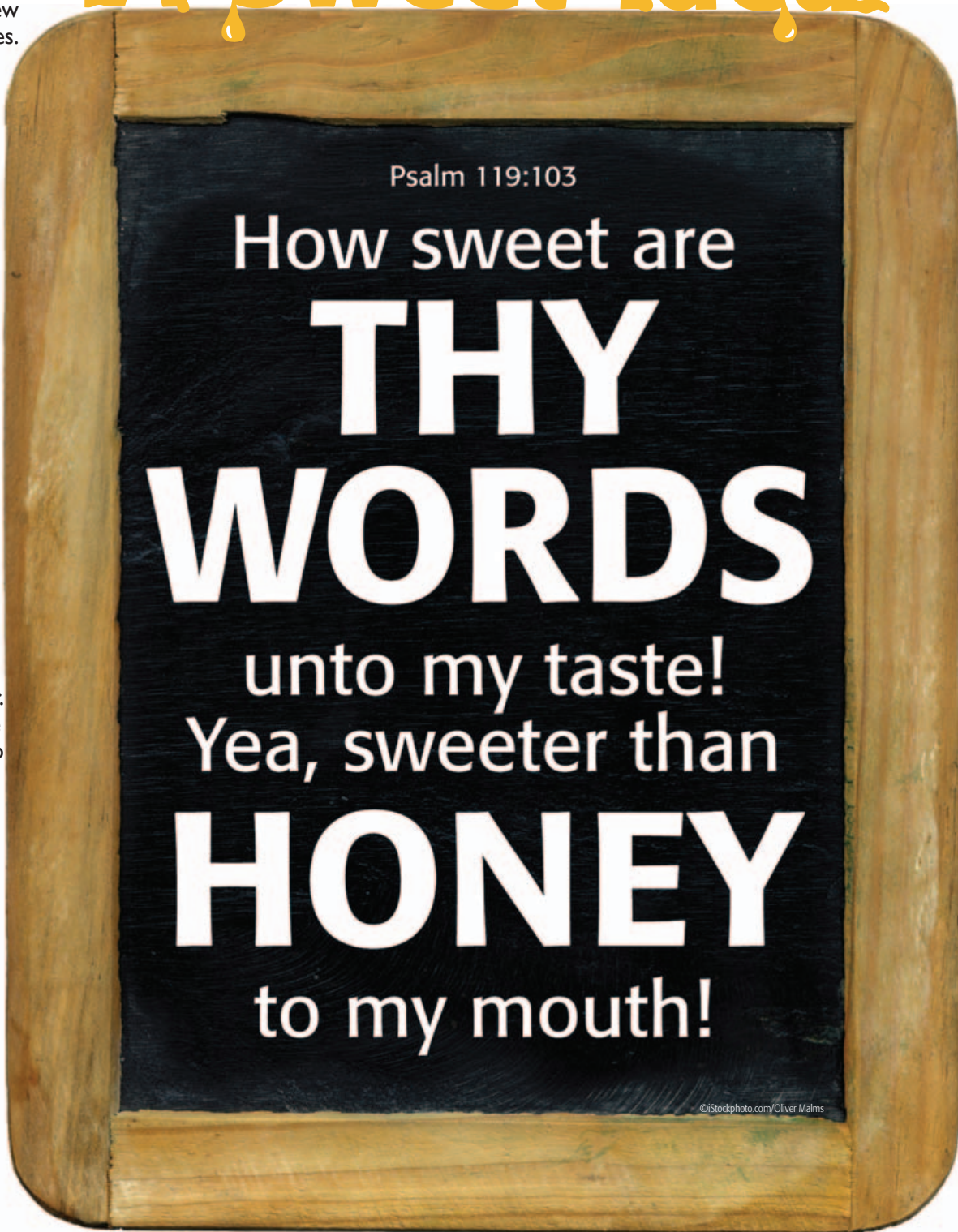
A Sweet Idea

In ancient times, Jewish boys would eat honey cakes when they began formal study of the Old Testament Scriptures. The cakes were decorated with Hebrew letters of biblical verses. Hebrew letters were also written on each boy's wooden slate and smeared over with honey. The boys were told to trace the letters with a pen, licking the honey off the pen as they proceeded.

These traditions helped children associate the Scriptures with sweetness. Jewish parents and teachers wanted their children to treasure God's Word.

You can mimic this activity at home. Cover this page with clear Con-Tact® paper. Smear honey over the page. Ask your child to trace the large words in the verse with the end of a plastic spoon or sturdy straw. Encourage your child to lick the straw as you explain the meaning of Psalm 119:103. (You could do this with other memory verses too.)

If you prefer a less messy activity, you could serve apples dipped in honey and repeat the verse together.





The motto of the Awana Clubs Puggles® program for 2- and 3-year-olds is “Big truths for little hearts.” The first big truth Puggles learn is **GOD MADE EVERYTHING.**

Scripture Creatures

This month, focus on God’s creation of animals. Add a new twist by selecting an unusual or significant animal mentioned in the Bible. Some possibilities are:

Dove (Psalm 55:6, Genesis 8:8); Locust (Exodus 10:3-4); Gazelle/Roe (Song of Solomon 2:9); Ant (Proverbs 6:6-8); Rock Badger/Coney (Proverbs 30:26); Ostrich (Job 39:13-18)

Pick an animal that interests your child. Tell your child that God wrote about this animal in the Bible.

Open your Bible to the verse about the animal. (If it seems appropriate, explain the meaning/ context of the verse in one simple sentence.)

Then have fun researching this animal together. Find books about the animal at the library. Print pictures of the animal from the Internet. If possible, visit this animal at the zoo. Entertain yourselves by making sounds and body motions like this Bible critter. Finally, thank God for making such a unique creature.

