



MEMORY VERSE

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

INTRODUCTION

What’s the most special thing in your life—something you like or love very much? It could be a person or an object. (*Allow response. You may wish to share something or someone special to you too.*) How would you feel if you had to give that person or thing up? (*Allow response.*) It would be very hard. You might cry and be sad for a long time. Our verse today tells us that God gave up what is more special than anyone or anything else. Listen to our verse and see if you can tell me what God gave up.

PRESENTATION

(*Read John 3:16 from Bible while children follow along on the visual.*) Did you hear in the verse what God gave up? Yes, His Son!

This verse is in the Bible. The Bible is God’s true Word! This verse is found in the book of John. John is the fourth book of the New Testament. If you don’t know where a book of the Bible is, how could you find it? (*Allow response.*) Most big books have a Table of Contents in the front. The Bible does too! If you’re not sure where to find a book in the Bible, turn to the Table of Contents in the front of your Bible. (*Show in your Bible.*) Here is the book of John. You can see John is on page (*page number*) in my Bible. Let’s read the verse together again. (*Read with children from visual.*)

In our story today we talked about Jesus’ disciples who followed Him and learned from Him. John was one of those disciples! John spent about three years with Jesus learning from Him. With his own eyes, John saw what Jesus did. John was there at the wedding we talked about today. He saw the miracle Jesus did! That’s why we can call him an “eyewitness” to the life of Jesus. God used John to do something really important too. God had John write down what happened when Jesus was on Earth so the world could know who Jesus is. Let’s see what we can learn about Jesus from this verse. (*Read verse with children.*)

EXPLANATION

For God so loved the world—The world is talking about people. God the Creator made all the people in the world including you. He loves you more than you can ever imagine.

that he gave his only Son—God the Father gave the world what was most precious to Him—His one and only Son, Jesus! Because He loves you so much, He gave His Son to provide a way for your sins to be forgiven.

Preschool Memory Verse

For preschoolers, teach “For God so loved the world...” John 3:16

Introduction

Ask the children to name someone they love very much. Ask them why they love that person. Tell them the Bible tells about someone who loves them more than anyone.

Presentation

Show the children the verse from the Bible. Remind them the Bible is God’s true Word. They can trust everything the Bible says is true.

Explanation

Explain that God is the perfect Creator and He loves all the people in the world. Make this teaching personal by helping the children understand that they are people in the world and God loves them.

Materials

Visualized Bible Verse Booklet
Books of the Bible Poster
(See GNC Starter Resource Pack
and Resource Pack.)

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Lesson 1 ESV IPEAR

Preschool Application

Unsaved: God loves you so much that He wants to save you from your sin so that you can be with Him forever.

Saved: If you have already believed in Jesus as your Savior, never forget how much God loves you! He chooses to love you more than anything else in the whole world! When you feel sad or afraid, remember that God loves you. No matter what happens, never forget how much God loves you.

Materials

Word Up! Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Preschool Repetition

"Whisper And Shout"

Lead the children in repeating the verse at different levels of volume. It is recommended that you use motions in addition to visuals and verse repetition.

John 3:16—Hold hands like a book.

For God—Point up.

So loved—Hug yourself.

The world—Trace a large circle with your hands.

Materials

"Whoever" cards
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

that whoever believes in him—Whosoever means you! It means anyone—no matter your age, what you look like or where you're from. To believe is to trust in Jesus as the only one who can save you from your sin. Trusting in yourself or your good works will not save you. Only believing in Jesus will save you from the punishment of your sin.

should not perish—Perish means to be punished for sin. The punishment for sin is separation from God now and forever in a terrible place.

but have eternal life—Everlasting life means life here with God on Earth—having Him with you always and having Him help you live His way. It also means that someday you will live with God forever in His beautiful home called Heaven. Jesus is God's Son who came to make a way for you to have everlasting life!

APPLICATION

Unsaved: If you have not yet believed in Jesus as your Savior, then you need to know that God loves you more than you can imagine! He came to redeem you. You can believe in Jesus today and have everlasting life.

Saved: If you have already believed in Jesus as your Savior, think about God's great love for you. He gave His precious Son to save you! Say with me, "**Jesus is the almighty God.**" (*Say with children.*) Praise Him for redeeming you!

REPETITION

"Whoever"

(God loves all the people of the world no matter where they are from, what they are like or how they look. Reinforce this truth by having different children stand up each time the words "the world" and "whosoever" appear in this verse. Prepare cards that will likely describe many of the children you will be teaching. Card phrases could include, "Whoever is wearing shoes," "Whoever likes chocolate," "Whoever likes to read," "Whoever has short hair," "Whoever has long hair," "Whoever likes video games," etc. Before each repetition of the verse, allow a child to choose a card. Have all of the children repeat the verse together and have only the children that fit the card's description stand up, spin around and sit back down when the words "the world" and "whosoever" are said.)