



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

(Show children a dead branch or plant.) Look at this plant! I have done everything I can think of to make it grow! I’ve watered it, fed it and set it out in the sunshine.

But it still won’t grow! I’ve heard plants like to be talked to, so I’m hoping you will help me. What would this plant like to hear? Any ideas? *(Allow response. Have children join you in talking to the plant until someone says, “The plant is dead!” Have another teacher prepared to say this if a child doesn’t say it within a reasonable length of time.)*

Dead?! Well, I really feel silly. Now I know why the plant won’t grow! Things need life to grow. That reminds me of what it’s like before you and I know Jesus as our Savior—we are dead in our sin. We are like this dead plant in need of life, eternal life that only Jesus can give. Say with me, **“Jesus gives new life!”** *(Say with children.)*

PRESENTATION

(Read John 3:16 from Bible then have children read with you from visual.)

This verse is from God’s Word, the Bible. The Bible is 66 smaller books made into one big book, which has two parts—the Old Testament and the New Testament. The books are divided into chapters and verses. We call the name of the book, chapter number, and verse number the address of the verse. The address for today’s verse is John 3:16. That means the verse is from the book of John, which is in the New Testament part of the Bible. The chapter is 3—one of the big numbers in the book of John. The verse is 16; we look down in chapter 3 until we find the little number 16. *(Show in Bible.)* And there is our verse for today! *(Have a child read verse from Bible while everyone follows along from visual.)*

EXPLANATION

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son—God loves you so much that He gave His only Son to die for your sin (going your own way instead of God’s). Who is God’s Son? *(Allow response.)* Jesus!

that whoever believes in him—That means anyone who trusts that Jesus died for his sin and came alive again.

should not perish but have eternal life—Whoever believes in Jesus will not perish. Perish is another word for die. Everyone’s body will die someday but this isn’t talking about your physical body. Remember earlier how we said we are dead in our sin? That’s because your sin separates you from God. But if you believe and trust only in Jesus, you will no longer be dead in your sin. You will have life with God. Say with me, **“Jesus gives new life!”** *(Say with children.)* When you believe on Jesus, you are saved from your sin and have eternal life.

Preschool Memory Verse

For preschoolers, teach “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son...” John 3:16

Introduction

Have the children pretend to unwrap a gift. Tell them that gifts are usually a surprise, but God has a gift for everyone that isn’t a surprise.

Presentation

Remind the children the Bible is the true Word of God. Show the verse from your Bible and read it to the children. Let them come up and see the verse and point out to them where the verse is in the Bible.

Explanation

Review what you’ve taught from John 3:16 then explain that God gave us Jesus, His only Son, as a special gift. We could never win or earn such an amazing gift. God gave us His Son to be our Savior because He loves us.

Materials

Dead branch or plant

Materials

Word Up! Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Materials

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

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Preschool Application

Unsaved: God loves you so much that He gave His only Son to take the punishment for your sin. If you have not believed in Jesus as your Savior, you can believe in Jesus today and have eternal life. Jesus, God's Son, is the only one who can give you new life. Say with me, "**Jesus gives new life!**" (*Say with children.*)

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 and give you eternal life! Say thank you to God for giving you someone who gives you new life.

Materials

Word Up! Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Materials

"Unscramble" reproducibles
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Preschool Repetition

"Name that Sound"

Repeat the verse with motions then have one of the teachers make an animal sound. Have the children guess what animal makes that sound then all make the sound together before repeating the verse. Use a different animal sound with each repetition.

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.

That he gave—Hold hands out as if giving a gift to someone.

His only Son—Touch right middle finger to left palm, then left middle finger to right palm.

APPLICATION

Unsaved: Jesus is perfect. He kept all of God's laws. No one else could do that! He died on the cross and came alive again so you can have new life. Only Jesus can give you new life. Say with me, "**Jesus gives new life!**" (*Say with children.*) When you believe in Him, you are no longer dead in your sins. Instead, you are saved from the punishment of sin and have new life with God through Jesus. You can believe in Him today.

Saved: If you have believed that Jesus is the only one who can give you eternal life, God changed your heart! You already have the joy and blessing of eternal life! God gives you the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God, who comes to live inside you when you believe in Jesus. God the Holy Spirit will change your heart and help you do good like Jesus did. Do others see the difference that Jesus makes in your life?

REPETITION

"Unscramble"

(*Print the words or phrases of the verse on paper strips. Mix the strips up and spread them on a table or the floor in the front of the room. Pick a child to put the words in the right order. Have him put as many strips in order as he can while the rest of the children say the verse. When the children are done saying the verse, the child stops—even if he is not finished putting the verse in the right order. Pick another child to continue until all strips are in the right order.*)

Variation: For more participation opportunities with a larger group of children, divide the children into smaller groups and provide one set of word strips per group. Have all the children say the verse together while one child from each group tries to put the words in the right order. Repeat until all the verses are in the right order.)