



MEMORY VERSE

“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.” (John 3:36)

INTRODUCTION

We all have choices to make every day. *(Have children give a few examples of choices they made that day.)* But there is one choice that is more important than all the others. John 3:36 talks about this important choice. Let’s read it together and see what it says.

PRESENTATION

(Read John 3:36 from Bible and have children follow along on visual.) We have been talking about the books of the Bible written by John. Do you remember how many books are in the Bible? *(Allow response.)* There are 66. Do you remember how many of these books John wrote? *(Allow response.)* He wrote five. God used other people to write down His Words to us too. The 66 different books of the Bible were written at different times in history by about 40 different people. That’s a lot of people writing over a long time! Yet the Bible tells one big story—the story of God redeeming people from sin. If you asked 40 people from around the world to write a book that told one big story, do you think they could do it? *(Allow response.)* No! Everyone would have a different idea of what the story should be. Yet God’s book tells one big story and every part agrees. It is one way we can know the Bible is God’s Word and we can trust it! This is why we can know our verse for today is true. Let’s say it together. *(Have children read verse with you from visual.)*

EXPLANATION

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life—If you choose to believe on Jesus, God the Son, that He died and came back to life to forgive your sin, you will have life that lasts forever. You will have a relationship with God that starts right when you believe in Jesus. Then one day you will be with God forever.

whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life—Those who do not choose to believe in Jesus will not live forever with God. When you do not believe on Jesus as the only one who can forgive your sin, you will be forever away from God, separated from His love and from a relationship with Him.

but the wrath of God remains on him—God’s wrath (anger) against sin is completely fair and right. God’s punishment stays on that person who does not choose to believe in Jesus and will be on him forever.

APPLICATION

Unsaved: If you have never believed in Jesus, you can trust Him to forgive your sin. You will have new life with God that starts now and lasts forever. You can choose to believe in Him today.

Saved: If you have believed in Jesus, you can praise God for His mercy! He has not given you the punishment you deserve. He has forgiven you and His wrath is no longer on you. You can thank Him for giving you life that will last forever with Him.

Alternate Memory Verse

If you wish to teach a new memory verse instead, you may use John 20:31 “But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

Preschool Memory Verse

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

Introduction

Have the children shout out, “God loves me!” Remind them that the memory verse they’ve been learning talks about how much God loves them.

Presentation

Review John 3:16 with the children. Ask them if they remember why they can trust God’s Word is true. Tell the children one reason they can trust the Bible is true is because it changes how people act.

Explanation

Remind the children of God’s promise to give eternal life to anyone who believes in Jesus as their Savior from sin. Review that eternal life means new life with God—life that begins the moment you believe and lasts forever!

Application

Unsaved: If you have not believed in Jesus to give you eternal life, today would be a good day to believe in Jesus as your Savior from sin.

Saved: Have you already believed in Jesus? If you have, remember you can trust Him completely. No matter what happens you can have faith that He is with you. You can know for sure that someday you will live with God forever.

Materials

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

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Preschool Repetition "Secret Word"

Lead the children in simple motions as you repeat the verse together. Tell them that you have chosen a secret word in the verse and you will suddenly point at them when you get to that word. They have to shout the word three times before continuing on with the remainder of the verse.

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.

That whoever—Point at lots of people.

Believes in him—Reach forward with both hands, palms open. Then close your hands and bring them back toward yourself as if accepting a gift.

Should not perish—shake head no.

but have eternal life—Wave hands in the air.

REPETITION

"Clap a Word"

(Have a child choose a letter from the verse visual. Assign one of the following actions—clap, stand, jump, stomp foot, high five—to all words that start with that letter. Continue by allowing another child to choose a new letter. Repeat verse using the new action with the correct words. Keep doing the previous action with a new one for the new letter, or do only one action each time you say the verse.)