



MEMORY VERSE

"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word." (Psalm 119:9)

INTRODUCTION

I'm going to act some things out, and I want you to guess what I'm doing. (*Act out washing a window, vacuuming, washing dishes, etc.*) I was cleaning! When you clean something, it's no longer dirty and can be used again. Would you want to eat from dirty dishes or try to see out of dirty windows? No. If you don't clean the floor, it gets really dirty! Another word for "cleaning" is "cleanse." When you cleanse something, you make it pure (clean). Our memory verse today tells us how important it is to cleanse or make pure something that is really important—more important than dishes, windows or floors! Listen carefully to see if you can hear what it is as I read our memory verse for today.

PRESENTATION

(*Read Psalm 119:9 from Bible. After reading hold up open Bible.*) Our verse today is from a book in the middle of the Bible. It's also the longest book in the Bible. It has 150 chapters! It's the book of Psalms. Can you say that with me? (*Say with children.*) The word Psalms means "songs." The book of Psalms is a collection of songs written by several people, but most of them were written by a man named David. Some of the Psalms are praise songs to God. Others are songs about trusting God when life is really hard. Other Psalms help us remember the wonderful things God has done. People today who write songs of praise to God often use the Psalms for the words of their songs. Our verse is found in Psalm 119 (*point to chapter number on visual*). This is the longest chapter in the Bible with 176 verses. Each verse in this Psalm says something about God's word. The Bible is God's Word and everything it says is true. Our verse is verse 9. (*Point to the verse number on visual then read the verse with children.*)

EXPLANATION

Wherewithal shall a young man—The word "wherewithal" means "how." "Young man" can mean boys *and* girls or young people about your age.

cleanse his way—To cleanse means to make clean or pure. David, the man who wrote this Psalm, is asking how a young person can live a clean life for God in the middle of all the temptations to sin. There are so many things in life that are not pure or right. Maybe you see things on TV, get curious about them and start looking up things online that you know you shouldn't. Or maybe you use words or talk about things that your friends think are funny but are not pure or right. These things are sin and do not please God. How do you know and do what is right? Let's look at the next part of the verse to find out the answer.

by taking heed thereto—David gives the answer to his question. You must "take heed." To take heed means to guard like you would guard a treasure.

according to thy word—God's Word is what you should use to guard your way. This means learning God's Word, like we are doing today, then obeying what it says. God's Word can help you say no to sin and yes to God. God's Word helps you know what God wants. Your life can be clean and pure when you care more about what God says than about what anyone else says or does.

Materials

Visualized Bible Verse Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Preschool Memory Verse

For preschoolers, teach "With my whole heart have I sought thee..." Psalm 119:10

Introduction

Tell the children that you are going to do some motions. Ask them to do their very best to copy you. Lead them in simple motions like clapping your hands, spinning around and stomping your feet. Thank them for doing their very best and say, "You did your very best! Good job! The Bible talks about doing our very best to get to know God."

Presentation

Read the verse from your Bible and tell the children that this verse was actually a song that God put in the Bible for us. Show them the word "Psalm" in your Bible and explain that it means "song." Have them pretend to play an instrument and sing the reference in a fun voice several times.

Explanation

Explain that doing something with all your heart means doing your very best. If something is important to you, you will try to do your very best at it. Tell the children that God wants them to do their very best to get to know Him better.

Preschool Application

Saved: If you have trusted Jesus as your Savior, you should do your very best to get to know Him better. You can do this by listening carefully when other people read the Bible or teach you about God. You can also ask God to help you find out new things about Him.

Unsaved: You can't do your very best to know God on your own. You need His help. He wants to save you from sin and help you get to know Him better. You can trust Jesus as your Savior today.

Materials

Word Up! Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Materials

"Clean Up Motions" cards
(See GNC Resource Pack)
Container

Preschool Repetition

"Heart Hide and Seek"

Cut several hearts from red construction paper and hide them in your teaching area ahead of time. When it is time to repeat the verse, lead the children in seeking (searching for) them as you whisper the verse together. When a heart is found, have them all shout the verse together.

APPLICATION

Saved: If you have believed in Jesus as your Savior, God wants you to keep your life clean and pure. When you memorize God's Word, as different situations come up, the Holy Spirit will use God's Word to speak to your heart. The Holy Spirit can help you make choices based on what's right and pure. When you do this, you are following God as King of your heart. Say with me, **"Follow God!"** (Say with children.)

Unsaved: If you have not believed in Jesus as your Savior, God wants to forgive you and make you clean from your sin. God's Word says your sin makes you unclean, separating you from Him. But God's Word also tells you how you can be made clean, by trusting Jesus to take away your sin. Because Jesus is completely, 100 percent pure and without sin, He can cleanse you from your sin! Jesus died and rose again so you can be forgiven. Will you believe in Him today to make you clean from your sin?

REPETITION

"Clean Up Motions"

(Write down different cleaning chores on small cards [or use pictures of each chore] and put them in a container. Allow a child to choose one card and have all the children pretend to complete that cleaning chore while saying the verse out loud.

Variation: For older children, have one child choose a card while a different child chooses a word in the verse. Say the verse and make the cleaning motion for only the selected word. Continue repeating the verse, adding a motion to another word each time while also doing all the previously selected words and motions.)