



MEMORY VERSE

*"With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments."
(Psalm 119:10)*

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever heard someone say, "Give it your whole heart?" Maybe a coach or teacher said that to you to encourage you to do your very best and give it your whole effort. The Bible tells you and me something we should do with our whole heart.

PRESENTATION

Last week we learned the verse right before the one we're learning today. Let's say it together. (*Quote Psalm 119:9 with the children from visual.*) Today we are going to learn the verse right after it. (*Read Psalm 119:10 from your Bible.*) Do you remember what a Psalm is? (*Allow response.*) A Psalm is a song to God. Our verse is found in the book of Psalms chapter 119 verse 10. (*Point to each part of the reference as it is taught.*) If you wanted to find this verse you could look in the Table of Contents and find Psalms, which is in the Old Testament. Then find the big number 119 and then the little number 10. A man named David wrote this Psalm. God wanted His people to know this Psalm so they could remember how great He is and how wonderful His Word is. He wants you and me to know that too! It pleases God when we learn His Word. (*Read verse with children from visual.*)

EXPLANATION

With my whole heart have I sought thee—To seek God with your whole heart is to spend time with Him. You do this by reading the Bible, praying and then living in a way that shows you are listening to God. When you do something with your whole heart, you are giving it all you've got! God wants you to seek Him with everything you've got. He wants you to put Him first in everything you do. When you seek God, God the Holy Spirit will help you care about the things God cares about.

O let me not wander from thy commandments—When you seek God with your whole heart you will begin to care more and more about what God cares about. Sins that didn't bother you before will begin to bother you. And it will become harder and harder for you to wander (go away) from what God wants you to do. When you seek the Lord with your whole heart, you will not easily wander from His commandments, which is another word for God's Word.

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

Hide a small toy in the room and tell the children you want them to search for it. If needed, give them clues as they search to help them find it. Once they find it, say "You were searching for this toy. The Bible talks about searching for something very important."

Presentation

Mark the verse in your Bible with a brightly colored bookmark ahead of time. Have the children help you find the bookmark and repeat the reference after you. Read the verse from your Bible and remind them that God's Word is true.

Explanation

Explain that seeking God doesn't mean looking for Him because He is lost. It means looking and listening for new things about God. Tell the children that God wants them to do their best to learn more about Him.

Preschool Application

Saved: If you have trusted Jesus to save you from sin, you are part of God's family. He wants you to learn more about Him. You can search for new things about God by listening carefully when someone teaches about God or reads the Bible.

Unsaved: If you have not trusted Jesus to save you from sin, God wants you to learn about Jesus and trust Him as your Savior.

Materials

Word Up! Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Materials

"Whole Heart/Half Heart" card
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Preschool Repetition

"Whole Heart/Half Heart"

Simplify the suggested game by putting the whole and half hearts behind your back and having a child choose a hand. If they choose the hand with the whole heart, say the verse loudly. If they choose the hand with the half heart, whisper the verse together.

APPLICATION

Saved: If you have believed in Jesus as your Savior, God wants you to seek Him with your whole heart by spending time with Him! He will help you do that. Sometimes our desire (want to) to sin can get in the way of following God, but you can ask God to give you a desire to know Him and love Him. God the Holy Spirit can give you this desire to care about the things He cares about. He will help you want to spend time reading His Word so you can know His commandments and live in a way that shows you love Him and are listening to Him. God sees and cares about what is in your heart. Will you ask God the Holy Spirit to help you seek God with your whole heart? Say with me, **"God sees my heart!"** (Say with children.)

Unsaved: If you have not believed in Jesus as your Savior, then on your own you can't seek God with your whole heart. Your heart is far from God because of your sin. But God's Word has the answer. God sees the sin in your heart but He also made a way for you to be forgiven by believing in Jesus as your Savior.

REPETITION

"Whole Heart/Half Heart"

(Use this game to clarify further that doing something with your whole heart means giving it all you've got. Prepare two hearts from construction paper and cut one of them in half. Hold the heart in one hand and the half heart in your other hand as you say the verse with the children. If you hold up the whole heart, have the children stand up and shout the verse wholeheartedly. If you hold up the half heart, have the children crouch down and say the verse quietly. Alternate between the whole and half hearts during each repetition. After you have demonstrated, children would enjoy taking turns holding the hearts and leading the game.)