



MEMORY VERSE

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

INTRODUCTION

"Wandering" Skit

(Have another teacher come up to the front.)

Teacher 1: Hi! I heard you need some snacks for club so I'm going to go to the store now.

Teacher 2: Have fun!

Teacher 1: Okay, bye! *(Teacher 1 proceeds to wander aimlessly around the classroom, even wandering among the children.)*

Teacher 2: *(After a few seconds.)* Uh, *(teacher's name)*? I thought you said you were going to the store?

Teacher 1: Sure, but isn't this the fastest way?

Teacher 2: No, you're just wandering around—you're not even going in the right direction of the store!

Teacher 1: Oh. Well, can you point me in the right direction?

Teacher 2: The store is that way *(point)*. But since we're right in the middle of club why don't you just sit and listen? Today's verse actually has to do with something you were just doing!

Teacher 1: Good idea. I'll wait. But what was I just doing?

Teacher 2: You were wandering—our verse today tells us how to keep from wandering! *(Teachers exit.)*

PRESENTATION

(Read Psalm 119:9-10 from your Bible.) We've been learning Psalm chapter 119 verses 9 and 10. Which part of the Bible is Psalms in? *(Allow response.)* The Old Testament. The Old Testament was written during the time before Jesus was born and looks forward to the time when He would be the Savior. The New Testament talks about Jesus the Savior and what He did when He came. David, who was anointed to be the next king of Israel, wrote many of the Psalms. He wrote some of them during times in his life when he was afraid. Some of them he wrote when enemies were trying to hurt him. Some of them he wrote after great victories in battle. Writing and singing the Psalms helped remind David to keep trusting God, and they can do the same for us today. *(Read Psalm 119:9-10 with children from visual.)*

Materials

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

Alternative Memory Verse

If you wish to teach a new memory verse instead, you may use Psalm 119:2 "Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart."

Preschool Memory Verse

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

Introduction

Hide a Bible in the room ahead of time and ask the children to search for it. Once they find it, remind them that they can search for God by doing their best to learn more about Him.

Presentation

Let the children touch your Bible and look at the pages. Explain that the Bible is a very big book because there are so many things God wants to tell us. Remind them that the reference (address) helps people find different words in the Bible. Have them repeat the reference (address) several times with their eyes closed.

Preschool Explanation

Remind the children that seeking God doesn't mean God is hiding and we have to find Him. It means looking and listening for new things about God. Tell the children that God wants to help them do their best to learn more about Him.

Application

Unsaved: The first thing God wants you to learn is that He loves you and wants to forgive your sin. If you have never believed in Jesus to save you from sin you can do that today.

Saved: If you have trusted Jesus to save you from sin, God wants to help you learn about Him. He can help you want to listen in church, at home, or in Good News Club when people are teaching about God.

Preschool Repetition "Whole Heart Hop"

Remind the children that doing something with your whole heart means trying your hardest and doing your very best. Lead them in doing a variety of fun motions (hopping, clapping, stomping, etc.) while repeating the verse together. Encourage them to do their very best.

EXPLANATION

With my whole heart have I sought thee—God wants you to seek Him (follow Him) with all your heart, which means with everything that you are. God is better than anyone else or anything else. Better than money or fame or a boyfriend or girlfriend, better than having lots of friends or lots of cool toys or gadgets. He deserves to be followed with your whole heart! But the truth is that you and I have a problem—we have trouble following God with our whole hearts. The next part of the verse tells us why.

O let me not wander from thy commandments—David's prayer was that he would not wander from loving and obeying God. Because of our sin, it is sometimes easier for us to disobey God than to obey Him. That's what this verse means by "wandering." Wandering is not knowing where you are going. You may even go in the opposite direction of where you're supposed to go. That's why God gives us His commandments or rules—so we can know what He wants us to do. God's commandments help us not to wander from Him. They also help us know when we start to wander.

Knowing God's commandments can help you to seek Him with your whole heart and help you not wander into sin.

APPLICATION

Saved: When you believe in Jesus as your Savior, God will help you seek Him with your whole heart. He will help you not to wander. When you trusted Jesus to save you from sin, the Holy Spirit came to live in you to give you the power to love God and live for Him. The Holy Spirit's power helps you not to wander away from what is right.

Unsaved: If you haven't believed in Jesus as your Savior, you are wandering from His commands. Maybe you didn't even know what His commands were before you came to club. When you break God's commands, that's called sin. You need Jesus to forgive your sin. When you trust in Him as your Savior, He changes you so you can begin to love and obey Him with your whole heart.

REPETITION

"Choose a Champion"

(Quickly divide the children into teams and have each team choose a champion to represent their team at the front of the room. Put your hand behind your back and hold up some of your fingers. Have each champion guess a number between one and five, the child who guesses closest wins and his team gets to say the verse while the other team shouts the reference before and after the verse. Continue calling pairs of children to the front and choosing champions until the verse has been repeated a sufficient number of times.)