



MEMORY VERSE

“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.” (Psalm 119:11)

INTRODUCTION

(Enter holding something valuable.) I brought a treasure with me today! *(Show children and explain a little bit about why it’s special.)* I need a good place to store this where it will be safe. Where would you suggest I store it? *(Allow response.)* I could put it in a safe, or perhaps a closet, or maybe in a waterproof, fireproof box. Because it’s a treasure, I need a safe place to store it so I will have it for a long time. Our Bible verse today talks about storing the best kind of treasure! Listen and see if you can figure out what it is.

PRESENTATION

(Read Psalm 119:11 from Bible.) We’ve talked before about how Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible with 176 verses. The Psalm is divided into sections of eight verses to help people memorize it. Each set of eight verses starts with the same letter of the Hebrew alphabet—it was the Hebrew ABCs! The first section started with what would be our letter A. The next eight would start with B, and so on. That made it easy to memorize! In our English translation, we don’t see that, but that’s how it works in the Hebrew language. Every verse in the whole Psalm says something about how God’s Word affects our lives. God’s Word is the greatest treasure! Let’s say the verses we’ve learned so far and then say our new one from the visual. *(Read Psalm 119:9-11 from visual.)*

EXPLANATION

Thy word have I hid in mine heart—God’s Word is so valuable it is worth hiding or storing, in a safe place. That doesn’t mean you should take your Bible and put it on a shelf or in your basement. God wants you to store His Word inside you—in your memory! Another way to say this is memorizing. Why should you store God’s Word in your heart? The next part of the verse answers that question.

that I might not sin against thee—When you have God’s Word stored in your heart, God the Holy Spirit, who lives inside all those who have believed on Jesus as their Savior, will help you remember what God says in those times when you are tempted to sin and disobey God. Maybe there was a time when you memorized “Children, obey your parents.” God might bring that verse to your mind when you want to disobey your parents to help you decide to obey instead. Because you hid God’s Word in your heart, it helped keep you from sinning. God’s Word is a gift to help you love Him and obey Him.

Materials

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

Preschool Memory Verse

For preschoolers, teach only “Thy word have I hid in mine heart...” Psalm 119:11

Introduction

Ask the children to help you think of the very best place to hide your Bible in the room. Let them make suggestions and put your Bible in several different places before saying, “Those are all good ideas, but God’s Word tells us the very best place to hide the Bible.”

Presentation

Explain that the Bible is called God’s Word because God helped men write His words down and put them in the Bible. Show the children that Psalms is near the middle of your Bible and remind them that Psalm means song. Have them sing the reference for the verse several times in a fun voice.

Explanation

Explain that the Bible is God’s Word and the best place to hide it is in our hearts. Explain that this doesn’t mean we have to hide the Bible inside of us so no one can find it. It means that we learn verses from God’s Word by heart.

Preschool Application

Saved: If you have trusted Jesus as your Savior, God wants you to remember verses from the Bible. He can help you learn them and keep them in your heart. This will help you live God's way.

Unsaved: If you have not trusted Jesus as your Savior, learning God's Word will help you understand that you need to believe on Jesus as your Savior from sin.

Materials

"Treasure Hunt" cards
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Preschool Repetition

"Treasure Hunt Junior"

Simplify the suggested game for young children by hiding the treasure ahead of time and just looking for it with the children. When a piece of treasure is found, have everyone clap and say the verse before searching for another piece.

APPLICATION

Saved: If you have believed on Jesus as your Savior, memorizing God's Word is part of God's plan for you! God the Holy Spirit will use God's Word to help keep you from sinning and remind you of His care for you. Will you memorize God's Word and store it in your heart?

Unsaved: If you haven't believed on Jesus as your Savior, God's Word tells you the truth about God and about yourself. His Word says that you have sinned and need a Savior. You can believe on Jesus as your Savior today!

REPETITION

"Treasure Hunt"

(Prepare eight brightly colored jewels or coins from colored paper and write a fun way to say the verse on each of them. Place them throughout your club location ahead of time. Have all the children stand in place looking for the treasures and point at one when they see it. Choose one child to retrieve the piece of treasure they saw and read the instructions on the back. Repeat the verse as a group according to the instructions on the back of the treasure. Then have the children all point to another piece of treasure and continue playing and repeating the verse until all the treasure has been collected.)