



MEMORY VERSE

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.” (Psalm 119:9-11)

INTRODUCTION

Who do you want to be like when you grow up? (*Allow response, perhaps sharing someone you admire or wanted to be like when you grew up.*) Why do you want to be like that person? (*Allow response.*) Maybe you admire that person for a certain talent or ability, or maybe because they are someone who has made a difference in the world or in your life. It’s good to admire people who are doing good things and helping others. Sometimes we call those people “heroes.” There is one hero who is the one we should all want to be like!

PRESENTATION

(*Read Psalm 119:9-11 from Bible.*) The past few weeks we have been talking about the life of David and learning part of a Psalm he wrote, Psalm 119:9-11. These verses from the Bible all talk about God’s Word and why it is important to store it in your heart! When you read and obey the Bible, it will change your life! God’s Word points us to the best hero of all—Jesus! Jesus is the one we can try to be like. God uses His Word to help us become more like Jesus.

EXPLANATION

Let’s look at these three verses again and see how they help us become like Jesus.

(*Read Psalm 119:9 from visual with children.*) When you guard God’s Word like a treasure and listen to and obey God’s Word, God helps you keep your way pure (totally clean). Jesus did this perfectly—He always did exactly what God said to do. Jesus’ life was completely pure because He is without sin. Jesus helps those who have believed on Him to have pure lives too by giving them the Holy Spirit to help them obey God!

(*Read Psalm 119:10 from visual with children.*) When you seek (want to love and obey) God with your whole heart, God helps you not to wander from His commandments. He will help you want what God wants for your life. Jesus showed what it meant to seek God with His whole heart and love God perfectly. Jesus helps those who have believed on Him to love and obey God too!

(*Read Psalm 119:11 from visual with children.*) God’s Word is a precious treasure we should store up in our hearts. When we do that, God brings those verses to our minds when we are tempted to sin. Memorizing God’s Word helps you say no to sin! Jesus knew God’s Word. He taught us how to use God’s Word when we are tempted to sin. Jesus helps those who have believed on Him to store God’s Word like a treasure, helping them say no to sin!

Alternative Memory Verse

If you wish to teach a new memory verse instead, you may use Psalm 119:34 “Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.”

Preschool Memory Verse

For preschoolers, teach only “I have stored up your word in my heart...” Psalm 119:11

Introduction

Have the children show you things they have learned by asking them to sing the ABCs or count to 10 with you. Congratulate them for learning these things and hold up your Bible as you tell them that God’s Word is the most important thing we can learn.

Presentation

Explain that the address of the verse helps you find it in the Bible then have the children count together out loud to see how long it takes you to find the verse. Once you have found the verse, ask the children to listen carefully as you read from God’s true Word.

Explanation

Explain that we learn many important things as we grow up, but the most important thing for us to learn about is the Bible. God doesn’t just want us to look at the Bible, He wants us to learn what it says. Remind the children that they can keep God’s Word in their heart by memorizing it.

Materials

Visualized Bible Verse Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

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Preschool Application

Unsaved: If you have never trusted Jesus as your Savior, learning God's Word will help you understand that only Jesus can save you from your sin.

Saved: If you have already trusted Jesus as your Savior, God wants you to learn His Word because it will help you do what is good and right. Doing your best to learn memory verses can help you say no to sin. You can get started right now by doing your best to learn this memory verse.

Materials

Word Up! Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Materials

"Every Other Word" reproducible
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Preschool Repetition

"Mystery Motions"

Write simple instructions for how to say the verse on cards and place them face down at the front of the room. Let the children take turns choosing cards to determine how the verse will be repeated.

Sample Motions:

- Whisper
- Stomp
- Hop
- Clap

APPLICATION

Saved: These three verses teach amazing things about God's Word! God's Word points us to Jesus, our Savior, and our true hero. If you are a child of God, reading and obeying God's Word helps you be more and more like Jesus. When you read and memorize God's Word, God can use it in your life in many ways. One way is to show God's kindness to others, even those who are hard to be kind to. You can be kind because God is kind. Say with me, **"God is kind!"** (*Say with children.*)

Unsaved: God's Word also shows how unlike Jesus we are. If you haven't believed on Jesus as your Savior, Jesus wants to save you! He wants you to believe He died on the cross for your sins and came alive again. When you believe on Jesus as your Savior from sin all the blessings of being God's child are yours!

REPETITION

"Every Other Word"

(Write instructions for how to say the verse on cards and place them face down at the front of the room. Allow a child to choose a card. Say the whole verse and follow the instructions on the card for every other word in the verse. [Example: Shout every other word, whisper every other word, clap every other word, hop on every other word, etc.]

Variation: If desired, simplify this game by following the instructions for every other phrase in the verse rather than every other word.)