

# Teaching the Bible Verse

*Your word have I hidden in my heart that I might not sin against You.” Psalm 119:11*

Memorizing scripture is a vital discipline for every believer. Bible memorization helps us find comfort, fight sin, and know our God. Children form habits early which can have a ripple effect through the rest of their life. What a blessing it can be to train a child in the discipline of scripture memorization early in their life. Yet, children don't usually respond well to the traditional drilling of memorization. When teaching a verse:

**Explain the Verse** - When you are reading verses, you don't want to just read them for the sake of the kids memorizing them. **Really dig into it, and explain it to the children.**

Help them understand WHY they need to memorize this verse, and what God is telling them through His Word.

**Use Fun Activities** to memorize the verse. Here are some creative ways to help children memorize scripture.

## 1) Ball Toss Over a Friend!

This little review game is a little twist on the standard ball toss game.. You'll need soft plastic balls, rubber dish tub, and brave children!

Each volunteer who recites the verse will get to toss three balls. Place the plastic tub around 4 ft away from the child. Have them choose a friend to be their partner during the game. They will lay down on their back between the ball tosser and the plastic tub. After the balls are tossed, applaud their effort and have the children switch places. The other child should also recite the verse before they toss. To get more kids involved you could choose teams of three children. Each one could toss one ball while the other two are on the ground. This would help accommodate a larger group in a shorter amount of time.

**Safety Note:** Be sure the balls are soft flexible plastic. The children should use an underhanded toss and not a baseball pitch. Make sure they aim for the bucket and not their friend's face. Redirect any child who attempts and aggressive throw.

## 2) Say the Verse Under Water

Read the verse out loud together then repeat it rubbing your fingers across your lips as you do. This makes your words sound like they are being spoken underwater. You could also read it in slow-mo, super fast.

## 3) Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes

Use the same hand movements but sing your verse instead. Of course, this might not work well with long verses but shorter verses are better for memorizing anyway. Give it a try. Anything involving movement is great! It becomes a game when you divide the kids into competing groups. After several practice rounds ask who can do it faster. Set a 30 second timer and see who can repeat the process the most times.

#### **4) Snap It**

Try snapping your fingers in between phrases. Breaking a verse into phrases makes it easier to memorize. For example, “For God” ...snap, snap...”so loved” ...clap, clap...”the world” ...snap snap. You get the picture. Alternate snaps with claps and keep it moving. It takes some discipline in the beginning but it’s a fun way to learn a verse. Make it a game when each group of kids takes turns “performing” their rendition.

#### **5) Verse race–game show style**

We read the verse a few times then pick two contestants. The players come up and try to arrange the words properly to make the verse. The person to do this the fastest is the winner. To make it challenging, add unnecessary words to keep kids focused. We do this over and over again giving quite a few people a chance to try. Sometimes we invite teams to come up, especially for the long verses.

#### **6) Bible Verse Hand Motions**

This game is more creative and less competitive. Divide the class into groups. Challenge each to work through the Bible verse creating hand movements that will help them remember the words. Adding simple hand motions is an easy way to help kids memorize scripture. These don’t have to be elaborate or even graceful. The key is to connect the body movement with the concept as the kids recite their bible memory verse

After a set period of time, assemble the class and have each group demonstrate their movements while they recite the verse.

#### **7) Catch & Repeat**

Any type of ball can work for this activity, but a soft, large ball (like a beach ball) is best. Have your class stand in a circle facing each other. Holding the ball, say one word of the verse and then pass the ball to a child; have them repeat the word. Pass the ball to another child, saying the next word of the verse. Continue passing the ball, saying a word at a time, until the end of the verse. Then begin again from the beginning. This time, instead of repeating after you, have the kids say each word in the verse, taking turns. Then have them pass the ball onto another child until each child in the room has had a chance to catch the ball and say a word in the verse.

#### **8) Disappearing Bible Verse**

Write each word of the verse on a piece of paper on the wall or on a dry erase board, then read the verse through with the children. Next, one by one, ask each child to come up and remove a word of their choice from the verse. Each time a word is removed try saying the verse in full. The verse will slowly disappear, and by the end the children will be able to say the verse without seeing it.