

HOW TO. . .teach kids the joy of memorizing God's Word

“If a preschooler can learn the words to 40 ads on TV, he can learn 40 Bible verses in my class.”
a pre-school Sunday School teacher

DOCTRINE! Teach them Scripture which clearly explains a certain concept of God.

My own children went to a 2 & 3 year old Sunday School for 24 months, and each month the teacher helped them learn a different salvation verse:

John 3.16, Ephesians 2.8,9, 1John 5.13, John 6.47, Titus 3.7, John 1.12, Acts 16.31, Genesis 15.6, and on, and on, and on.

For 100 weeks, every child heard that Jesus died for their sin. There never was an “invitation” given, but many children had put their trust in Jesus Christ before they graduated into the four-year old class and could explain to an adult what they believed. Thank you, Miss Pat.

A great amount of the doctrine these kids learn will come through the Word of God which he commits to memory. School aged children can easily learn one verse a week [*often with parents' help*] and a minimum amount of energy [*and maybe a bribe*]. Elementary kids have been earning scholarships to camp for many years just by memorizing 250 verses during the school year.

Although he had just graduated from high school, Dawson Trotman, a completely unchurched kid, trusted Jesus as his Savior while he was walking to work and was reviewing in his mind the 12 Bible verses he had just memorized at the first Christian club meeting he had ever attended the previous week.

Fourth, fifth, and sixth grades are called THE GOLDEN AGE OF MEMORY and are recognized as very special years in the kids' lives. Even adult college students well past this age memorize 100+ verses every year in Bible college.

How to teach the verse which accompanies your Bible lesson in 5 minutes or less.

Don't try to employ every one of the following methods in one week.

- Don't start off with a bland statement such as, “Our memory verse for this week is. . . .”
- First, entice the kids to make them eager to learn it. In one or two sentences create a desire in them to learn the Word of God. Perhaps tell them why it was so neat for you to learn it, yourself.

Hold up a silver bullet and say, “My buddies Mike & Steve, got me to steal a silver bullet from the Lone Ranger's holster when I was in the toy store in 5th grade. Just minutes later a verse I had memorized about stealing rushed to the front of my brain [Exodus 20.15]. I slipped back into the store and put the bullet back.”

Show a picture of a pink stuffed chair “My little sister trusted Jesus Christ next to a chair like this in our basement. I explained the Gospel to her when I was in 4th grade and she was five years old. The verse I quoted to her was. . . .”

- Second, quote the verse to the kids word-perfect without looking at it . . .s-l-o-w-l-y.
- Third, have the kids read it with you from your poster 3 times. *I buy 15 small sheets of brightly colored poster board [11x14] at a time, at Staples or Wal-Mart.*
- Fourth Say the reference before and after.



KIDS' BIBLE CLUBHOUSE

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- Fifth, read it just 5 more times, a phrase at a time.
By this time probably half the kids might be able to say it pretty well without looking.
- Sixth, send the verse home on a square of paper. I usually print out 4 “verse tokens” on one sheet of paper. It’s a nice size. Tell them to tape it to the mirror or nail it to a closet door.
- Be sure to visualize each verse on a poster board so you can do a quick review of the last 5 verses. How long does that take? Go ahead, read 5-verses-in-a-row and time yourself.
How many seconds did it take? _____ I just said the entire 23rd Psalm aloud to myself in 29 seconds.

Several hints—

- explain any new words *very briefly*
- cover the right half and say it, then cover the bottom half, then the left half, etc.
- An object is almost always useful as a memory hook: *seeds, Cross, “stolen” bullet, nail, globe, a dirty rag, candy, sunglasses, belt, photo, shoes, dollar bill, etc.*
Afterwards you can review the verses just by holding up the object.
- Say only the first phrase, then the first and second phrases together, then. . . .
- Write each word [or phrase] on a separate card and have kids put it in order.
- Play “ping pong.” You say one word. Kids say the next, or two kids can do it back and forth, or the whole group divides up in pairs and does ping-pong.
- “Everybody who had eggs this morning stand up and say the verse.”
- Tell the kids to look just above the verse and say it, or close their eyes, or. . . .
- **Quit** while the kids are still eager to “get a turn” to say the verse.

CAUTION: I have seen teachers eat up 15 precious minutes with these tricky little ideas I've just given, since they let every child have a turn. **Be very careful. Don't waste time.** Quit while it is still great fun, even if every child doesn't get a try at it!

But I'm going to give you even more ideas, anyway.

- Have a little competition. 1st, 3rd, & 5th graders against 2nd, 4th, and 6th.
Winning team gets to line up for refreshments first.
- Have a poster with the kids' names & the verses they've memorized.
- Stickers for each verse.
- *One teacher had his kids earn an 8-part reward for 8 verses in the series—a banana split! He printed up a bowl. There were 3 scoops of ice cream, one banana, one glob of chocolate syrup, whipped cream, and a cherry. For each part of the Sundae they memorized, they glued it on their mini-poster.*
A 10-week project for 9-11 year olds.



Yes, they got to eat the parts they had memorized the last week of the contest at the Clubhouse meeting in front of their friends. What a mess!

- Prize Box - for those who have said 10 verses. Then call the kid's folks and brag on him. Matter of fact, you can call the parents any old time to tell them their kid consistently wins all the races as Clubhouse, or is the most cooperative kid you have, or brings the most visitors, or is the best help with the littler kids, or is always polite, or must have a wonderful kind home. Think of something.
- Memory verse teacher listens to the verses “word perfect” next week at the **Memory Chair**.
- Every member of the Kids' Bible Clubhouse staff must know the verse, COLD, and must have a child listen to him/her say it. This will be a tremendous encouragement to some kids to learn them.



Mr. Will listens at the “Memory Chair”
and then he will say the verse to Alex.
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- The memory verse teacher will review the verse the next week in the Bible time simply by having all the kids say the verse aloud together. The memory verse teacher will also have the kids say the last 4 verses aloud *quickly* by holding up the verse posters and reading them *rapidly!*
- One church put up a Cornucopia poster and anybody who memorized a verse during October and November glued a paper picture of fall fruits or vegetables on the poster. If they memorized 100 verses as a group, the reward was pumpkin pie with ice cream for everybody who learned at least one verse! They reached the goal. *This group actually included adults and kids.*

I have made a template of empty “handouts” and can fit 4 of these on a sheet of paper. I hand them out whenever I teach a verse. Different color paper helps. I use MicroSoft Publisher to produce all the documents on this blog site.

Romans 10.14,15

...and how shall they hear
without a preacher?

...and how shall they preach
except they be sent?

Romans 10.14,15



James 1.19

Let every man be

Swift to hear

Slow to speak



Slow to wrath!



James 1.19



Luke 10.2

The harvest truly is great
BUT the laborers are few.

Pray ye therefore,
the Lord of the harvest,
that He would send
forth laborers
into His harvest.

Luke 10.2



Romans 10.1

Brethren, my
desire and



to God for
Israel

is that they
might be



Romans 10.1

A "rebus" is a sentence in which
pictures are substituted for some
words. As you can see, I've replaced 3
words with pictures here.

R

This is an actual SAMPLE of the blank
"handout" template I've made. I put 4 of
these on one page so at a moment's notice I
can type out a:
*verse on card stock
*announcement to take home to parents
*or a picture of the missionary in our story
flag, map, and postage stamp included.
I type out the info once and reproduce it in
each of the other 3 boxes, and BINGO!
PRINT, CUT, AND HAND OUT.