

Memory Learning Tools and Activities

Cover up

Write the memory verse with its reference on the board or large piece of paper. Recite the verse as a group out loud together several times. Then cover a word with one or more sticky notes and recite the verse again. Then cover another word, and recite the verse again. Repeat this pattern until all words in the verse are covered up. Or, use an eraser on a white board.

First Letters

Write the memory verse with its reference on a white board or chalkboard and eraser, or pencil with an eraser on paper. Read the verse several times with your child (or a group). Then erase each word leaving only the first letter of each word. Let the kids recite the verse looking at the letters to remind them of each word. You can erase all words, or only a few words at first after repeating them. Keep practicing until they can say the verse without any letters.

Verse Unscramble

Type the verse with reference in large letters on paper, then cut into strips so each strip of paper contains two to three words. Mix up the strips, put them into an envelope or bag, Give multiple bags to kids so they can race to see who can assemble the verse correctly and say it out loud.

Verse in Motion

Create hand and body motions or facial expressions for key words in the verse. Do the motions as you repeat the verse aloud several times. This helps kinesthetic learners especially.

Back and Forth

This can be used one-on-one, or in a group. Leader says verse reference and first word of the verse, then passes a small ball or soft object to a child. That child says the second word in the memory verse, and then tosses the object to another child, who says the third word. Continue until the entire verse is recited.

Clap It

Repeat the memory verse in a group, then replace one word in the verse with a hand clap. Keep repeating the verse each time replacing additional words with claps until all the words are replaced. Then put the words back in along with the claps.

Director's Favorite

I have found using this method for many years if you explain the theological words, and split up the verse into segments or phrases (like at the commas), it breaks up the verse into more digestible pieces. Then they read to themselves several times each phrase in progression. When they have the first phrase memorized, have them move on to the second phrase, and so on, until the end. Combine all phrases to recite the verse.

Popcorn

Seat the group on the floor. Recite the verse reference and the first few words of the verse and then stop and ask the entire group (or specific people) to pop up and say the next word. Recite a few more words, stop, ask the group (or person) to pop back down while saying the next word. Continue this pattern, until the verse is completed.

Hot Potato

The kids will stand in a circle and pass an object quickly around the circle while they say the verse. At the end of the verse, the child holding the object recites the verse (alone or with help). To add in a reward, make the passed object a piece of Candy (or bag). Child reciting the verse keeps the candy to eat. Repeat until all in the group get candy.

Cut out stone shapes big enough for words from paper. Write the verse reference on one stone, then one or two words from the verse on each of the other stones. In the room where your group meets lay the stones on the ground mixed up. Ask a child to stand on the reference stone, then step to the next stone in the verse while reciting the verse out loud as they walk. Each child in the group takes a turn.

Verse Puzzles

Many websites offer templates to create your own puzzles (crosswords, word search, etc.) out of words discovery Education Puzzle Maker is one.

Verse flashcards

Make flashcards with pictures inserted in place of important words in the verse to help children who learn best visually.

Verse words set to music

Awana makes songs which have catchy tunes for each verse in each verse. Ask you leader to download them. Currently they are in AIFF format which Apple iTunes uses, but also work if VLC software is installed on a Windows computer. I will have Agents of grace music on my website soon.

Note:

Some methods require motion for children who learn best with movement (Kinesthetic), or pictures for visual learners, so be sure to find out what learning style they use.

Children's Ministry books (available at bookstores, online) help identify these types from child psychology:

"The Discipline Guide" by Jody Capehart, Gordon & Becki West - Group Publishing

"Different Children Different Needs" by Charles Boyd, David Boehi - Questar Publishing (DISC)

I have used that information to make a chart which is on the Leaders page on my website

<http://www.barnescomputer.net/Personal/awanaT&Tleaders.html> called [Disc, VAK Learning Styles.doc](#)

Disclaimer: Some items used by permission from Awana T&T Start Zone small group leader guide.