



LESSON 8

Magnify Their Memory

MEMORIZATION ACTIVITIES:

(Special THANKS to Sister Barbara Westberg for permission to take ideas from her seminar on "Hiding God's Word in Children's Hearts" used in Ghana, West Africa, August 2000.)

1. Always begin by explaining what the Bible verse means.
2. Make sure you read it from the Bible so the students can see where it comes from.
3. Then make sure that the students understand what it means to them right now.
4. Never embarrass a student who is trying to quote a verse.
5. Praise him, and help him, as needed.
6. Let two or three students quote a verse together, so if one stumbles, the others can cover for him.
7. Encourage the students to work together as much as possible.

1. FIND the MISSING WORD

- Read the verse from the Bible, and then repeat it correctly several times.
- Tell the students to listen carefully as you repeat it, and see if they can notice which word you leave out.
- Repeat the verse correctly with all joining in.
- Tell the students to listen carefully one more time, trying to find a different missing word.
- Now repeat the verse with the class, making sure everyone knows it correctly.

2. FOLLOW the SCRIPTURE PATH

- Count the number of words in the verse.
- Make a path, with stones, on the cement with chalk, or in the dirt with a stick.
- Make sure you have the same amount of stones or drawn designs, as there are words.
- Read the Bible verse clearly, and repeat it several times.
- Then have the children repeat the verse after you.
- Let the children take turns walking down the path, saying a word of the verse with each step.

3. I AM the PERSON SAYING THIS VERSE

- Read the verse from the Bible several times.
- Talk about who is doing the speaking, and where the verse was spoken.
- Have the students repeat it with you until they are able to quote it.
- Encourage your students to imagine they are the person speaking the Bible verse.
- Give each student a turn to speak the verse as they imagine it sounded. (For example, when the angel in Matthew 28:6 said, "He is not here; for He is risen.")

4. BIBLE VERSE TENNIS

- Read the Bible verse several times, and make sure the class understands it well.
- Divide the class into teams. (You can use two teams, or if the class is larger, four or more. It depends on how long the Bible verse is, as to how many students should be on each team.)

- Line the teams up facing each other.
- The first player on team 1 says the first word of the verse.
- The first player on team 2 says the second word of the verse.
- Then the second player on team 1 says the third word.
- The players work back and forth like this until the verse is completed, word for word.
- If they cannot remember all the words, stop the game and go over the verse with the class again.
- Change the order of players on each team and begin again.

5. ARE YOU LISTENING?

- Read the verse from the Bible.
- Spend time at the beginning of class (before the lesson) making sure that the children are familiar with it.
- Instruct the students that when they hear a certain sound (whistle, clap, snap of fingers—any sound you choose), they are to jump up and quote the verse.
- This can happen any time during the lesson, so they should listen carefully.
- It is best if you do this at points when the verse needs to be emphasized.

6. PICTURE/ACTION WORDS

- As you read the Bible verse, listen/watch for a picture or action word.
- Use your creativity to build an activity around that word.
For example: **“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord” (Acts 3:19).**
 - “Repent” means, “turn around, and move in the opposite direction.”
 - You can use this word and definition to get the students to act out what they need to do.
 - “Converted” means “to change shape and form” and can even be demonstrated with the change in an ice block to liquid water when it melts.
- Have the students turn away from you while you are helping them learn the verse.
- As they begin to know it, they turn around and face you to quote it for the class.
- This reinforces the meaning of the verse—turning from sin and walking with God.

7. BIBLE SEARCH

- Quote the verse from the Bible, and then divide the students into groups.
- Allow them a set amount of time to search for the verse, giving clues if you see they are struggling.
- The first group to find the verse calls out the reference (where it is found).
- Every group should find the verse in the Bible, and then spend time learning it together.

8. WHAT’S HAPPENING?

- Use events that are familiar to your students to apply the verse to their lives.
- Use II Timothy 1:7 as an example: **“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”**
- Another good verse about fear is found in Psalms 56:3. **“What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.”** The age and understanding of your students will help you decide which verse to use.
- Tell a personal story about a time when you were afraid, or give the students opportunities to tell about times when they were afraid.
- Talk about how the Bible lets us know that fear does not come from God.
- Talk about what God does give us—power, love, and a sound mind.

- Talk about how you can use this verse (either one) to help you when fear comes. (We are all afraid at some time.)
- What are some things that you can do when you are afraid? Divide the class into small groups to discuss this, and have them bring a report back to share.
- Repeat the verses until everyone can say them with you.

9. AN ACTION VERSE

- Go over the memory verse with the class.
- Go over it again—this time adding motions. (This will resemble something like sign language, but can be made up by the teacher as you go along.)
- Go over the verse phrase by phrase, as the students do the motions with you.
- Another option is to divide the class into groups after sharing the verse.
- Give them a set amount of time to create motions.
- Allow each group to come to the front and quote the verse, sharing the motions they created.
- Finally, ask the class to say the verse once more, using the motions that you taught them.

10. SPECIAL GROUPS

- Spend time at the beginning of class studying the memory verse.
- Call for various groups of students to come forward and say the verse together. Use your imagination when forming the groups:
- You can be as creative or silly as you feel like, but be sure everyone has been included in at least one group. Some may fit several categories and come forward more than one time.
 - All who were in church last Sunday.
 - All married students.
 - All who write with their right hand.
 - All who are wearing blue.
 - All who are left-handed.

11. MOTIONS

- Ask the students to say the Bible verse while doing different motions.
- Use your creativity to come up with things the students can do while saying the verse.
- Here are some examples:
 - Hold your nose while saying the verse.
 - Hop on your right foot while saying the verse.
 - Flap your arms like a bird while saying the verse.
 - Pat yourself on the back while saying the verse

12. RANDOM PHRASES

- Assign each word or phrase of the verse to a student to remember.
- Select the students at random.
- Have the student stand when he is given a phrase to remember.
- As you quote the verse (or read it from the Bible) have the students quickly line up in the correct order of their given phrase.
- As they line up, they should put their hands on the shoulder of the person in front of them who has the word/phrase before theirs. This will form a train or chain of the memory verse.
- The students then march around the room quoting the verse, one word/phrase at a time, student by student.
- Each time they quote the verse, they should get faster and faster as a train does when gaining speed.
- If you were not able to use all the students, have these sit down, and select another random group.

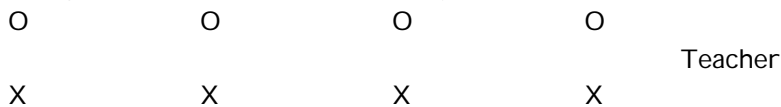
13. PUPPET/SLOW HELPER

- The puppet is not too smart and has trouble learning the Bible verse.
- He misquotes it, leaves words out, and asks all sorts of silly questions about it.
- Ask the students to help the puppet say the verse correctly.
- Let them give directions, fill in missing words, and repeat the verse correctly for him every time he makes a mistake or cannot remember the next word.
- Puppets can be lots of fun, but if you do not have one, or do not know how to make one, ask someone from outside your class to come in for the Bible memory time, and follow the same procedure that you would with a puppet.

14. RELAY RACE

(This method is good to use outside, but can be modified for anywhere.)

- The students memorize the Bible verse at the beginning of class.
- Divide the class into two teams. (If the class is large, divide into several teams to save time.)
- The teams line up facing each other, as far apart as the space allows.
- If possible, give the first runners on each team a Bible (or other small book).
- At the signal (whistle, clap, shout, etc.), the first runners on each team run to the second runners and quote the verse to them.
- The first runner then hands the Bible to the second runner who runs with it to the next player and quotes the verse.
- If a student has trouble quoting the verse, his teammates can help him.
- The last runner on each team runs to the teacher, quotes the verse, and returns the Bible.
- The team that returns their Bible/book to the teacher first is the winner.
- The game should continue until everyone has had a chance to run and quote the verse.



15. FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS

- Before class, on slips of paper, write several different instructions, using your imagination. (If there is no paper available, the teacher can whisper in the ear of each student.) Here are some suggestions:

Whisper	Shout	Touch your toes
Turn your back to the class	Jog in place	Do jumping jacks

- Quote the Bible verse together several times, and then allow the students to draw a slip of paper.
- One by one, the students quote the verse doing what their paper says.
- When each one has done this, call for the class to quote the verse together, still following the instructions found on their slip of paper.

16. MUSICAL

(Follow this procedure to set a Bible verse to music.)

- Ask different members of the class to name a favorite chorus/Sunday school song.
- Make sure you can quote the Bible verse.
- Sing the chorus that you have selected as a class.
- Take the words to the Bible verse, and fit them to the tune you just sang.
- A variation of this would be to:
 - Divide the class into two or three groups.
 - Ask each group to come up with music (a tune) for the Bible verse you are studying.

- When they have practiced, have the groups share their songs, one at a time.

17. RESPONSIVE/CHORAL READING

- Divide the Bible verse into simple phrases.
- Separate the class into as many groups as the verse has phrases.
- Assign a phrase to each group.
- The teacher points to the group that is to quote their phrase, as if he were leading a choir.
- Work with each group, using their phrase, to make it expressive and full of rhythm—like a choir song.

18. WINNER'S CIRCLE

- Mark off two areas/circles on the floor or ground. The area must be large enough for the entire class.
- Ask everyone to stand in the first area.
- The second area should be empty, but well marked as the "Winner's Circle."
- When a student learns the verse, he moves to the "Winner's Circle."
- When a student in the first area has trouble quoting the verse, a student from the "Winner's Circle" gives him a "helping hand" by:
 - Saying the verse with him.
 - Helping him with forgotten/missed words.

(Continue this process until all students are inside the "Winner's Circle".)

19. HOT POTATO

(Use any object, such as a ball, book, orange, or even a raw potato for the "hot potato.")

- Make sure the students are familiar with the Bible verse.
- Have them sit in a circle, facing each other.
- Give the "hot potato" to the first player.
- Tell the students to pretend that the object is very, very hot. They should pass the "hot potato" as quickly as possible to the next person, but if they throw it, they are out of the game.
- The teacher gives a signal, plays some music, or sings a song (whatever is easiest), and the students pass the "hot potato" as quickly as possible.
- When the signal is given again, or the music/song stops, the student holding the "hot potato" quotes the Bible verse.
- This continues until every student has had the opportunity to hold the "hot potato."

(Set a time limit, so the students will not spend all of the class time working on the Bible memory.)

20. PRAY IT

(This works especially well with verses from Psalms.)

- Work with the students to be sure they know the Bible verse.
- Divide the class into groups.
- Have each group "pray" the verse, each in a different position. Discuss the fact that Bible verses are like prayer. They work anytime, anywhere, and in any position.
 - Kneeling.
 - Standing with hands folded in prayer.
 - Sitting with hands in lap and eyes closed.
 - Standing with arms raised.
 - Kneeling with head bowed.
 - Standing in a circle, holding hands with other group members.

21. ECHO VALLEY

- Divide the class into three teams.

- Place each team in a different direction (north, south, east, or west).
- The leader/teacher stands in the remaining area. (The group will form a square/rectangle.)
- The teacher reads a phrase of the verse and points to the first group. They “echo” it.
- The teacher repeats this process with all the groups.
- Continue this process until all of the phrases of this verse have been “echoed.”
- Choose volunteers to be the leader and repeat the process.

22. BIBLE MEMORY GAME

- At the beginning of class, work with the students to memorize the verse, phrase by phrase.
- Choose a popular game (baseball, soccer, tic-tac-toe, etc.) that your students understand, and follow the game rules to play a Bible Memory game.
- Use the rules for the game you have chosen to help the students learn their memory verse.
- You can even use a simple children's game that has rhythm to help remember a Bible verse.

***MEMORIZING IS FUN . . .
NOT WORK!***