



part 1 of 2—

Why Memorize Scripture?

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word....I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”
(Psalm 119:9,11)

This Scripture passage offers sound advice. When a child commits God's Word to memory, the Holy Spirit can help him recall those words for guidance and strength. A child tempted to yell angry words may stop when the Holy Spirit reminds him, “In your anger do not sin” (Ephesians 4:26). An example of the future benefits of Bible memorization is the prisoner of war who says quoting Bible verses he learned as a preteen helped him keep his sanity during solitary confinement.

Helping children hide God's Word in their hearts will not only help them know right from wrong now, it will also guide their decisions in the years to come. As David wrote, God's Word can be a lamp unto their feet and a light unto their paths (Psalm 119:105).

Who Can Memorize?

Generally, children in grades three through six are referred to as being in the “golden age of memorization.” Poems, Bible

verses, and stories learned at this age can usually be quoted for a lifetime. How very important it is for teachers to capitalize on this ability of the child and encourage him to memorize God's Word.



How Do I Encourage Memorization?

Memorization is work. Children must be motivated and encouraged to make the effort to memorize. Wise teachers make learning a joy. Memorization needs to be a happy, meaningful experience. So what can teachers do to make learning fun?

Know if your students learn best through visual, audio, or tactile means. That will tell you

what kinds of activities your students enjoy. Do they like active games? Quiet games? Writing activities? Crafts? Music? Discovering what helps your students learn best can help you make memory work interesting and meaningful.

When memorizing Scripture, be sure your group understands the context of the Bible verses they are memorizing. If necessary, read the passage from different translations. Explain the meaning of each verse. Help them see how it can apply to their lives now. When possible, tell why a particular verse has special meaning for you.

Sample Memorization Ideas

Use the following ideas to create meaningful, fun memorization activities for God's Word. Select ideas to try each quarter in order to find what your students particularly enjoy.

Visual

String Up

Print the words of a Bible verse in a scrambled position on a poster or on a manila folder. Attach a paper fastener beside each word. Tie yarn to the fastener beside the first word and allow the children to string yarn

