

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

MISSING WORDS

You will need a chalkboard, white board or paper for this activity. You will also need chalk, marker, and eraser.

Write the memory verse on a chalkboard or marker board. Ask the children to recite the verse. Choose a volunteer to erase one word. Lead the children as they recite the verse again (include the missing word). Continue this until all the words disappear. If a chalkboard or marker board is not available, write each word of the verse on a separate piece of paper, and ask the children to remove one word at a time.

BIBLE WAVE

Ask the children to sit in a straight line. Tell the first child to stand, to say the first word of the verse, to wave both hands excitedly in the air, and to sit down. Ask the second child to stand, to say the second word of the verse, to wave both hands excitedly in the air, and to sit down. Continue until the verse is complete. If a child forgets a word or says the wrong word, let the other children tell the correct word. Encourage the children to say the verse quickly so that their motions look like an ocean wave.

BIBLE PASS

You will need a Bible and a source of music for this activity.

Have the children sit in a circle. Give one child the Bible. When the music starts, tell the children to pass the Bible around the circle. When the music stops, the child holding the Bible says the Bible verse. Strategically stop the music so each child has an opportunity to say the verse.

BIBLE VERSE RACE

Before the lesson, write each word or phrase of the Bible verse and the reference on a piece of paper. Make two sets.

Divide the class into two teams. Scramble the cards so that the words are out of order. Place a set of word cards on the floor in front of each team. At your signal, the first child on each team will find the first word of the verse and run to a goal line. He or she places the card on the floor and races back to the second player. The second child finds the second word of the verse and races with it to the goal line, placing it in order next to the first word. Continue until one team completes the verse in perfect order. Allow time for the second team to complete its verse. Then have both teams recite the verse together.

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BIBLE VERSE LINE

Before the lesson, write each word or phrase of a Bible verse on a separate piece of paper.

Distribute the words to different children, and scatter them throughout the room. Choose one child to arrange the words in order by tagging each individual child holding the words. Then have the class read the verse together.

HIDE AND SEEK

Before the lesson, write each word or phrase of a Bible verse on a separate piece of paper. Then hide the pieces of paper around the room before the children arrive.

Have the children search the room for the pieces of paper and bring them back to the front. Have the children arrange the words in order, and then ask the class to recite the verse together.

STAND UP VERSES

Arrange the children in a circle, and have everyone sit down. Ask one child to stand and say the first word of the verse and then sit down. The next child stands and says the second word and then sits down. Continue until the children complete the verse. Play the game several times, encouraging the children to finish faster than the previous time.

CHAMPION & CHALLENGER

Choose two children who think that they know the memory verse. Stand them back to back in front of the group. One child will start by saying the first word of the verse. Then, the other child will say the second word. Continue back and forth until one child makes a mistake. The other child is the “champion.” Ask the whole class to say the memory verse. Then, select a new “challenger,” and repeat the game. Soon, both children will be able to complete the memory verse without error.

BLINDFOLD CHALLENGE

You will need a blindfold for this activity. Ask the children to stand and arrange themselves in a large circle.

Select one child to stand in the center of the circle. Place a blindfold on this child. Ask the children in the circle to join hands and walk around the circle as they repeat the phrase, “God’s Word helps me each day” a few times. This will prevent the child in the middle from remembering where each child in the circle stood. Stop the children and ask the child in the middle to point to a child in the circle. The child will recite the verse in a disguised voice (high pitch voice, squeaky voice, low voice, etc.). The child in the center then tries to guess who said the verse. If the child fails to guess correctly, he or she will point to another child who will say the verse. Continue until the child in the center guesses the correct child or the child guesses wrong three times. Then choose another child to go into the center.

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MEMORY VERSE TOSS

You will need a small ball for this activity. Ask the children to stand and arrange them in a large circle.

Tell the children that whoever catches the ball has to say the next word in the memory verse. Toss the ball to one child to start. He or she recites the first word and then tosses the ball to another child until the entire verse is recited correctly. Repeat the game and encourage the children to complete the verse faster each time.

WORD IN ACTION

Before the lesson, write a different action on separate pieces of paper or index cards, such as “turn in a circle,” “lie on the floor,” “pat your head,” “stand one foot,” “skip,” “stand in a corner,” “whisper,” and so on.

Ask each child to choose one of the index cards and to do the activity listed on it while he or she recites the memory verse.

THE REPEATER

Before the lesson, write one or two words of the verse on a small piece of paper. Make more than one set if you want to work in groups, one set per group.

Instruct students to sit in a circle, and distribute the papers around the circle in the correct verse order. The student with the first word of the verse says the first word. Then the next student says the first word and the new word. The third student says the first, second, and third words. Repeat this process, adding a new word each time. After you complete the verse, have students pass their card to the person on their left and begin the game again.

SPIDER WEB REVIEW

You will need a ball of yarn for this activity.

Instruct the children to stand in a circle. Toss the ball of yarn to one child and ask him or her to say the first word of the verse. The child will wrap the yarn around his or her hand and toss the ball of yarn to another child across the circle. This child will say the second word of the verse and wrap the yarn around his finger. Continue playing and saying words of the verse until every child has a turn. The back and forth motion of the yarn will produce a spider web.

BALLOON POP

You will need balloons, a permanent marker, and tape.

Blow up the balloons. Write one word of the Bible verse on each balloon. Attach the balloons to the wall in correct order. Let the children read the verse together. Select one child to pop one balloon. Have the children recite the verse again, and remember to say the missing word. Select another child

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to pop a balloon. Let the children say the verse again. Continue until all the balloons are gone, and the children can recite the verse from memory.

HAPPY FACES MEMORY GAME

Write each word or phrase of a Bible verse on a paper plate or a circular piece of paper.

Distribute the plates to the children, and ask them to draw a happy face on the blank side of the plate (circle). Attach the plates to the wall so the children can see the words of the verse. Read the verse together. Select one child to turn over one of the plates so the happy face shows. Then have the children read the verse. Select another child to turn over another plate. Say the verse again. Continue until all of the plates show happy faces, and children can recite the verse from memory.

BIBLE VERSE UNSCRAMBLE

Write each word or phrase of a Bible verse on a piece of paper or index card.

Distribute the word cards in mixed order. Let the children arrange themselves in a circle in the correct order according to the portion of the verse they received. Have the children say the verse together. Then ask one child to turn the card around, so the other children cannot see his or her word. Have the children say the verse again. Continue in this manner until all the cards are turned around and no words are visible.

This could also be played as a race between two or more teams to see which one is the first to arrange themselves with the words of the verse in the correct order.