

# *Zion Baptist Church* Teacher Training: Teaching Memory Verses with Results

“The Word of God is powerful...” The Word of God has power to bring someone to God (1 Pet. 1:23), to keep us from sin (Ps. 119:11), to guide us in God’s paths (Ps. 119:105), and to strengthen our faith. Since the Word is so powerful, we must do what we can to expose people to it in our teaching (this should be happening anyway since your lessons are from God’s Word) and to help them, especially the children, to memorize it, so that the Spirit can use it throughout their lives.

*Some helpful tips for learning memory verses:*

1. Sometimes it’s helpful if you don’t tell them that they are going to “memorize” the verse (this puts pressure on them) and just tell them you are going to “learn” the verse together; they’ll think they have done better than expected when they have memorized it.
2. Some children may take longer than others; as long as a child gets the gist of the verse when they say it back, praise them for “learning” it. Remember that some children may memorize the verse very quickly, but still may not know what the verse means.
3. Encourage them to tell their mom or dad or whoever they live with when they get home. This way, the Word of God can be brought to more people.

*Remember several key things about memorization:*

1. Repetition is the key
2. Include all learning styles (visual, auditory, kinesthetic-tactile)
3. Take into account the age and maturity of the children you are teaching; what works for small children may not work for teenagers or pre-teens and vice versa
4. Review after a short period helps to cement what is being memorized so methods that break things up can actually be helpful

“In this changing world, we need something to which we can cling, something which is sure and steadfast, something which never changes...what could there be better than the sure Word of God.” - Mildred Morningstar

*Use effective teaching and learning techniques to help your students learn their memory verses.*

## **Helpful Steps to Remember in Teaching a Memory Verse:**

1. Introduce the Verse – Seek to capture their attention by using an object lesson, a question, a picture, or even a short skit.
2. Read the Verse – Read the verse (or have it read) directly from the Bible and not just from the Visual so the children understand that this is God’s Word!

3. Explain the Verse – List the Words or expressions which are difficult and would need to be explained (make sure you understand it properly in context yourself).
4. Apply the Verse – Decide whether the memory verse emphasizes one of the GOSPEL truths or the Main Thrust Statement of the lesson.
5. Memorize the Verse – Use a variety of methods (see below) from week to week in learning the words of the verse.
6. Review the Verse – The week after the verse has been taught, remember to review it. Use a variety of methods to do this (be creative). Continue to review all the verses within a given series from time-to-time throughout the year.

### **Some Ways to Memorize Verses**

1. Blackboard or dry-erase board – Erase the words and have the children guess what is missing and then have them say the verse.
2. Pocket chart or board – Remove words and have the children guess what is missing. Say the whole verse each time the missing word is guessed.
3. Songs – Put the verse to music or say it in a “sing-songy” way.
4. Verse Scramble – Have the children unscramble the verse on the flannel board or magnetic board. Say the verse each time.
5. Colored Rectangles – Cut out small rectangles (one for each word in the verse). Point to the rectangles as you say the words and then begin removing the parts by color.
6. Flip Strips – Print the verse on word strips that are hinged to the poster board. Flip the strips back and forth so that part of the verse is hidden.
7. Crazy stand-ups – Those with blue eyes, wearing green, six years old, brown hair, etc. stand up at various times and say the verse.
8. Choral speaking – Divide the children into several groups and have them say their part.
9. One that you come up with – Take these ideas and use them as guides to make your own!

### **Ways to Review One Verse**

1. Flashcards – Write the reference on one side and key words on the other side.
2. Ping Pong – Use the gospel block or a bean bag. Line the class up in two rows facing each other. Toss the block back and forth saying a word for each time.
3. Crossing the Creek – Cut out paper stones, one for each word in the verse. Put them on the floor and have a child step on each stone saying the word in the verse.
4. Popcorn – The teacher says part of the verse, then stops and sits down. The children pop up and say the next word. The teacher then says more of the verse.
5. Clothesline – Cut articles of clothing out of paper. Write the phrases of the verse on the clothing. Hang them on a line all scrambled up. The child must put the verse in order.

6. Team Scramble – Hand out parts of the verse to the children and have them stand up front in the right order.
7. Symbols – Hold up a symbol representing parts of the verse – Have the children say the verse.
8. Whisper Down the Lane – Whisper the verse from one person to the next. Do this in several teams.

### **Ways to Review Many Verses**

1. Balloon Contest – Write the references for the verse on pieces of paper and place them inside balloons. Divide into teams. Pop the balloons and say the verse.
2. Fishing – Catch a fish that has a reference on it. Say the verse.