

Exercise: Memory Verse Games

These are some ideas for learning short memory verses with children. Try them out or make up your own versions that work for your group! *If you have time now, play one of these with a friend. Then read over the Bible verses at the end and think about what they mean.*

- 1.) Erase-A-Word: Write the verse on a board which can be erased. Have the children say the verse together. Erase 1 word. Say the verse again. Keep erasing words and saying the verse. Can you all say it without seeing the words?
- 2.) Hopscotch: Write the memory verse out on cards. Tape them in hopscotch pattern on the floor. Have the children say the words as they hop from one to another (or have them say the whole verse before they start hopping and the reference after they stop hopping.) Have everyone do this a few times.
- 3.) Mix and Fix: Write the verse on cards. Have the children mix up the verse and then spend some time straightening it out. Pair up or have teams to change things up. For very young children, try putting numbers (or some other clue) on each card (with words.)
- 4.) Pass It On: Have the children sit in a circle. Choose one child to hold a special object. (*Like a pillow, a bean bag, a toy, a hat, an unlit candle, a pretend microphone, etc.*) Have that child say the memory verse (repeat it with them if necessary.) Have the child pass the object to someone else. Repeat the process until everyone has done it.
- 5.) Back Words: Write the verse out on cards. Pin the cards on the children's backs. (For younger children put them on their fronts.) Have them line up correctly so that you can say the verse correctly. For fun have the children say their words in order. Switch up and try it all again!
- 6.) Write it My Way: Take turns writing the verse on the board or on paper. Use various colors/ cursive writing/ printing/ block letters/ write in circles or other shapes. Note that the words and the meaning are the same no matter who writes them, or how they are written.
- 7.) Fish: Use 4 different colors of blank cards. Write each word of the verse on all 4 colors of cards. Have the children play "Go Fish" with the cards. Four of one word makes a set. When all the sets are together, put them in order, and read the verse together.

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. Psalm 119:11(NIV)

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Psalm 119:105 (KJV)