

A-Z of Memory Verse Ideas

Active Verse

Display the Bible verse and say together. Then ask the children to say the verse in each of these ways:

- At a normal pace while standing
- In fast forward while jogging in place
- In a whisper while tiptoeing
- Shouting while marching
- In slow motion while jogging in slow motion
- In a normal voice while walking backward

Amazing Verse

Write each word of the verse on a piece of paper. Cut a piece of yarn large enough to wrap around the room. Punch a hole or two at the top of the words and string them in order on the yarn. Wind the yarn around the room to create a maze. Children are to find the pieces of the verse by following the string.

Backwards Verse

Print the verse with the letters written backwards on a piece of paper. Children are to try to write the word correctly. Use a mirror to read the verse correctly.

Bean Bag Ball

Make a square on the floor with masking tape. Connect the opposite corners inside the square with tape to form an "X." Give each section a number value. Divide into two teams. Each child takes a turn throwing a bean bag into one of the sections. If he or she can say the verse correctly, his or her team's score is the number of the section.

Bean Verse

Learn the verse. Use a poster board to make a verse poster. Write the verse in large letters. Glue the beans or other material to the letters. Hang the bean verse in your meeting room.

Before and After

Make a flash card of each word in the Bible verse. Hold up cards, one at a time. Children must say the word that comes before the flash card and the one that follows. Continue until all words have been recalled and children can quote the entire verse correctly.

Bible Concentration

Divide verse into nine parts. Write in jumbled fashion each part on a poster board and cover each part with separate sheets of paper numbered from one to nine. Let children play concentration until the proper verse order is learned. Repeat until learned.

Bible Verse Hopscotch

Using masking tape or chalk, mark off a hopscotch grid in an open area. Write the words of the verse on a card. Place a card in each of the squares of the grid. Children will take turns completing the hopscotch grid until all have learned the verse.

Bible Verse Relay

Print the memory verse on a large piece of paper. Read the verse together. Hide the verse. Divide the children into teams. Give each team a Bible and a marker. Attach one piece of paper per team to the wall. The first child runs to the paper, writes the first word of the verse and runs back. He hands the marker to the second child who writes the second word. Continue until the verse and reference are written. If a team member needs to look at the verse, the whole team must look up the Bible verse. The first team to finish wins.

Blank Verse

On a chalk or white board write the verse to be learned, leaving blanks for words you intentionally leave out. List all the words omitted on the board in a random fashion. Ask one child to go and write a word in the proper blank. Repeat until the verse is completed. This can be done several times until all children have the verse memorized.

Break the Code

Prepare a simple code where one letter is assigned to one number. Write the code on a large piece of paper or on a chalk or white board. Write the Bible verse in code form with a blank line under the number. Prepare enough copies for each child. Children are to break the code and complete the Bible verse.

Buried Treasure

Write the entire Bible verse on yellow poster board circles like gold coins. Children dig for buried treasure in a bucket of sand. Let them read to the group the "found" coins.

Can Game

Wrap empty, clean soft drink cans with white paper. Write the words of the verse on individual cans. Scramble the word-cans on a flat surface. Take turns arranging the cans to form the verse. This can be done as a group or individual project.

Check Out

Write the verse on a chalk or white board, inserting an incorrect word between each two words of the verse. Children take turns "checking out" an incorrect word. When all have been "checked out," let children read the verse together. Erase. Let each child quote the verse.

Colour Verse

Give each child a blank piece of paper and access to crayons. Have each child cover the paper with colors other than black. Color over the colors with black as dark as possible. Have each child use a Popsicle stick to scratch the verse into the colors. The verse will appear in bright colors.

Cut and Glue a Verse

Write a verse on construction paper and tape it on the wall. They are to find and cut out letters to the words of the verse from magazines and glue them under the words on the wall. Quote the verse when all have been found.

Domino a Verse

Write words to a verse on the backs of several dominoes. Lay them face down on a table. Children turn them face up and arrange them in correct order to form the verse. Children say the verse correctly. After that they can "domino the verse" by arranging standing dominoes to fall.

Dot the Verse

Print the verse to be learned in a random fashion on a sheet of paper with a dot in front of each word. Make copies for each child. Have the children connect the dots in proper order. Repeat until each child can quote the verse.

Envelope Race

Write each word of the verse on an index card. Place in an envelope. Divide the group into teams and give an envelope to each team. The first team to arrange the verse in the proper order wins.

Fading Verse

Write the Bible verse to be learned on a chalk or white board. Erase one important word at a time while repeating the verse each time. Continue until all words are erased and verse is learned.

Feather Relay

Divide into two or three groups. Have the groups stand in lines at one end of the room. A teacher will stand at the other end of the room. Give the first child in each line a paper plate holding a feather or die-cut shape made from tissue paper. When the teacher says Go!, the children with the plates walk to the other side of the room, recite the Memory Verse to the teacher, return to the original line, and pass the plate to the next child. If the feather or shape falls off the plate, the child starts over. Continue until all have learned the Bible verse.

Fill in the Blanks

Draw a blank on the chalk or white board for each letter in the verse. Group the blanks for each word. Let the children take turns guessing the letters until someone can solve the puzzle correctly.

First Letter

Print the first letter of each word in the verse to be learned on a chalk or white board. Let children complete verbally as many words as they know. Repeat until all have learned the verse.

Fish for Verses

Bring a fishing pole with a magnet tied to the end of the line. Bring a bucket of water and plastic bags. Write verses on paper. Place a verse, goldfish-shaped crackers, and a weight in each bag. Squeeze the air out of the bags. Put several paper clips on the outside of each bag. Let children take turns fishing for verses. When they catch one, they read it and eat the crackers.

Flip the Word

Use 8 ½ x 11 pieces of poster board or heavy paper. Print one word of the verse to be learned on each sheet. Punch two holes in the top of each sheet and fasten together in proper sequence with rings or yarn. Use this flip chart to help children memorize the verse. See how few words you need to flip before each child can quote the verse.

Flip a Verse

Write the Bible verse on a large sheet of paper. Cover each word with a small colored piece of paper using a piece of removable tape at the top. You should be able to lift the small piece to see the word underneath. Also, write the words of the verse on individual pieces of paper; one word per paper. Turn these upside down and place beside the poster. Allow children to take turns turning over the smaller pieces of paper and then flipping up a piece of paper on the large Bible verse sheet. When a match is found, remove the piece of paper covering the word. When the verse is completely uncovered, lead the children in quoting the verse.

Flying Verse

Use a flying disc to learn a Bible verse. Teach a verse to the children. Have the children stand in a large circle. Throw the flying disc to one child. That child must say the first word of the verse. He or she will then throw the disc to another child who must say the next word of the verse. When a child misses a word, the verse must be started over. See how long it takes to complete the verse. No child will be dropped from the game. Just keep trying until the verse is complete.

Variation: Divide children into two teams. Have the teams stand in a straight line across from each other. The children should stand side by side. Give one child a bean bag or small ball. Have that child say the first word of the verse, then toss the ball. The person catching the ball must say the next word and so on.

Graffiti Style

Write the Bible verse to learn on a chalk or white board in graffiti style (words jumbled). Ask one child to find the first word and draw an arrow to the next word repeating both words. The next child draws an arrow connecting the third word and repeats all three. Continue until all words are connected and all children have learned the verse.

Hand Down

Display the Bible verse. Let the children read the verse aloud. Remove the verse. Tell each child to raise his or her right hand. Ask a volunteer to lower his or her hand if he or she knows the first word of the verse. Let him quote the first word. Write it on a chalk or white board. Follow the same steps with each word in succession until the entire verse is again displayed.

Hang the Verse

Print each word of the verse to be memorized on a separate 3 x 5 card. Stretch a small rope between two chairs. Use clothespins to pin each word in a jumbled fashion on the rope. Have children alternate to move one word at a time one space per move to put the verse in order. Repeat until all children have learned the verse.

Hide and Seek

Write words or phrases of the verse on strips of construction paper. Place the strips around the room. Have children find the pieces. As they find them, they should gather in the front of the room and place themselves in the proper order. Read the verse aloud. Repeat the search several times.

Hook a Verse

Divide a sheet of white paper into as many pieces as the Bible verse and reference. Draw a fish in each section. Print one word of the Bible verse inside each fish (the reference counts as one word). Make four copies of the sheet. Cut apart the sections and attach a paper clip to each one. Make four fishing poles by hanging a small magnet on a string from the end of four dowel rods (or pencils).

Practice saying the Bible verse in unison. When the children are familiar with the order of the words, scatter the paper fish on the floor. Give four children each a fishing pole. Invite them to catch only fish needed to complete their Bible verse. If they catch a word they already have, they are to throw it back. Set a timer for a few minutes and see who can catch and complete the verse first. If you have a larger

group of children, organize into teams and rotate fishers for each word catch. When time is up, see how many children have caught and completed the verse. Say the verse together again.

I Am a Verse

Divide verse to be learned into parts equal to the number of children. Print each part on separate sheet of paper. Jumble sheets and give one sheet to each child. Holding the sheet in front, each child lines up in proper sequence. Call out your part. Repeat until verse is memorized.

Illustrated Verse

Ask children to draw pictures of words in the Bible verse that help them remember the word. Put the drawings together repeating the words using the visual clues. Continue until all have learned the verse.

Invisible Verses

Using small paintbrushes or cotton swabs, write the verse on tablet paper or newsprint with grapefruit juice. Allow to dry. Heat paper gently over a light bulb. Message will appear. Use caution with the hot light bulb.

It's Time

Display the verse. Children read it together several times. Remove the verse. Children number off and form a circle. Children walk around in a circle until a timer rings and you say, "It's time." Then, number one must say the verse. Continue until each child has quoted the verse.

Jigsaw Puzzle

Print verse to be learned on a poster board. Cut into a puzzle. Mix and let children put puzzle together. Each child says the verse and repeats it until learned. Variation: Cardboard strips may be used instead of poster board.

Knot that Verse

Take a three-foot length of yarn and tie a knot in the center. Beginning at each end, tie knots at three-inch intervals until there are six knots on each side of the center. Cut three construction paper flags and punch a hold in the corner of each flag. Tie one flag at the center knot to show that it is the center. Put the other two flags at the first knot on the opposite ends of the yarn.

Divide the children into two teams. Have one player from each team hold an end of the "rope." Take turns reciting the Bible verse. Each time a team correctly repeats the verse, that team moves their flag one knot closer to the center. The team reaching the center knot is the winner.

Memory Magnet

Give each child a clothes pin, small pompom, two wiggle eyes, and a small piece of magnetic tape. Place magnet on the back of the clothes pin. Make a face with the other materials for the front. Use the pin to hold this week's memory verse on their refrigerator at home.

Mirror Writing

Practice mirror writing using a Bible verse. Use a small mirror with pen and paper. Place a book to stand in front of the mirror. Place the paper in front of the book and the mirror in front of the paper. Look into the mirror to see the paper and write the verse. Younger children may write only one word of the verse. Use a mirror to decode the words.

Monk Style

Print the Bible verse to be learned on cards with no spaces. Have children use a pencil and divide letters into proper words. Repeat the verse aloud until all have it memorized.

Now You See It

Write the verse on a poster board. Cover the verse with another poster board by taping across the top edge. Do not allow the children to see the verse before the game. On the first round, reveal the verse to the children for five seconds. See if any child can repeat the verse. Increase the exposure time on future rounds until all the children have learned the verse.

On Line

Let the children read the Bible verse together. Remove the verse. Hand out flash cards of the verse, one word to a card. Ask the children to arrange themselves "on line" in the correct order, each holding his or her flash card in front of him. Let a child check with the Bible to see if the words are in the correct order. If not, the child can then rearrange the children. All read verse. Then, turn the cards around and let all quote the verse.

Photograph a Verse

Write words to a verse on separate sheets of construction paper. Take pictures of each child holding a word to the verse. Children then use the pictures to arrange the words to the verse in proper order. Tape to poster board.

Picture It

Draw simple pictures that represent the first letter of each word of the verse. Help children guess what the word is that starts with the same letter in the picture. Write the word below the picture.

Pop Verse

Print verse portions on slips of paper. Roll the paper slips and insert in a balloon. Have children blow up balloons and pop them. Let them work together to put the verse in order. Use slips to prompt children to repeat verse until memorized.

Variation: Divide children into teams. Provide balloons for each team (1 color per team).

Place strips of paper containing the words or phrases in the balloons. Put inflated balloons in boxes according to team color. Children must race to their team box, pop the balloon, and tag the next teammate. Children must place the strips in order after all balloons are popped.

Quote That Verse

Let children study the verse to be learned. Let each child say how many words the leader has to say until he or she can complete the verse. Continue until all can say the verse without help.

Record a Verse

Record the verse on a tape recorder. Play the verse over several times. Stop the tape and leave off the last of the verse, allowing the children to complete the verse. Continue to stop the tape so that the children can say the whole verse without the tape.

Sandy Verse

Write a Bible verse in large letters and put it on a wall. The first person uses his or her finger to write the first word of the verse in sand that is in a shoebox lid. The next child writes the second word in another shoebox lid and so on. Children walk past the sandy verse and read it.

Scrambled Verse

Write the verse on a small sheet of paper with the words in incorrect order. Learn the verse. Give each child a copy of this scrambled verse along with scissors, glue, and another full sheet of paper. Have the children cut the words out, put them in the correct order, and glue them to the full sheet.

Scripture Song

Print the verse to be learned on a poster board. Help the children put the verse in a song form and sing it. Sing it over and over until each child has memorized the verse.

Share-a-Verse

Have the children sit in a circle. Whisper the first word of the verse to one child. He or she will then whisper that word to the next person and so on until the last person who will say the word aloud. Whisper each word to the first person as soon as he or she has passed the word to the next person. Can the last person say the entire verse aloud without mistake?

Skip It

Read the verse on a chalk or white board or display a printed verse. Children read the verse together several times. Remove the verse. Ask a child to say the verse, skipping every other word. For example: "Freely—received, —give." the next child skips the words just quoted. All the children "skip" through the verse then quote the entire verse together.

Spill the Verse

Make several copies of the verse on construction paper. Cut the paper into several pieces and place in a baby food jar. Tape the Bible reference to the outside of the jar. Children are to spill the verse onto the table and try to put it together. Check the verse by looking up the Bible reference.

Step on It

Print each word of a verse in large letters on a separate sheet of paper. Tape in random order onto the floor, close enough for succeeding words to be reached in a step. Children should step on one word at a time in the proper order to quote the verse. Repeat until all the children have "Stepped on it."

Tic-Tac-Toe

Divide the children into two teams, the "X"s and "O"s. Draw a tic-tac-toe grid on the chalk or white board. Have the team members recite certain portions of the verse, eventually reciting the verse in its entirety. Each time the team members correctly recite the verse and its sections, mark Xs and Os on the grid until a team gets three in a row.

Tie Up a Verse

Print each word of the verse to be learned on 3 x 5 cards. Make several sets. Give each child a 1 piece of yarn. Punch a hole in the top of each set of cards. Jumble them and ask the children to thread the cards onto the yarn in proper order. Repeat until each child can repeat the verse from memory.

Total Recall

Write the Bible verse on the chalk or white board. Let all children read the verse together several times. Erase the verse. Call out, in random order, a letter that begins one of the words in the verse. Children must raise hands and say the correct word that begins with the letter called. Write the word on the chalk or white board. Each time a letter is called, each child will have to say the entire verse to himself or herself or herself to recognize the word. Continue until the entire verse is again on the chalk or white board.

Triazole

Write the Bible verse on a 3 x 5 card for each child. Cut each card into three triangles. Mix all triangles on a table. Let each child find three triangles that, when put together, contain the entire verse.

True-False

Say the Bible verse together several times. Then, change words in the verse and read it aloud to the children. Let them determine if the reading is true or false. If it is false, they should identify which words were added or removed.

Undercover Verses

Print a Bible verse on a piece of construction paper. Cut another piece of construction paper into eight jig-saw pieces. Cover the Bible verse with the jig-saw pieces, each attached with a small piece of rolled masking tape at the back. Number the puzzle pieces one to eight. Let each child have a turn calling out a number. Remove that puzzle piece. See if the child can quote the verse. If not, then another child calls out a number and so on until someone can quote the entire verse. The same jig-saw pieces can be used on a number of different verses.

Verse Art

Give each child a blank sheet of paper and access to crayons or markers. Ask the children to draw a large circle on the paper. Lead the children to write the words of the verse around the circle. Help younger children. Instruct the children to draw and color a picture related to the verse in the middle of the circle. Motivate the children to memorize the verse while drawing the picture.

Verse Chain

Print the words to the verse on separate strips of paper, 1 x 6. Give each child one strip. After repeating the verse several times with the children, ask them to assemble the chain by putting the words of the verse in order. Staple the chain together.

Verse Chase

Write each word of the verse on small cards. Learn the verse. Tape one card on the back of each child. Have the children assemble the verse on their own. They should line up so that each child can see the word in front of them. Have the children repeat the verse by reading cards one at a time. The first child can give the reference.

Verse Garden

Use small stones to form the letters of the verse on the ground. The smaller the stones, the less space will be needed. The children could work together with larger rocks to make one large verse. Say the verse together.

Verse Grab Bag

Put the words of the verse on small pieces of paper and place in a bag. Say the verse with the children. Let them take turns removing a word from the bag. See who can repeat the verse in its entirety first.

Verse Place Mats

Give each child a large piece of construction paper. Instruct them to write and illustrate the verse. Cover it with clear plastic. Use during the week at mealtimes to remember the verse.

Verse Team

Divide the children into pairs. Each pair will work to memorize the verse quickly. Have each pair say the verse aloud when they Signal that they have learned the verse.

Verse Vowel Code

Write each word of the verse to be learned on a sheet of paper omitting the vowels. Make each child a copy of this sheet. Print a vowel code of some kind on the chalk or white board. Ask the children to fill in the vowels using the code. Use these sheets as recall activities until each child can quote the verse.

Winner's Circle

Print a verse on the chalk or white board. Below the verse, print all the letters of the alphabet. Children take turns coming to the chalk or white board and circling each letter in the verse in consecutive order. The "Winner's Circle" will be the letter with the most circles drawn around it.

Word Chain

Let all children read the Bible verse together. Remove the verse. Let one child say the first word of the verse. The child next to him adds the second word. Continue in consecutive order until the entire verse is quoted. Repeat to learn.

Word Clue

Define and explain key words of the Bible verse to be learned on index cards. Give each child a card and ask them to share the word and its meaning with the group and to write that word on a chalk or white board. Have children repeat the verse using word clues as reminders until the group has memorized the verse.

Word Pockets

Glue six open envelopes to a piece of poster board. Divide verse to be learned into six parts. Print each part of the verse on the top end of a card that will stick out of the envelopes. Scramble cards and let children place cards in proper sequence in the envelopes. Rescramble and repeat until all learn the verse.

You Choose

Children read the verse from a chalk or white board several times. Erase it. Write the words in random order over the chalk or white board. Let a child choose the correct first word and write it on the chalk or white board. Continue until the entire verse is written correctly.

Zing

Display the verse on a chalk or white board. Children read the verse together several times. Erase the verse. Begin writing it again on the board, but purposely incorrectly. As soon as a child detects an error, he or she calls out, "Zing!" Erase and begin again. Continue going through the verse several times before you write it correctly.