

## For Families with Younger Children

Families with young children have both advantages and challenges as they seek to establish the habit of Scripture memorization in the home. The advantages are many: Young children have the ability to memorize and retain information, often more readily than adults. Young children are eager to please, and often approach new ideas with enthusiasm. Making Bible passages accessible to young children with visuals and motions actually helps everyone in the family to better memorize and retain the verses. Starting a Scripture memory plan with children early in life will help them have a solid spiritual foundation and form their character and world view for the future.

However, there are some challenges to young children in memorizing Scripture. Their language abilities are limited and varied, and their attention spans are short, hampering their understanding of the verses and their ability to memorize longer passages. But we believe that with patience and creativity, young children can and should begin hiding God's Word in their hearts.

Here are some suggestions to consider as you implement the Scripture Memory Plan with your family.

- Have younger children memorize just a portion of the Bible passages (or shorten further, as needed).
- You could also focus on two or three of the passages under each phrase of the Apostles Creed.
- Use a child-friendly version such as the *New Century Version* to help your child understand the verse.
- Write out the verse rebus-style, using pictures in place of key words: 1 John 4:10– “He ♥ us, and sent ✚”.
- Write out the verse, using a symbol that captures the essence of the verse (write out 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 on praying hands).
- Post visual verses in prominent places as prompts to recite the verse (refrigerator, toy box, desk, computer, TV, etc.).
- Make up simple hand/body motions to go with the verse: Acts 1:8 – “But you (point out ) will receive power (make muscle) when the Holy Spirit (point up) has come upon you (hands on head).”
- Make the verse fit to a well known tune (to the tune B.I.B.L.E. “so whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God, 1 Corinthians 10:31”).
- Let little ones “read” the verse from the Bible by letting their fingers underline the verses you are reciting.
- Take advantage of everyday word or activity triggers to teach the meaning of a verse (Psalm 34:8 – when eating or tasting food, recite the verse explaining what it means).
- Let different family members lead by saying phrases of the verse with the rest of the family members echoing back each phrase.
- Have family members stand in a circle. One member starts the verse with the first word, and each member adds the next word of the verse until the verse is completed.
- Play “Bible Verse London Bridge.” Two people form the bridge while the others walk under the bridge singing “Do you know our Bible verse, Bible verse, Bible verse, do you know our Bible verse? 2 Timothy 3:16-17.” Whoever is caught at the end of the song recites the verse.
- Make up your own games and activities to make scripture memory fun!