

Helpful Tips on Bible Memorization

Memorizing the Word of God is Essential:

- For salvation—1 Peter 1:23
- For assurance—1 John 5:13
- For nourishment & growth—Matthew 4:4
- For understanding—Psalm 119:130
- For stability—Luke 1:4
- For daily guidance—Psalm 119:105
- For victory over sin—Psalm 119:11
- For spiritual warfare—Ephesians 6:11,17
- For effective prayer—John 15:7
- For productive witnessing—Luke 8:11
- For faith—Romans 10:17
- For peace—Psalm 119:165
- For joy—Jeremiah 15:16
- For success—Joshua 1:8
- For discipleship—John 8:3

Guidelines for Making Memorization Significant

1. Be the best memorizer in your cabin. Memorize right along with your cabin to demonstrate that you consider God's Word important to you. Keep adding to your own bank of verses & passages.
2. Work on meaning. A student stumbled through verses from **Romans 6**. Her teacher corrected her, but she made the same mistakes again. Why? The teacher had assigned—not taught—the passage. The student had studied the words, but they made no sense to her. She was merely putting sounds together. Later, when she understood the meaning, the words were easier to recall.
3. Recognize all effort to memorize. "I know you don't like to memorize Scripture," a guest speaker told the class. "But it's like eating vegetables—it's good for you!" Who in that classroom felt like memorizing? Be positive in your approach, & recognize each student who responds. Some students do not memorize easily. For them, understanding the significance of a verse, being able to turn to it in time of need, & loving it because it is God's Word—well, it isn't memorizing, but it is worth recognizing the effort.
4. Look for life response. Ultimately the question is not how many verses your students can rattle off, but how many do they understand & practice in their daily lives? To think that merely repeating words is a magic charm against sin is to descend to the level of the heathen & their "vain repetition."

Some Ideas for Making Learning Interesting & Varied

1. Write words in phrases on the board.
2. Make word cards & ask campers to take turns unscrambling them.
3. Write verse on the board, and then erase one word or brief phrase at a time.
4. Visualize meaning of the verse with simple symbols or pictures.
5. Use substitute words: Read first with Bible words; then let campers substitute words that clarify the verse; then read the Bible words.
6. Use pictures to show modern counterparts for Bible time words.
7. Pantomime the verse.
8. Learn the verse by signing.
9. Put a tune to the words.
10. Challenge your cabin to think of a way to teach the verse. Let some tutor others.
11. Have campers do creative writing & weave the verse into a paragraph to illustrate its application to life.
12. To reinforce a verse you have taught, write it in code & let campers decode.
13. Vary unison recitation by making a memory verse review a rapid-fire question & answer time. Keep your cabin on its mental toes.
14. Let campers say their verses by putting them on cassette tape; other campers may check.
15. Let campers in on your secret—it's not the volume of Scripture memorized but the application of Scripture that is important.

Review—How to Help Students Memorize

1. Learn & overlearn the verse or passage yourself.
2. Make the initial presentation spiritual, vital, & accurate.
3. Teach the meaning & beauty of the whole before analyzing the parts.
4. Surround each part of the passage with many associations from daily life.
5. Surround each "drill" period with enthusiasm—a positive spirit.
6. Recognize individual differences by involving different senses in discovering meaning & committing to memory.

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