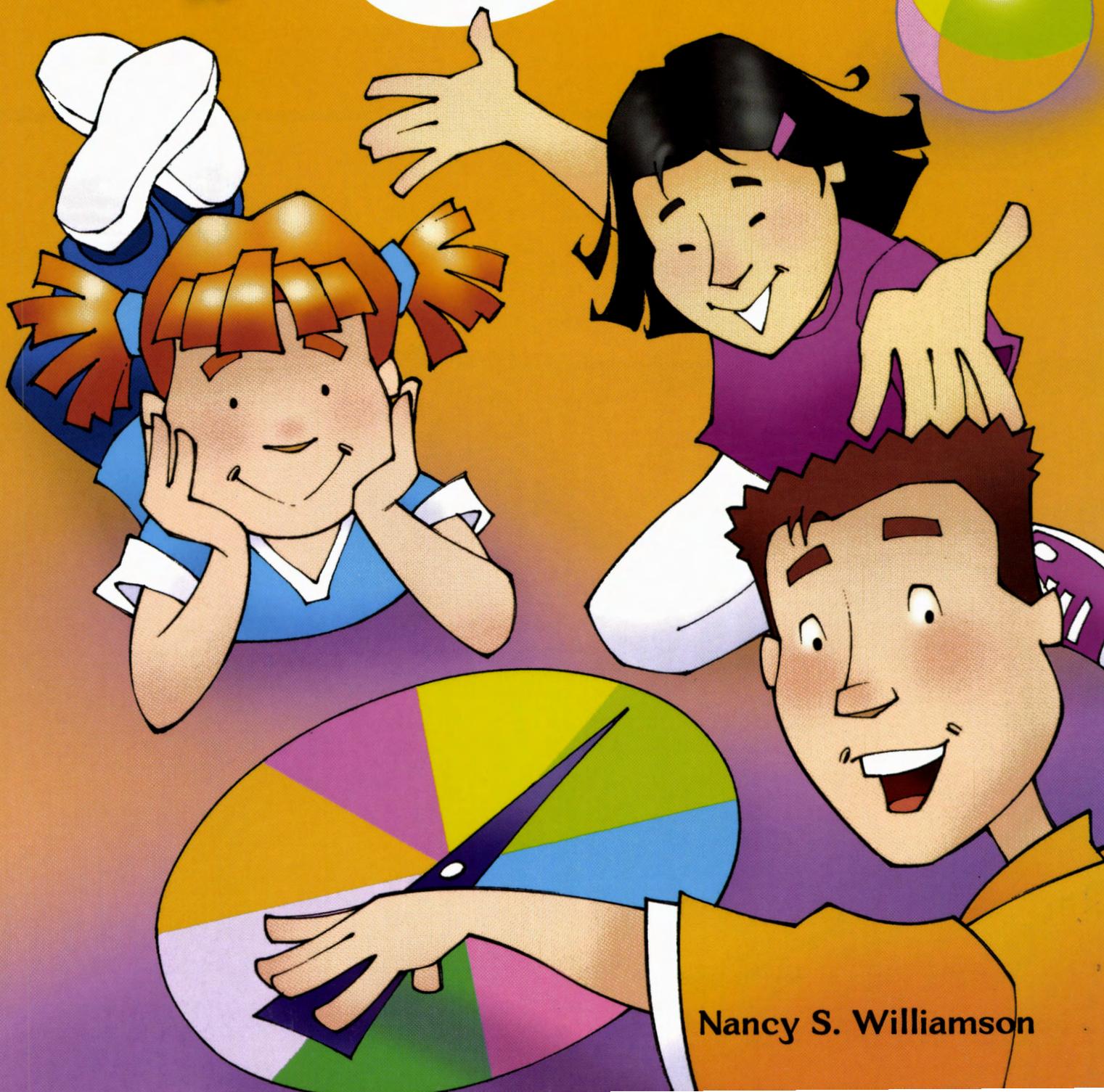


52

Ways to Teach Memory Verses

Reproducible

Ages
2-12



Nancy S. Williamson

52 Ways to Teach Memory Verses

Easy-to-do Activities for Ages 2-12

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Published by RoseKidz®
an imprint of Hendrickson Publishing Group
Rose Publishing, LLC
P.O. Box 3473
Peabody, Massachusetts 01961-3473 USA
www.hendricksonpublishinggroup.com
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52 Ways to Teach Memory Verses - Ages 2 - 12



RoseKidz® Reorder#: R36167
ISBN 13: 978-0-93728-265-6
RELIGION / Christian Ministry / Children

My son, attend to my words;
incline thine ear unto my sayings.
Let them not depart from thine eyes;
keep them in the midst of thine heart.
For they *are* life unto those that find them,
and health to all their flesh.

Proverbs 4:20-22

Thy word have I hid in mine heart,
that I might not sin against thee.

Psalms 119:11

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Introduction

God's Word, the most important information ever given to mankind, should be learned and practiced by all Christians. It is through the precious promises, prophecies, and admonitions of the Scriptures that we are led, comforted, and strengthened daily.

Not only is Scripture memorization mandated to us by God's Word (Proverbs 4:20-22, Psalm 119:11), Scripture memorization is something everyone can do: cooks quote favorite recipes from memory; sports fans recite batting averages or winning percentages for favorite teams; kids text and phone their friends without the aid of a phone book. To Christians, God's Word should be even more vital and meaningful, and therefore must be memorized.

The following pages are filled with 52 exciting ways to successfully teach Bible memory verses to children (and to everyone!) The ideas are outstanding for use in Sunday school, VBS, children's church, kid's clubs, and more.

However, for verse memorization to be truly effective and lasting, students must be able to understand and relate the verses and their meaning to their

own lives. For that reason, this book also provides many effective ideas for making the verses interesting and meaningful, and therefore, spiritually effective in helping your students live for Christ.

When you are able to develop in your pupils that habit of memorizing meanings—as this book will help you to do—there will be no struggle to recall the words in which the meanings are wrapped. Learning *with* understanding is long remembered, while learning *without* understanding is futile and wasted.

It is told that former Soviet Premiere Nikita Khrushchev could recite the entire four Gospels which he learned as a child in order to receive the cherished candy bars given each week by the priest. Yet this former Communist leader did not learn the meaning of the Gospels. *52 Ways to Teach Memory Verses* is designed to ensure your students will REMEMBER, UNDERSTAND, and know how to PRACTICE the verses in their lives. When we emphasize these in our teaching, we will see the Word of God bear fruit in our students.

52 Ways to Teach Memory Verses

Easy-to-do Activities for Ages 2 - 12

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Unless marked otherwise, all Scripture verses are from the *King James Version*.

1

Bible Verse Time

OBJECTIVE: Ways to make your class anticipate Bible Verse Time each week

Appropriate for ages 3 to 9

Make memory work each week a very special time for your pupils. Call it "Bible Verse Time" and try to have it at the same time each week. The special emphasis you give it will cause the children to look forward and respond eagerly to learning Bible verses.

Make a big, round clock on cardboard. Paint the face of the clock with black paint. Cut out big white hands that will move and secure them in the center of the clock with a paper fastener. Print (or glue) large white numbers on the clock.

At the time for "Bible Verse Time" hold the clock up, or have it hanging in the room and point to it. Say, "Children, what time is it?" After a week or two, they will respond with "Bible Verse Time."

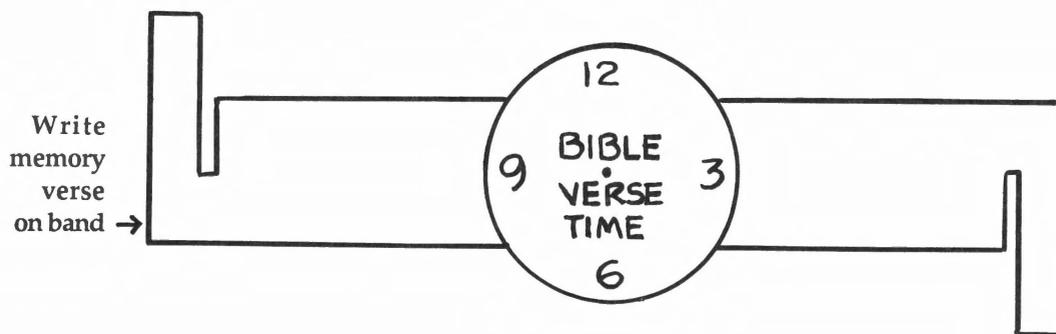
In addition, make Bible verse watches for the children to wear home. For each child, trace the watch pattern below on colored construction paper and print or type the Bible verse on the band of each watch. Cut out each watch (or have the children cut out their own watch, if they are old enough).

Help each child carefully put on his watch. Tell the children not to take their watch off until they have learned the memory verse. Suggest they ask someone to help them with the verse at home. (Staple the ends of the band together so the watches will stay on longer.) Choose Bible verses from your curriculum memory work or from the suggested verses at the end of the book. To make



the watch more durable, cover it with clear Contact before cutting it out.

For young preschoolers, it is well to make a watch each time a new verse is introduced. (This should be no more frequent than every four weeks.) The habit of receiving a new Bible verse watch when there is a new verse provides the stability children three years and older need to learn.



2 Memory Verse Surprises

OBJECTIVE: Unique ways to make it easy to learn memory verses

Appropriate for ages 4 to 12

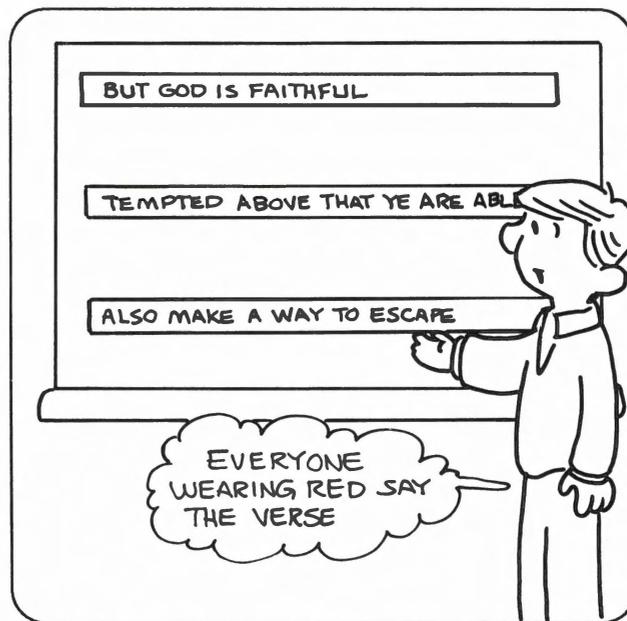
Write each word (or short phrase) of the memory verse on a strip of construction paper or tagboard and attach backing for use on a flannel board or magnetic board.

Before class time, hide several squares of felt or construction paper under some of the memory verse strips.

As the class repeats the verse, let one child at a time come up and remove one strip of the verse. If there is a square under the strip removed, the child has to say the verse himself. If there is no square, everyone should repeat the verse together. The child may then pick the next player.

You can add even more suspense by varying who will say the verse. Cut small pieces of construction paper to fit behind the strips of the verse. On each piece print one of the following conditions:

- You say the verse
- Pick a friend to say the verse
- Boys say the verse
- Everyone wearing red say the verse
- Girls say the verse
- Adults say the verse
- Everyone say the verse
- Anyone who has a sister say the verse
- Everyone who's birthday is in (month) say the verse
- Everyone with blue eyes say the verse



Follow the same procedure as above, letting a child come up and remove one section of the verse at a time. After the verse is said, that child chooses the next player.

Choose Bible verses from your curriculum lessons or from the suggested verses at the end of the book.

