

Bible Verse Activities

Active Verse

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

Back and Forth

Have children pair up. Children say the verse one word at a time back and forth to each other. Have them alternate who goes first. Challenge the children to increase in speed each time they say the verse. Have pairs of children compete with other pairs of children to see who can say the verse the fastest and the most accurately.

Bean Bag Ball

Make a 2' 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.

Beat the Clock

Write the words of the verse on index cards. Learn the verse. Have one child hold a timer or watch. On the timer's cue, have another child scatter the circles in a small area of the floor, and then assemble the verse. Record each child's time to assemble the verse.

Bible Bounce

Secure a playground ball. Before playing, review the Bible verse with the children. After you have said the verse several times as a group, begin the game. Have the children stand in a circle. Bounce the ball to the first child, who must say the verse. If he is unable to say the verse, he bounces the ball back to you. When he says the verse correctly, he bounces the ball to another child. The game continues until all the children have had a chance to say the verse.

Bible Concentration

Divide verse into nine parts. Write in jumbled fashion each part on 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 Pass

As the children stand in a circle, the first person says the first word of the verse. He passes the Bible to the person on the left or right, and that child must say the second word. He or she then passes to the right or left until the verse is complete.

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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.

Candy Pass

Fill a container with candy. Have the children sit in a circle. Have them pass the container of candy around the circle as they say the verse aloud in unison. When they get to the end of the verse, the child holding the container of candy may choose a piece of candy. Repeat until all children have a piece of candy or you run out of time. Children who did not get a piece of candy may say the entire verse to you at the end of class for a piece of candy.

Clothesline

Print words or phrases from the verse on 3" x 5" index cards. Make two sets. Mix up the words. Hang a rope across the room. Divide the children into two teams. Give each team a complete stack of index cards and a pile of clothespins. This is a relay. Each team grabs a clothespin and a card from their stack and runs to the clothesline and pins clips the card onto the clothesline. The object of the game is to see which team hangs the verse in the correct order in the least amount of time.

Crazy Stand-ups

Everyone wearing blue says the verse aloud, everyone who ate breakfast this morning say the verse aloud, everyone who likes pizza say the verse aloud, etc. Repeat numerous times until the verse is learned.

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Divide the Verse

Write the words of two verses on individual cards. Mix the cards of both verses together. Have the children assemble both verses as a group or individual activity. You could also time each child in assembling the verses.

Duck-Duck-Verse

Have the children sit in a circle. Choose one child to be “it” and have him/her walk around the circle and tap the other children on the head. When the children are tapped on the head, they say the next word of the verse. When the last word of the verse is said aloud, the person who said it chases the person who is “it” around the circle. If the person who is “it” makes it back to the empty spot without being tagged, the chaser becomes “it” and starts the process over again. If the person who is “it” gets tagged, he or she can say the entire verse to avoid sitting in the middle of the circle.

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.

Erase a Word

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.

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. Print out fish clip art on cardstock. Write a word from the verse on each fish. Make two sets. Attach a paperclip to the mouth of each fish. Two teams compete to fish for words and put them in the correct order. The first team to put the verse in the correct order wins.

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.

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Fast Verse

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.

Hand Motions

Come up with hand motions for the memory verse. Have the children say the verse aloud with you as you do the hand motions.

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.

Hot Potato

Have the children stand in a circle and pass an item while they say the verse one word at a time. At the end of the verse, whoever has possession of the item says the entire verse.

Missing Word

Write each word of the verse onto 3" x 5" index cards. Give each child a card. Have the children put themselves in the correct order in the front of the room. Children without cards sit on the floor facing the children who are lined up with cards. Have the children on the floor read the verse aloud a few times. Then turn off the lights. Have the children on the floor close their eyes. Choose a few children with cards to have a seat on the floor and cover up their words. Then choose children without cards to try to guess a missing word. If they guess a missing word, they get to go up front. Repeat the steps above.

Musical Colors

Arrange a chair for each child in a circle. Each child will have a chair throughout the entire game. Cut up pieces of different colored paper and tape the pieces to the back of the chairs. Each color should be taped to at least three chairs. Start the music and the children walk around the chairs. Stop the music and the children stop and sit down. The teacher names a color. Everyone sitting in a chair that has that color of paper taped to it stands up and recites the Memory Verse

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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 monitor check with the Bible to see if the words are in the correct order. If not, the monitor will rearrange the children. All read verse. Then, turn the cards around and let all quote the verse.

Pop Verse

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.

Puffy Verse

Use a felt tip marker to write one word each of the verse on large marshmallows. Use enough marshmallows to write the verse twice. Jumble the marshmallows in the center of the table. Learn the verse. Have the children work in two groups to assemble the verse by sticking the marshmallows together with toothpicks.

Scrambled Eggs

Write words or phrases from the memory verse onto small pieces of paper. Place one piece of paper into each plastic egg. Make a set of eggs for each team. Place each set of eggs into an egg carton. Have a relay race where each team runs to the egg carton, grabs an egg, brings the egg back to the team, opens the egg, and puts the slips of paper in the correct order.

Silly Voices

Have children read the verse in unison from the board using various voices. (i.e. girl’s voice, man’s voice, chipmunk’s voice, grandma’s voice, grandpa’s voice, etc.)

Spin the Verse

A Bible verse is written on a piece of paper and taped to the outside of a soda bottle. Have children sit in a circle. “It” sits in the center and spins the bottle. Whoever the bottle points to when it stops spinning must read the verse aloud to the group. That person then becomes “It.”

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Squeaker

Toss a small but sensitive doggie squeak toy to one of the children. If the toy squeaks when they catch it, they must say the verse. If the toy does not squeak, the child gets to pick someone else to say the verse for them.

Step on It

Cut out footprints from construction paper. Print each word of a verse in large letters on each footprint. Tape footprints 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.”

Straw Verse Relay

Write words or phrases from the verse on slips of paper. Make two identical sets. Place each set in a bowl. Use masking tape to mark a starting line. Place two empty bowls on the starting line. Place bowls containing the verses across the room from the starting line. Divide the class into two teams. Teams line up behind the starting line. Give each child a drinking straw. When you say “go,” the first child from each team runs to the bowl containing the verse, uses their straw to suck up a piece of paper, runs back to the empty bowl and drops the paper in. Children in line repeat the process until all slips of paper have been transferred to the bowls on the starting line. Then team members work together to put the verse in order. The first team to finish wins.

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.

Token Recall

Say this Bible verse together as a group. Then, have the children close their eyes. Place a token (small token or inexpensive items for tokens such as candy, erasers, pencils, or other items) under the chair of one of the children. Ask, “Who’s got the token?” to signal for the children to look under their chairs. Whoever has the token stands and says the verse aloud. If he says it correctly, he gets to put the token under another child’s chair.

Give him a token to keep for saying the verse. Be certain each child is rewarded for attempting to say the verse, even if he does not say it perfectly.

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.

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Verse Relay

Learn the verse. Divide the children into two or more teams. Have the teams form lines across from a chalk or white board. Place a good piece of chalk and eraser at the board in front of each team. On a cue, have the first child of each team run to the board and write the first word of the verse, then run back to the line. The next child of the team will write the next word and so on. See which team can finish first. Allow all teams to finish before playing again.

Volume Control

Have the children say the verse aloud using a loud, medium, and soft voice. Then use your hand to control the volume of the verse *while* the children recite the verse. For instance, raise your hand high for high volume and lower your hand to lower the volume. Change the volume throughout the verse to keep it interesting. Choose children who know the verse well to control the volume.

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.

Yarn Web

Explain that kittens often like to play with a ball of yarn. Have your little kittens sit in a circle. Toss a yarn ball to one child, who says the verse, then passes the ball to another child. Play continues and children keep hold of the yarn each time so that they create a giant web. At the end, toss a balloon into the web and have children try to bounce the balloon with the web by moving the yarn together as they say the verse...