



HIGH ENERGY BIBLE MEMORIZATION ACTIVITIES

• BALL TOSS:

Provide a ball or beanbag for each pair of students. The students throw the ball back and forth, saying one word of the verse—in order—each time they receive the ball.

Option 1: Have students form pairs. Give each pair a balloon. Students bat the balloon back and forth between them, saying verse words in order as they do.

Option 2: For younger children, throw the ball to a child and say one or more verse words. The child repeats the words, and then throws the ball back to you. Throw the ball to other students, varying the number of words you say—sometimes more, sometimes less.

• ACTION SONGS OR VERSES SET TO MUSIC:

Look in music sources for songs that contain the words of the verse you are learning. (Great Big Praise Book 1 has several of these in the “Bible Songs and Stories” section.) Or, create copycat songs by setting verse words to familiar tunes. For example:

Joshua 24:24
(Tune: “Mary Had a Little Lamb”)
We will serve the Lord our God
Lord our God, Lord our God
We will serve the Lord our God
And o-bey Him.

Option 1: Play a “London Bridge” activity, singing this song as students march under a bridge formed by two children:

Can you say our Bible verse, Bible verse, Bible verse?

Can you say our Bible verse? Say it now!

The child who is captured on the word “now” must say the Bible verse. Let other students help, if needed.

Option 2: Let older students try their hand at making up tunes for verses.

• CHALKBOARD RELAY:

Divide students into two teams. Have the first person on each team rush to the chalkboard, print the first word of a verse, and then run back to his or her team. The second person goes to the board and prints the second word. Continue this way until one team correctly completes the verse. If you don't have a chalkboard, a dry erase board, or flip chart will also work.

• BASKETBALL DRIBBLE:

Provide a basketball or similar-size ball. A child dribbles the ball, saying one word of a verse with each bounce.

• RIP-OFF:

Write verse on a long strip of paper, such as adding machine tape or crepe paper. Say the verse with the children. Then let a child rip off the last word on the strip. This child joins you in leading the group to repeat the verse and choosing the next child to rip off the next word. Keep doing this until you have ripped off the whole verse, or children can't remember the words any more.

• ON THE CARPET:

Obtain a carpet square or cover 12" x 18" construction paper with clear Con-Tact paper. Play music and have kids march in a circle that crosses the carpet. When you stop the music, the child on the carpet says the verse. If the child needs help, have the group say it with him or her.

• VERSE IN MOTION:

Let children create motions for the verse, and then use the motions as they say and DO the verse.

• RECORD AND SAY:

Let kids take turns recording the verse and playing it back, saying it along with the recording.

• BALLOON TOSS:

Provide a blown-up balloon. The children try to keep a balloon in the air as long as possible. When it drops children say the verse.

Option: Have the child who let the balloon drop say the verse. *Be aware of possible Latex allergies.*

• ARRANGE THE VERSE:

Assign each child one word or short phrase from the verse. At a signal, kids mix themselves up. At second signal, they arrange themselves in correct verse order. Repeat several times, and then change the children's words.

Option: Print the verse on cards. Hand them out in random order. At a signal, kids must line up in correct verse order.

• CHALKBOARD VERSE:

Print verse words in random order on chalkboard or white board. The first child circles the first word of verse and draws arrows in direction of second word. The second child circles the second word and draws line to third word. Continue until verse is in correct order. You may also do this with a dry erase board or flip chart.

• WALK-A-VERSE:

Print verse words on shoe shapes and cover with clear Con-Tact paper. Spread the shapes on the floor in random order. A child walks footprint to footprint, picking up the verse words in right order and saying the verse. When finished, the child spreads out the words for another child.

• FRISBEE THROW:

Collect 6-10 Frisbees or large plastic lids. To review 3-5 memory verses, print verse references on strips of paper—two strips for each verse. Tape the strips to the Frisbees so each team has a complete set. Arrange the verses in the same order for each set. Divide children into two teams. Throw the first Frisbee in each stack. One member of each team runs to fetch a Frisbee, read the reference, and run to a prearranged location to say the verse.

• CLAP-IN-RHYTHM VERSE:

Create a clapping rhythm, such as clap-pause, clap-clap-clap-pause (repeat). Lead children in saying verse words to the rhythm. Children will enjoy making up their own rhythms.

• STEPPING-STONES:

Cut out a large supply of stepping-stones from poster board. You need one stone for each word of the verse you are learning—but do not print the words on the stones. Cover the stones with clear Con-Tact paper. Spread them on the floor as though they were crossing an imaginary river. Have a child move from stone to stone saying one word of the verse at each stone. If a child misses a word, he has to stay where he or she is. Have the next child start the verse. When this child gets to the child who is “stuck” he or she helps the child say the rest of the words of the verse. Continue this way until each child has had a chance to play.

• BIBLE BASEBALL:

Create a Home Plate and Pitcher’s Box. Divide students into two teams. The teacher is the pitcher and shows a flash card with a Bible reference, or a key word from a Bible verse. The player must say the verse to score a Home Run. If the child cannot say the verse, it is a Strikeout. Continue until Team 1 strikes out. Then Team 2 plays. Continue until you run out of verses or time. The team with most home runs wins the game.

• CHARADES:

Choose a verse that has several words children can pantomime. Print these words on cards. Show a card to a child. The child pantomimes the word for others to guess. Continue until children pantomime and guess all the words. Then say the verse together.

• MEMORY SCRAMBLE:

Make two identical sets of verse cards. Mix up each set of cards and give one set to each of two players. The two players race to put the verse in order.

• MISSING WORDS:

Print a verse on the chalkboard or poster board, leaving out several words. Print these words on small cards. Mix the cards. Children take turns putting a word in the verse. The rest of the class decides whether the word is in the right location. When all words are in play, say the verse. Then let students take turns removing a word and leading the group to say the verse. You will need magnets, magnetic board, sticky tack, or removable tape.

• MASKING TAPE VERSE:

Print words of a verse on masking tape. Hide the pieces around the room. Have kids find the strips of tape and put the verse together in the right order.

• CRAFT STICK VERSE:

Print words or phrases of a verse on craft sticks. Make several identical sets. Mix the sets. Divide the class into three or four groups. Give each group an equal number of sticks. Groups start arranging their verses. When a group comes to a duplicate stick, they pass it to the group on their right. Continue until one group has the full verse and is able to assemble the verse correctly.

• AROUND-THE-ROOM VERSE:

Print verse phrases on large sheets of paper and post these in random order around the room.

To help students learn the verse, put a small Post-it® note on each sheet, indicating whether this is the first, second, third, or a later phrase. As you play music, have students walk around the room. When you stop the music, each student goes to a sheet of paper. Several students can go to each sheet. Start with the sheet marked 1 and have students read the words. Go to sheet 2, and so forth until they read the whole verse.

After students know the verse, remove the Post-it® notes and see if students can say verse in right order.

• PASS THE ERASER:

Seat students in a circle. Print a verse on a chalkboard or dry erase board. As you play or sing a song, have students pass the eraser. When the music stops, the child with the eraser goes to the chalkboard and erases a verse word. Say the verse; then repeat the process. Continue until all words are gone, or until students can no longer remember the verse. Replace the words and start over.

• JUMP ROPE VERSE:

Have students take turns saying the verse. If a child does so correctly, let him or her jump rope until he or she misses, or to the count of 10 (whichever comes first). The number of jumps equals the points the student earns for saying the verse.

● SPARKLE:

1. Arrange students to stand in a circle facing center of circle.
2. Choose one student to start. This student says the first word of the memory verse.
3. The student to the right must say the second word of the verse. The next student says the next word in the sequence.
4. If any student gets the word or sequence wrong, they are out and must sit down.
5. After the last word of the memory verse is quoted, the next student says, "Sparkle." The student to the right must sit down, he or she is out.
6. Continue until only one person is left standing.

● FLASHCARD GAME:

Print the verse on 3x5 index cards, one word per card. Make more than one set for large groups. Divide class into teams, and have the teams put the cards in order.

Option: Tape the 3x5 cards onto cans or sealed pop bottles. Have the students put the cans in order on a table.

● REMOVE A WORD:

After introducing the Bible memory verse, write it on the dry erase board or post the flash cards on the wall or dry erase board. Have the children read the verse together. Then ask for a volunteer to read it aloud. This child is then allowed to erase or remove one word from the verse. Call on another child to read the scripture as it was originally written. Then allow that child to erase a word. Repeat this process as the children remove more and more of the verse.

Option 1: Play the game like musical chairs. When the music is stopped and a student is eliminated, he or she removes a word and the class says the verse together.

Option 2: Play the game like hot potato. Pass a ball or an eraser quickly. When the music stops, the person holding the hot potato removes a word and the group repeats the verse.

● BIBLE VERSE WORD SCRAMBLE:

Print multiple copies of the Bible memory verse flashcards (available for download with *Epic*) and divide the kids into groups or teams. Give each team one set of flash cards. Have each team scramble their flash cards, then trade with another team. At your signal, have the teams race to unscramble the verse and read it as quickly as possible.

● BIBLE MEMORY EGG HUNT:

Hide several plastic Easter eggs around the room. One of the eggs has the memory verse hidden inside. Invite the kids to hunt for the eggs. The child that finds the egg with the verse then reads the verse out loud (with an adult's help, if needed). Then, the entire group repeats the verse together. Move the verse to a different egg, hide the eggs again and repeat as many times as you'd like.

Option: Put one flashcard in each egg. Hide the eggs around the room. Send the students to gather the eggs, order the flashcards, and say the verse together as quickly as possible.