


# Scripture Through the Phases

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# What a kid or teenager believes about God will impact how they see themselves and everybody else.

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It will ultimately impact their future. That's why we believe the Bible is an important part of knowing God.

The overall goal for developing faith is to nurture kids into a growing, authentic relationship with God so that they own their faith as they move on into adulthood.

What we help kids learn about God, Jesus, and the Bible is essential. But we must hold that in tension with what we know from developmental psychology. Namely that people process certain types of information better at certain stages of their development. We shouldn't fight against this; rather, we should lean into this.

Knowing when kids and students should learn certain stories and ideas from the Bible is also important. Let's be honest; some heroes of the Bible had moments in their life that would make an adult blush, and though not suitable for a kid, those same stories might be perfect for what a teenager in your church is dealing with.

With that in mind, choose stories and concepts that will be foundational to a child's growing theology at each phase of their life and teach them in ways they can understand and remember.

In this resource, we've included some ideas to help your kids learn Scripture from the Bible, as well as a starter list of some verses for each phase.

We've also included some Scripture memory cards for each phase to help you put these concepts into practice.

Want more verses? Check out the Parent Cue app (a free download, available for iOS and Android) for a monthly memory verse.

# Ideas for Memorizing Scripture: Preschool

Here are some phase-based ideas for memorizing Scripture. We're going for quality, not quantity, here. Take it slow and keep repeating what you want to memorize. Don't move on to another verse too quickly. It's better to set a goal of fewer verses and truly memorize them than set a goal of many verses and forget them over time. It's also important to discuss the verse and what it means.

## Movement

Connect an active motion with a Bible verse (march, hand motions, act it out, etc.).

## Break It Down

Learn the verse a few words at a time over a long period of time.

## Record It

Record yourself (or a favorite grandparent, aunt, uncle, etc.) saying the Bible verse so your child can listen (watch it) and say it with them. Let your child record themselves saying the verse as well. They love hearing their own voice and seeing themselves on video!

## Repetition

Say it over and over and over and over...

## Scripture Memory Starter

Here are some suggested verses to get you started on Scripture memory in the Preschool phase.

Genesis 1:31 Nlrv

Matthew 7:28 NCV

1 John 3:20 Nlrv

Ephesians 4:32 NCV

Deuteronomy 31:6 Nlrv

John 15:15 NIV

Ephesians 5:20 Nlrv

Matthew 5:16 NIV

John 3:16 GNT

Jeremiah 31:3 CEV

# Scripture Memory Cards

## Preschool

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Be strong

and  
courageous.

Do not  
be afraid

for the Lord

# Scripture Memory Cards

## Preschool

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your God

goes with  
you.

Deuteronomy  
31:6 NIV

# Ideas for Memorizing Scripture: Elementary School

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Here are some phase-based ideas for memorizing Scripture. We're going for quality, not quantity, here. Take it slow and keep repeating what you want to memorize. Don't move on to another verse too quickly. It's better to set a goal of fewer verses and truly memorize them than set a goal of many verses and forget them over time. It's also important to discuss the verse and what it means.

What works for preschoolers, plus...

## **Draw It**

Drawing the verse helps elementary kids understand the meaning of the verse rather than just memorizing the words.

## **Make a Puzzle**

Put each word of the verse on a notecard and practice putting the words in order.

## **Write It Out**

The good ol' fashion practice of writing the verse over and over still works.

## **Hang It**

Place the verse in places where the child will see it every day (bathroom mirror, front of the fridge, nightstand, etc.).

## **Scripture Memory Starter**

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Here are some suggested verses to get you started on Scripture memory in the Elementary School phase.

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**Ephesians 2:10**

**Luke 16:10a**

**Proverbs 17:17**

**Colossians 3:12**

**Proverbs 10:9**

**Romans 12:18**

**Psalms 136:1**

**Psalms 27:14**

**Isaiah 9:6**

**1 Timothy 4:8**

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*\*Note: All verses are  
from the NIV translation*

# Scripture Memory Cards

## Elementary School

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We are God's creation.  
He created us to belong  
to Christ Jesus. Now we  
can do good works. Long  
ago, God prepared these  
works for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10 NIV

We are God's \_\_\_\_\_.  
He created us to \_\_\_\_\_  
to Christ Jesus. Now we  
can do \_\_\_\_\_. Long  
ago God prepared these  
works for \_\_\_\_\_.

Ephesians 2:10 NIV

A friend loves at all times.  
They are there to help when  
trouble comes.

Proverbs 17:17 NIV

\_\_\_\_\_ loves at all times.  
They are there \_\_\_\_\_ when  
\_\_\_\_\_ comes.

Proverbs 17:17 NIV

# Scripture Memory Cards

## Elementary School

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Give thanks to the  
Lord, because he is  
good. His faithful love  
continues forever.

Psalms 136:1 NIV

Give \_\_\_\_\_ to the  
Lord, because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. His faithful love

\_\_\_\_\_.  
Psalms 136:1 NIV

Suppose you can be trusted  
with something very little.  
Then you can also be trusted  
with something very large.

Proverbs 17:17 NIV

Suppose you can be trusted  
\_\_\_\_\_.  
Then you can also be trusted  
with \_\_\_\_\_.

Proverbs 17:17 NIV



# Ideas for Memorizing Scripture: Middle School

Here are some phase-based ideas for memorizing Scripture. We're going for quality, not quantity, here. Take it slow and keep repeating what you want to memorize. Don't move on to another verse too quickly. It's better to set a goal of fewer verses and truly memorize them than set a goal of many verses and forget them over time. It's also important to discuss the verse and what it means.

What works for preschoolers and elementary kids, plus...

## Highlight It

Gift your middle schooler with a Bible and some highlighters/colored pencils and challenge them to begin highlighting the verses as they memorize them.

## Add Your Name

You can place your name in so many verses to make them even more personal. Challenge your middle schooler to give it a try. Example: John 3:16, "For God so loved [name of middle schooler] that he gave his one and only son..."

## Verse Over Phone

When middle schoolers get bored, they mindlessly grab their phone. (Actually, we all do this, don't we?) Challenge your preteen/teen to grab a Bible verse instead and begin saying it repeatedly. Think about it. Meditate on it.

## Scripture Memory Starter

Here are some suggested verses to get you started on Scripture memory in the Middle School phase.

Proverbs 4:23 NLT

Luke 2:14 NIV

John 13:35 NIV

John 11:25-26 NIV

Psalms 119:105 NIV

Romans 12:2 NLT

Philippians 4:6 NLT

1 John 4:10 NLT

Romans 12:10 NIV

1 Corinthians 12:27 NLT

# Scripture Memory Cards

## Middle School

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Let us think of ways to  
motivate one another to acts  
of love and good works.

Hebrews 10:24 NLT

Let us think of ways to  
\_\_\_\_\_ to acts  
of \_\_\_\_\_.

Hebrews 10:24 NLT

Guard your heart above  
all else, for it determines  
the course of your life.

Proverbs 4:23 NLT

Guard your \_\_\_\_\_ above  
all else, for it determines  
the \_\_\_\_\_.

Proverbs 4:23 NLT

# Scripture Memory Cards

## Middle School

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By this, everyone will know  
that you are my disciples, if  
you love one another.

John 13:35 NIV

By this, everyone will know  
that \_\_\_\_\_, if  
\_\_\_\_\_.

John 13:35 NIV

Your word is a lamp unto  
my feet, a light on my path.

Psalms 119:105 NIV

Your word is a \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_.

Psalms 119:105 NIV

# Ideas for Memorizing Scripture: High School

What works for preschoolers, elementary, middle school plus...

## **Mirror, Mirror**

Write the verse on a mirror with a dry-erase marker. Say the verse a few times each day and then erase one word from the verse. Keep doing this each day until you have erased all of the verse.

## **Use their Phone**

Make a screen saver with blanks for some of the words in a verse so they can memorize it. Or use an app like the YouVersion Bible app to encourage both reading the Bible and memorizing scripture. The Bible app even has a feature where it will read you the verse.

## **Memorization Flex**

We constantly see teenagers at the gym with their headphones on. If they want to memorize a verse, encourage them to listen to it while working out. They can build your spiritual muscles and their physical muscles all at the same time.

## **Different Lens**

Have them look at the verse in different translations in the YouVersion Bible app. Does looking at it through a different lens help you understand the meaning of the verse? (Also, don't forget the context when searching for meaning—read the verses before and after.)

## **Scripture Memory Starter**

Here are some suggested verses to get you started on Scripture memory in the High School phase.

Proverbs 4:23 NLT

Luke 6:31 NLT

John 13:35 NIV

1 Corinthians 12:27 NLT

2 Timothy 3:16 NIV

Romans 12:2 NLT

Hebrews 10:23–25 NLT

John 3:16 NIV

Luke 2:14 NLT

John 11:25–26 NLT

# Scripture Memory Cards

## High School

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Guard your heart above  
all else, for it determines  
the course of your life.

Proverbs 4:23 NLT

Guard your \_\_\_\_ above  
all else, for it determines  
the \_\_\_\_\_.

Proverbs 4:23 NLT

By this, everyone will know  
that you are my disciples, if  
you love one another.

John 13:35 NIV

By this, everyone will know  
that \_\_\_\_\_, if  
\_\_\_\_\_.

John 13:35 NIV

# Scripture Memory Cards

## High School

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All Scripture is God-breathed  
and is useful for teaching,  
rebuking, correcting and  
training in righteousness.

2 Timothy 3:16 NIV

All Scripture is \_\_\_\_\_  
and is useful for \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ in righteousness.

2 Timothy 3:16 NIV

Don't copy the behavior  
and customs of this world, but  
let God transform you into  
a new person by changing  
the way you think. Then you  
will learn to know God's will  
for you, which is good and  
pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:2 NLT

Don't copy the \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_ of this world, but  
let God transform you into  
a new person by \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. Then you  
will learn to know \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, which is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Romans 12:2 NLT

# ≡ KIDS' SCRIPTURE MEMORY ≡

## PARENTING WITH THE WORD

### ≡ GENERAL SCRIPTURES ≡ LOVE FOR GOD'S WORD

#### **Joshua 1:8 (NIRV)**

"Never stop reading this Book of the Law. Day and night you must think about what it says. Make sure you do everything written in it. Then things will go well with you. And you will have great success."

#### **Matthew 4:4 (NIRV)**

"Jesus answered, 'It is written, "Man must not live only on bread. He must also live on every word that comes from the mouth of God."'

#### **John 8:31-32 (NIRV)**

"Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, 'If you obey my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth. And the truth will set you free.'"

#### **Psalms 119:105 (NIRV)**

"Your word is like a lamp that shows me the way. It is like a light that guides me."

### LOVE FOR AND DEVOTION TO GOD

#### **Matthew 22:37-39 (NIRV):**

"Jesus replied, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind.' This is the first and most important commandment. And the second is like it. 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.'"

### TRUSTING GOD

#### **Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIRV):**

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. In all your ways obey him. Then he will make your paths smooth and straight."



## CHARACTER QUALITIES

### COURAGE

Joshua 1:9 (NIRV)

"Here is what I am commanding you to do. Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid. Do not lose hope. I am the Lord your God. I will be with you everywhere you go."

### HUMILITY

Philippians 2:3 (NIRV)

"Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves."

### GRATITUDE

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIRV)

"Give thanks no matter what happens. God wants you to thank him because you believe in Christ Jesus."

### KINDNESS

Ephesians 4:32 (NIRV)

"Be kind and tender to one another. Forgive one another, just as God forgave you because of what Christ has done."

### GENEROSITY

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIRV):

"You should each give what you have decided in your heart to give. You shouldn't give if you don't want to. You shouldn't give because you are forced to. God loves a cheerful giver."

### DILIGENCE

Colossians 3:23 (NIRV):

"Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord, not for human masters."

### SELF-CONTROL

Galatians 5:22–23 (NIRV):

"But the fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and in control of oneself. There is no law against things of that kind."

### LOVE

1 Corinthians 13:4 (NIRV)

"Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not want what belongs to others. It does not brag. It is not proud."

## CHRIST'S LORDSHIP

Philippians 2:9–11 (NIRV):

"So God lifted him up to the highest place. He gave him the name that is above every name. When the name of Jesus is spoken, everyone will kneel down to worship him. Every knee will bow to him. That will happen in heaven and on earth and under the earth. Every tongue will admit that Jesus Christ is Lord. And God the Father will receive the glory."