

MEMORY WORK METHODS

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you.

I like to begin the year by telling the students that Memory Work in Sunday school is even more important than their math homework. That what they learn today and keep in their hearts and minds will be of great importance and usefulness their whole life. I remind them that they may not always have a Bible handy when they need to remember God's promises to us. That in sticky situations, God's word will always be helpful and that you need to have His word readily available in your memory.

The following ideas come from many sources and give ideas on how to memorize and how to encourage and reward the student's efforts.

In Bloomer, WI our memory books are put together so that different grade levels have a different memory section in the front of the book. This ensures that if children only do a small portion of their memory book, that over the years they are exposed to the entire curriculum.

Always keep a record of what each student accomplishes each week.

In some classes memory of the catechism was to be done at home and repeated the next Sunday in class, either at the start or end of class.

Try to encourage each child to learn something each week. Even if you help them learn just one line on the spot. Kids need to feel successful in order to strive to do better the next week. If someone did not study memory work, we work together in class and I remind them that a sibling, parent, grandparent, friend, or other student can help them at home.

Some teachers say that memory work is always done first, so that students don't try to learn their memory work during the lesson instead of paying full attention.

Praise students for learning God's word.

Strive for memory and understanding of their memory work.

Read the passage together, play with it, write it and say it together.

Connect the memory treasure to the story and the application.

Some classes have 1st and 2nd grade learn the commandments and the meanings. 3rd and 4th graders work on learning books of the Bible. After reciting these in 4th grade they get a Bible cover. Some give a bible at the beginning of 3rd grade. Giving boys a Bible cover made of camouflage fabric was a big hit.

Give a prize for finishing their entire memory book. Oriental Trading online, Factory Card Outlet Stores, and Michaels Stores are good places to look.

Keep a race track on a bulletin board, and each child's name is on a car. They move their car along the track with each memory lesson learned. Many children excel when they are competing. Just remember, to keep everyone moving along.

We tried a year with the 8th graders coming to class the last 10 minutes and helping the lower grades with their memory work. This was a fun year. It was kind of like a big buddy/little buddy situation. Everyone enjoyed it.

Give stickers each Sunday that they learn memory work.

Singing memory work, is a helpful way to make learning easier. We sing songs of the New Testament and Old Testament. The kids learn these very quickly. Truthfully I find myself singing the books to find them quickly in my Bible. This also helps Pastor tremendously because his confirmation students come to him with the books already learned. This has helped our students for the music helps them to recall the books and in order.

After saying memory work, they get to write their name on a piece of paper and put it in a jar. After 3 or 4 weeks, I draw 1 or 2 names and could pick a prize from a large prize bucket. To be fair I have a smaller bucket that everyone gets to choose out of. .

An easy trick to learn a verse is to write it on the chalkboard and erase one word at a time. And keep repeating the verse.

Have students write their memory verse on note cards, decorate these and than hand these in after each class to use for a special game at the end of each set of lessons to review the passages.

Put memory verses on Post It Notes. Students enjoy sticking these to folders, books, etc.

Write down or type up and cut out the memory passages for each lesson. Then fold these pieces of paper (index card size) and take them to Sunday School class along with a plastic bag. I find it is more fun for them to select their own by picking it out of the bag (or Hat) rather than being assigned a passage.

The following is a GREAT SUCCESS : it works really good for memorizing songs and parts for the Christmas lesson, The students take turns being the teacher. They stand in front of the class and teach the memory work or song. They learn how important it is to pay attention and keep quiet when they are a student. Everyone who wants to gets a turn to be the teacher, so the song or memory lesson gets lots of repetition.

Put bible verses for kids to learn on small slips of paper to use as book markers. Pass these out at the beginning of class and have the children look them up in their Bible and mark their page.

Some do memory passages in opening devotions. They put each passage on a poster board large enough for all to read. They read it a few times and try to say it without help. Each Sunday they review the memory passages.

Take turns going around the room each saying one word and the next person says the next word, etc. Once you go through it the first time, you do 2 words at a time, than 3 words, etc. They really enjoy doing this without realizing they are reinforcing the memory work each time.

Fill in the blank game- Each blank represents a point, after so many points(about 20) they got a pencil or a small reward. Guess the blank, or choices to choose from, or have a word bank or a word scramble for other ideas. Have the meanings for the commandments or a passage they learned a few weeks ago for extra credit.

For small children, if they can repeat a memory verse after the teacher, let them choose a sticker.

For the Christmas program: Repeat, repeat, repeat

This is personally my BEST METHOD for memory work. I have the children do a repetitive motion while they are saying the memory verse or song. I change the action each time similar to follow the leader. We clap hands, march around the room, play like we are a music director using pencils as batons, we turn around, we snap fingers etc.

Write each word of a Bible verse on a different full sheet of paper. Each child has 1 sheet to hold up. We line up in a row, learn the memory verse, than we scramble our order up and have an older grade come in and unscramble the students to learn the verse. This would also work by splitting your classroom into groups to unscramble each others verses.

Write the words of a verse on footprints and tape these to the floor. You follow and read the verse.