

50 Memory Verse Game Ideas

- 1. Erase a Word** – Print the verse on a chalkboard or whiteboard. Have a child choose and erase a word or two as the verse is repeated.
Variation – Have everyone close their eyes while the word is erased. Choose one child to say the verse. If they can say it with the erased word, then they get to erase the next word while everyone closes their eyes.
Another Variation – Erase How Many? – Prepare six small papers with one number on each. Use the numbers 1, 2, and 3, making two of each. Fold the papers so the numbers do not show. Write the verse on a chalkboard or whiteboard. After teaching and repeating the verse several times, have a child choose a slip of paper and erase that number of words. Have the class repeat the verse, standing when they get to a word that has been erased. Continue with the next child.
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- 2. Songs** – Sing the verse to music
- 3. Verse Scramble** – Scramble the verse on the flannel board, pocket chart or with cards on the floor. Have the children place the visuals back in order and repeat the verse.
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- 4. Stop!** – Print words of the verse on wordstrips and back with flannel board. Select a child to arrange all the pieces in the proper order as you time with him with stopwatch. Then have the class repeat the verse. Play this several times and see who can unscramble the fastest.
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- 5. Crazy Stand-Ups** – Those wearing green stand and say the verse. Those who ate cereal for breakfast stand and say the verse...
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- 6. Ping Pong** – Divide the class into two groups. Hold a ping pong ball in your hand or just have your hand represent the ball. Each group says the next word of the verse when your hand points to that group. Alternate groups, pointing more than once to a group or going a little faster after playing a couple of times.
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- 7. Crossing the River** – Children walk across paper “stones,” one for each word in the verse.
- 8. Crazy Kards** – Write “Krazy Kards” on one side of 3 x 5 cards and an activity for kids to do while they repeat the verse on the other side. Kids choose a card and do what it says.
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- 9. Grab Bag** – (A variation of Krazy Kards) On 10 small slips of paper write short phrases to designate who will say the verses. These could be: All boys everyone but teacher, all wearing shoelaces. Put the slips into a paper bag and then have kids take turns drawing.
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10. Simon Says – Simon says say the verse on one foot. Simon says... (Similar to Krazy Kards)

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11. Follow the Leader – Choose a volunteer to be the leader. Instruct the class to watch what he does and follow his example while the verse is said. You may need to give suggestions like: Stand on one foot; sit down; put your elbow on your knee; cross your leg.

12. Pass the Object – Kids sit in a circle and say the verse as they pass a ball, balloon, or another object around. Whoever has the ball at the end of the verse says the verse alone.

13. Pass the Present – Kids sit in a circle and say the verse as they pass a box around. Whoever has the ball at the end of the verse gets a piece of candy from the box.

Variation – Hot Potato – Kids sit in a circle and say the verse as they pass a box around, containing a prize. Whoever has the box at the end of the verse drops out of the game. The last child receives the prize if he can say the verse all by himself.

14. Who Gets It? – Pass an item (a prize or a box of prizes) as the verse is said.

Whoever is holding the box at the end follows instructions given by the teacher. Instructions could be: Pass the item three people to the right, give the item to the person behind you, keep the item yourself, or give the item to the youngest child. Have several prizes ready.

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15. Symbols – Use some symbols in place of the words in the verse.

16. Clothesline – Cut shapes of clothes out of paper with a word or phrase on each one. These can be scrambles or removed.

17. March a Verse (pre-school) – Say a word or phrase with each step.

18. Speaking Choir – As the verse is said, the teacher holds out hands as if directing a choir. Hold hands high for loud, low for soft, or high for high pitched, low for low pitched, or high for fast, and low for slow.

19. Remote Control – The teacher's remote control can change the volume, speed and can pause the verse while it is playing.

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20. Letter Stand Up – Place cards in a sack with the letters that the words in the verse begin with. One card is pulled out; kids say the verse, standing whenever a word is said that starts with that letter.

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21. Guess Who – One child hides his eyes while the verse is said. Another child says the reference in a disguised voice. The first child tries to guess who it was.

22. Behind the Easel – One child hides his eyes. Another child chooses a word to leave out when saying the verse. The children say the verse, clapping instead of saying the chosen word. The child hiding his eyes guesses which word was left out. To vary the game, children can suggest other noises to make besides clapping – snapping, knee slap...

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23. Echo Mountains – Divide the kids into 3 groups. You are standing on the edge of a canyon that repeats what you say softer each time. Group one says what you say loudly, the second softer and the third just a whisper. Switch the parts once in a while, so the kids get to do each type.

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24. Voices – Say the verse like a football player, an old lady, a squeaky mouse, and opera singer...

25. Frozen Exercises – Kids do an exercise. The teacher calls out “freeze!” Then the kids try to stay frozen while saying the verse.

26. Hide part of the verse – Either remove a part of the verse while you say it each time, or block a different part of the verse each time with a big happy face, a seasonal or topical object, shaving cream, silly string or something else.

27. Motions – Each phrase of the verse is given motions that reinforce the meaning. (This could be sign language) Add a motion each time the verse is repeated.

28. Pick a Word – Kids pick a word and the teacher or a child gives a motion to do each time that word is said. This doesn't need to have anything to do with the meaning of the word. It could be pat your head, clap, sit, stand, plug your nose...Motions are added each time the verse is said.

29. Grocery Bag – Print half the verse on the front of a bag, half on the back and place the reference on the bottom. Have a child put the bag over their head. Have them turn and bend so the kids can see the verse as they say it. Alternate between children. (For health reasons, have a separate bag for each child you use.)

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30. Stop and Go – Use the visuals from the Stop and Go songs. Divide the class into two groups. Hold the Stop sign up for one group and the Go sign up for the other. The side with the Go sign says the verse. Switch the signs in the middle of the verse so that the other group says the verse. Switch the signs faster and faster as the verse is repeated.

31. Backs to the Class – Print each word or phrase of a verse on a separate card. Have children each hold one piece of the verse. One child at a time turns his back to the class as they continue to repeat the verse.

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Variation – Loop a string through each card large enough to slip over a child's head. Have children wear the cards, then have a child flip his card so the word is not showing.

32. Memory Box – Wrap a square box with paper, then write one of the following on each side: Read the verse from the Bible, stand at the center of the room and recite the verse, raise arms above head and say verse, sing the verse to a tune, close eyes and say verse, choose a partner and say verse together. Whoever the box points to follows the directions or the whole class has to participate.

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- 33. Start and Stop** – After saying the verse a few times begin to say the verse alone. Stop at any time, point to a child, and they say the next word of the verse. If they can't, they drop out of the game. After several rounds, take it phrase by phrase. Have a prize for the child who is left.
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- 34. Add a Word** – Divide the class into two groups. Group one says the first word, group two then repeats that word and adds the next. To add movement, have kids sit when their group is silent, and stand when they are speaking.
ETC M/J 1988 p.20-21.
- 35. Popcorn** – Beginning with the reference, say part of the verse then stop and sit down. The children then pop up and continue with the verse until you pop up, causing them to stop and sit down. Repeat several times, popping faster each time.
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- 36. Letter Clues** – Cover or erase words and replace with just the first letter. Do this with a word or phrase at a time.
- 37. Find the Flannelgraph** – Hide an extra flocked symbol or figure under a word of your visualized verse. After repeating the verse, have a child look under a word from the board, trying to locate the hidden object. If it is not found, repeat the verse and have another child look for it. If the object is found, have the class turn around while the child hides the object again.
Variation – If there are many pieces to the verse, you can leave off each piece of the verse as it is chosen until the hidden piece is found.
- 38. Hot or Cold** – While a child is out of the room, hide an object so the rest of the group knows where it is. Have the child return to the room, and try to find the object. The other children repeat the memory verse, saying it quietly when the child is far away from the object and louder when they are near it.
- 39. Topsy Turvy** – Say the verse with the visual right side up. Turn the visual sideways and have the children say the verse. Continue turning the visual different directions while saying the verse. End by turning the visual completely around, so that it's towards you, and have the children say it.
- 40. Verse Puzzle** – Cut two sets of the verse into puzzles. Give the puzzles to two groups of kids and see who can put it together the fastest, then say the verse. Remix the puzzle, trade and do it again.
- 41. Verse Flag** – Give a flag or handkerchief to a child. Allow them to wave the flag anytime during the class, except during prayer or the Bible Lesson. Whenever they wave the flag, everything stops, and the children quote the memory verse together. The flag may be waved up to ten times during class.
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42. Body Parts – Have pictures of different body parts or pieces of a Mr Potato Head in a bag with a note of what to do with that part while the verse is being said (Plug your nose, close your eyes, stomp your feet, etc.). Allow children to reach into the bag and to see what they will do each time the verse is repeated.

Variation – Have the child who chose the body part decide what the class should do involving that part while the verse is repeated.

Variation – Don't Pick Mr. Potato Head's Nose! – If child chooses the nose, he must say the verse alone.

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43. Teach and Review with Visuals – Print the reference and each word of the verse on a separate piece of construction paper. Use flocked scraps left from cutting flannelgraph figures to glue on the back of each piece. Write all the different letters used to begin the words in the verse on a small slip of paper. Fold the papers so the letters are not visible. Divide the class into two teams. Let one team choose a slip of paper. They can then select all the words of the verse that start with that letter for their team. Have the whole group say the verse with those pieces missing. Then let the other team choose a slip of paper and receive all the words that start with that letter. Again, let the group say the verse. Continue as long as you have time or until all the words are taken.

Middleton, Barth and Sally, *Evangelizing Today's Child*, Vol. 7, #3, May-June 1980. P.37. ©1980 Child Evangelism Fellowship Inc.

44. Treasure Hunt – Print the memory verse in short phrases or words on small strips of paper. Tape the strips throughout the room and include a clue about where to find the next word or phrase. Have the class search for the words together or in small groups with an adult helper in each group. Have kids repeat the phrases as they find them, so that they are learning the verse in small amounts.

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45. Pick-A-Square – Make a chart of 9 squares, with a number in each square. On the back side write nine instructions for the children to do, one for each number. After teaching the verse have a child choose a number. Instructions could be: Say the verse by yourself, pick someone your age to say the verse, the two people sitting next to you get to say the verse, etc.

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46. Roll Away – Cover two square boxes with paper. On each side of one box write ways for kids to move their bodies (stand still like a statue, march jump, etc.) On the other box write things kids can do with their voice (monotone, expressive, loud, quiet, etc.). After teaching the verse, have a child roll the boxes to see what combination of two things the class will do while repeating the verse.

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47. Memory Train – Line up chairs in two rows to represent trains. Have a chair for each child. Give each child a paper “ticket”. The two children sitting in the front of the train say the verse together (with the visual). If they say it correctly, punch their tickets with a paper punch. They move to the end of the line, and all the other children move up a chair. Once you have gone through the line, have them say it without the visual. Give prizes for each punch in their ticket.

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48. Fold the Page – Print the verse on a full sheet of paper. After the class has repeated the verse several times, fold the page so that some of the words do not show, then repeat the verse. Unfold the page and fold it a different way. Folding ideas: fold one or more corners to the back or to the front. Fold in half, show the left half then the right half or top, then bottom. Fold the paper haphazardly. Let children take turns making a fold. Tell them to practice with their take-home copy of the verse.

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49. Pick One – Select a child to say the verse. Then have him pick a friend to say the verse with him. After they say the verse, the second child chooses someone to join them. Continue until four or five children are repeating the verse together. Repeat with one child, showing them less and less of the verse visual.

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50. In Other “Words” – Print 2 each of the game words on colored cards. Place game words into bag. Have a child pull one card from the bag and read it aloud. The child points to 1, 2, or 3 words on the memory verse visual. As the class repeats the verse they must do what the game word says with the chosen words. Continue with the next child. Game words are: Shout, Clap, Whisper, Shout 2x, Clap 2x, Whisper 2x, Shout 3x, Clap 3x, Whisper 3x.

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