

Memory verse methods

1. Put it to a tune

Fit the words of the verse into a well-known tune.

Some ideas: Happy birthday to you...Jesus loves me...Old Macdonald...Row, row, row your boat...If you're happy and you know it.

2. Teach a clap rhythm

Show words on the screen/board and then teach a clapping rhythm with a clap for each syllable.

Then say again with stamping, then clapping with a partner, then tapping chair on the floor etc.

3. Sad face

(Better for short verses)

Write a _ for each letter with a space between words on a board or big piece of paper.

Kids guess letters. Fill in where they go in the verses or, if wrong, write on the side and add a part to a sad face. They can only have 10 wrong guesses. (face, eye, eye, ear, ear, nose, mouth, eyebrow, eyebrow, hair)

4. Muddled words

Write each word of verse on an individual page.

Call up volunteers and give page to each in wrong order.

Get kids to suggest first word, then next word.... (Keep reading over and over)

Can also do this with post it notes stuck on kids heads, if your group is smaller.

5. Group read

Write verse/put on screen with words in 2 colours.

Read this verse with the boys saying the red words and the girls saying the black words.

Then curly hair--straight hair/older than 12—younger/wearing blue—not wearing blue etc

6. Exercises

Say verse with marching, hopping, stamping, jumping, jumping jacks, squats, touch toes etc

7. Silly puppet

Show verse. Use a puppet who says the verse all wrong. Kids teach puppet to say it correctly.

8. Word removal (slides/word cards/blackboard)

Use series of slides with less words each time.

Or have words on individual papers and take away a paper each time after kids read it.

Or write whole verse on board and then rub out a word each time kids read it.

9. Make up actions

Tell verse and then help kids to make up an action for all/nearly all the words.

10. Cryptic clues

Draw a picture for each word (e.g. an eye for I, a coke can for can, 2 for to, & for and, @ for at, cross for Jesus, crown for king etc) or parts of words (e.g. bee picture and COZ for because etc)

11. Funny voices

Say/show verse to kids. They should then say it in a sad/fast/slow/squeaky/cross/deep/croaky/crazy/whisper/scared etc voice. Have fun!

12. Competition

Show the kids the verse on the screen/board/piece of paper.

Split kids into groups. Give groups a few minutes to practice the verse. Then they will say it out loud for everyone. Choose the best group as the winners.

13. Joined words

Write the whole verse without spaces between the words. Kids work out the words. Read it aloud many times.

14. Back to front (words or letters)

Write the verse back to front and have kids read it from back.

Or write each word back to front and have kids read it.

Or write each letter back to front and kids work it out.

15. Write a word Relay

Teach verse and keep saying it over and over while kids play the game.

Put kids into teams for a relay race where each team member has to run up to the whiteboard and write one word of the memory verse (in correct order) until the entire verse is written.

16. Throw a ball

Put the verse up on the wall/screen and read it a few times.

Kids stand and spread apart. (can do in smaller groups if you have lots of kids)

Hold ball and say first word then throw to another child who says next word and throws it on.

Repeat until verse is said and then do a few times.

17. Round the circle

As for Throw a ball (above) but kids sit in a circle and pass a ball/stone etc around and say the next word in the verse.

18. Puzzle pieces

Write the verse on a piece of paper and then cut it up into random shapes and kids make puzzle.

Or cut the words apart and kids make the verse.

19. Hot potato

Kids sit in a circle with a potato/ball/stone which they quickly pass around. Play music or bang a drum. When the music stops, the child holding the potato must say the verse (or you could do a bit of the verse at a time) then start music again and carry on.

20. Write it

Kids copy memory verse onto a card/paper/paper plate etc. Take it home to put up somewhere.