

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

HIDDEN TREASURE

To help motivate your kids to memorize God's Word—while at the same time making them feel capable of doing it—try this. First, distribute pencils and paper to everyone and ask them to write down the following:

Their name

Their address and phone number

Their social security number

Their school locker combination

Their birth date, and the birth dates of immediate family members

Zip codes of five local towns

Phone numbers of five friends

Addresses of five friends

First verse of a favorite song

Five Bible verses

After you have fun sharing answers to the first nine questions, emphasize how Scripture memory takes a backseat to relatively trivial details. Then use the following questions to generate a discussion about Scripture memory.

- How were you able to remember phone numbers, locker combinations, and the rest?
- Have you ever used these same methods to memorize Scripture?
- Why do we need to memorize God's Word? Perhaps these verses will help answer this question:

Joshua 1:8

Psalms 119:9,11

Matthew 4:1-11

Romans 10:17

Romans 12:2

Ephesians 6:11-13,17

Philippians 4:8

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Hebrews 4:12

Remember this! After 24 hours we remember five percent of what we hear (Rom. 10:17), 15 percent of what we read (Rev. 1:3), 35 percent of what we study (Acts 17:11), and 100 percent of what we memorize (Ps. 119:11).

Now share some of the following hints for memorizing Scripture—and ask your teens for suggestions and methods of memorizing, too.

- Choose a verse that's special to you. Read and study the verse until you know what it means.
- Meditate on the verse. Think it over again and again until it becomes part of you.
- Write out the verse and reference a number of times.
- Categorize verses. 1 John 5:11-13, for example, would be under the "assurance of salvation" heading.
- When memorizing quote the topic, the reference, and the verse.
- Break the verse down into smaller phrases and work on memorizing one phrase at a time until you finish the entire verse.
- Start working on a new verse before you go to bed at night. You tend to remember what you are thinking about just before you fall asleep.
- Write out the verses on spiral-bound 3x5 index cards so you can carry them with you and work on them wherever you go.
- Use time that's often wasted, such as traveling to and from school, during meals, while exercising or jogging. This is an especially good way to memorize

the books of the Bible. Rather than counting push-ups, recite the Bible books. You just may be able to increase your push-up maximum because you'll have no mental block as you often do when you approach a certain number.

- Accountability! Work with a partner to whom you can be accountable. Check up on each other and quiz each other.
- Set a goal (one or two verses a week, for example), then reward yourself or your partner when either or both of you consistently accomplish your goals over a one- or two-month period.
- Review, review, review. If you don't use your verses regularly, you will lose them.