

Teaching Scripture Memory Verses

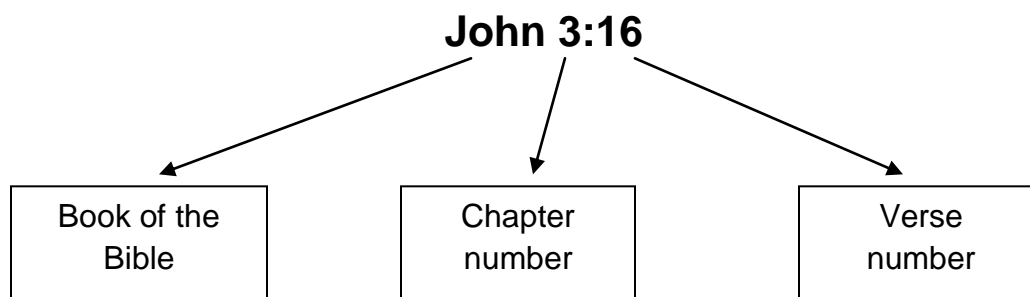
Teaching the Address of the verse

The address or reference of the verse is the book, chapter and verse. It is helpful to use the word, “address” with young students because they already know that the address is where you find a place. Reference is a more nebulous term for young students.

Students must be taught that the addresses in the Bible, help us find particular portions. The original manuscripts did not have these divisions. It is helpful to remember and teach this because sometimes verses and chapters should not end where they do. Taking a verse out of the context sometimes does just that—it takes the verse out of context and can change the meaning. We must be true the meaning of the scriptures and be careful of this.

Students should also memorize the order of the books of the Bible so that they will be able to look up portions in an easier manner. They should also understand that there is a New and Old Testament.

Let’s look at the address of a very familiar verse:



We need to teach this to our students.

How can we teach memorization?

The address of a verse is the hardest part of the verse to learn because it makes the least amount of sense. The words in the verse flow together and mean something. Since the address is the hardest part of the verse, we should teach the verse with the address at both the beginning and the end of the verse.

Example:

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Romans 3:23

It is also best to teach the verse in phrases as each phrase has meaning in itself and goes with the rest of the verse. This also helps students understand the meaning. Which is easier—memorizing a bunch of unconnected words or learning a sentence? For example, in public schools we teach a

sentence to learn the order of the planets. **My very energetic mother just served us nine pizzas.** The first letter of each word gives us the first letter of each of the planets in order including the controversial Pluto. Another example of that is HOMES. Each letter of HOMES reminds us of one of the Great Lakes near Michigan. Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, and Superior.

FEAR should apply to all the verses before playing the game.

Games for Teaching the Verse

1. *Erase a word*

The verse is written on the board and the class says it together several times. One student erases one word and then everyone says the verse including the erased word. This continues until the whole verse is erased and then the students are given a chance to say the verse on their own.

2. *Relay race*

Each word of the verse is written on a note card. Students run down to get a note card and say the verse together with that word. This continues until one team is able to get all of their cards in order and say the verse. Then the students are given a chance to say the verse on their own.

3. *Make a puzzle*

Write the verse down on a piece of paper and then cut it up to make a puzzle. Students put together the puzzle. You can make more puzzles and have teams compete if you have larger classes. Then the students are given a chance to say the verse on their own.

4. *Paper plate games*

Each word of the verse is written on a paper plate. Plates are mixed up and passed out to students. If you have less students than words, some will have to have 2 paper plates. Each student will raise their plate and say their word in order. Then the students are given a chance to say the verse on their own.

5. *Unscramble*

Each word of a verse is written on note cards. These note cards are mixed up and the first team to unscramble them and say the verse correctly wins.

6. *Hot potato*

Students sit in a circle and pass a bean bag or other similar object around the circle. When the music stops the student must say the verse.

7. *Beanbag toss*

Students sit in a circle and toss the beanbag to another student. That student says the first word of the verse and then toss it to another student. Students need to understand about giving everyone a chance.

8. *Jump into God's word*

Students jump over a line and say the verse.

9. *Concentration*

Note cards with each word of the verse are mixed up and turned over. Students take turns finding the correct words in order. Then the students are given a chance to say the verse on their own.

10. *Clap the verse*

The verse is written on the board and one person turns their back to the board while another student erases a word. The other students read the verse and clap where the word is left out. If the student can give the word correctly, they earn points for their team. This continues until all of the words are erased. Then the students are given a chance to say the verse on their own.

11. Pop a balloon

After going over the verse together, give students a chance to say the verse individually. If they can say it correctly, they get to pop a balloon. There is a piece of paper in each balloon with a point value on it and they earn those points for their team. When awarding points, use large numbers like 100 or 500. It makes it more fun for the students. Then the students are given a chance to say the verse on their own.

12. Act out the verse or put motions to it

Some verses fit very well to motions or acting it out. For example, James 1:99

But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger;

Students cup their hand to the ear, point to their mouth and make a mad face as they say this verse.

And many more.....

Steve Green has put many verses to scripture for kids. This is also an excellent way to memorize scripture.