

Bible Verse Memory Games

Game #1:

-Write the verse and where the verse is located, on a white board with an erasable marker.

-Say the verse together as you point to each word on the board. Then one person erases one word.

-Say the verse again together as you point to each word and the blank space where the word was erased, but you do not say the word that has been erased. If most of the kids playing do not say the erased word, then write the word back up on the board. Say the verse again. Have the next child erase one word. Continue until everything is erased.

Variations:

Variation #1:

The child whose turn it was to erase a word gets to use the pointer to point at the words and lead the group.

Variation #2:

After a few rounds I say, "Now, erase 2 words!" and keep upping the number of words erased with each round.

Variation #3:

Give each child a set of sticks, one for each hand to play like a drum. (I cut up ½" dowel rods into 12" lengths) and as they say each word they tap their dowel rod on the floor or table with each word. When I hand out the sticks, I go over the 2 rules of using the sticks.

Rule #1: The sticks are only used for tapping the floor (table). If you use your stick to poke your neighbor, you lose your sticks and must wait at least 2 rounds of the game, then ask me for permission to get the sticks back. They must also apologize to the person they poked to get the sticks back.

Rule #2: They can only tap their stick once, in rhythm with me, as I tap the white board with my pointer. I do this a few times to play a game with them, tapping the board then pointing up with my pointer to stop their tapping. If they continue to tap, they must lay down their sticks for 2 rounds. I also have a "free time" for children to tap as much as they want, to get that out of their system. I cross my arms and that means they can tap to their heart's content until I uncross my arms and point up. Anyone who keeps tapping loses 2 rounds. I do this a few times before I start pointing at the Bible verse, so they get use to watching me to start and stop with their sticks. I usually cross my arms for "free play" while everyone is waiting for the next child to come to the board.

You can also do this variation with the children without sticks by simply clapping or snapping their fingers.

Game #2:

Using a Word document, I arrange the words to the verse using “landscape” and arrange the size of the words to fit on one piece of paper. I print the words to the verse on card stock and cut each sentence into strips, then cut the strips into sections so there is one word per piece of paper. I take a zip lock bag and place a half size piece of paper (on card stock) in it with the complete verse written down on it and all the pieces of the cut-up verse.

I usually arrange children into groups so younger and older children are put together and have them assemble their verse on the floor. They can also work individually or in pairs and assemble the verse on a table.

At the word “Go!” children open their zip lock bag and race to see who can be first, second and third place winners, to assemble the pieces of the verse to match the card with the completed verse on it.

When everyone is finished, I give them 1 minute to study the verse. Then they take the pieces of the verse and mix them all up and put everything back in the zip lock bag and pass their bag to the group on the left.

Now. They race again, this time keeping the paper with the full verse written on it, face down, and assemble the verse from memory.

Variations:

Variation #1:

I hide in advance of children's arrival, the pieces of one Bible verse set. (I don't put the pieces inside anything, just tucked into places with just a part of the paper showing) The verse is written on the board. At the word "Go!" children look for the pieces and assemble the verse together. After they accomplish that, I give them 1 minute to study the verse. I erase the verse from the board, mix up the pieces of paper and turn them upside down. The children take turns assembling the verse by themselves as others watch. With a stopwatch, I time each child who wants to assemble the verse and let them compete to see who can do it the fastest.

Variation #2:

I arrange the children into teams, and I have the groups spread out around the edges of the room as their "home base" where they are going to assemble their verse. I then take all the Bible verse pieces (plus one or two extra sets) and throw them out, all over the middle of the floor. Each team has a Caption who has the paper with the complete Bible verse on it. At the word "Go!" The Caption stays at home base, and the team members go out and find words to bring back to the Caption. The Caption can only tell the team members what word to look for after they have brought back their first piece of paper. Team members can only bring back one piece of paper at a time. The Caption puts the verse together giving instructions to the team members to find a word that is needed, or to put back a word that is already found. Teams race to see which Caption finishes first, second and third.