

SCRIPTURE LISTENERS

Scripture Listeners are a key component to the Scripture memorization program. These individuals are volunteers who listen to one child at a time recite his Bible verse outside of the regular classroom.

Volunteers

Individuals who enjoy working with children, are friendly and encouraging, and are prepared to be greatly blessed by hearing children learn God's Word, would make great volunteers.

Individualized

A Scripture Listener asks the classroom teacher if any of his students are prepared to say a Bible verse during the designated time for that class to recite. The teacher then excuses the child to go with the Scripture Listener to an adjoining classroom or hallway where two chairs are set up facing each other where they sit. The child gives his Scripture folder to the Listener and then recites a Bible verse. Another child may be prepared to recite ten verses at a time. This is the beauty of an individualized plan. Remember not to assign verses. You will discourage those who do not complete the task, and you may hold others back. Children are given time to memorize during class.

Eliminate Pressure

Because a child is given the opportunity to recite his verse in an adjoining room or hallway without an audience, the pressure of a classroom of children observing the recitation is eliminated. Public speaking ability is a worthy goal, but is not a priority in this setting. God's Word memorized and applied to the heart is the foremost goal.

Motivation

Verbal encouragement: "You recited that verse very well!"

Stickers: Three stickers are given for each verse. However, the child may not say the same verse three times in one day, only once. Therefore, the child reviews and recites each verse three separate weeks to reinforce the memorization process.

Application

The Scripture Listener may also comment on the verse or give a brief explanation:

- "Isn't it wonderful that Jesus loves us so much that He died on the cross so we could be forgiven?"
- "Wow! This is your first night to come to Kids' Klub, and you still memorized a Bible verse! Isn't it wonderful to know that God loves you and every single person in the whole world?"

Make It Official

Preschool and Kindergarten: When a child completes a vertical column, the Scripture Listener initials and dates the bottom of the column.

Elementary: When a child completes one page, the Scripture Listener initials and dates the bottom of the page.

Pins and Prizes

Preschool and kindergarten: Each time a child completes a vertical column, he may choose a pin or keychain to attach to his tote bag. Once he has finished an entire page, he may also choose a prize. The prize should not be candy or food. Inexpensive items from your Christian bookstore are recommended such as pencils, rulers, balls, bookmarks, toys, or gadgets.

Elementary ages: Once a child has filled the front side of a page with stickers, he may choose a pin or keychain to attach to his tote bag. Once he has finished the back side of the page, he receives another pin or keychain, as well as a prize. Prizes are distributed individually after class is dismissed, right before the child goes home.

Word-Perfect?

God's Word is perfect. We are not. Please do not expect perfection from the children. Make it your goal to be encouraging and help cultivate a happy, positive experience for each child that recites. If the child has trouble reciting a verse, try using one of these approaches:

- "Let's practice this verse two or three more times, and then I think you will be able to recite it without my help."
- "That verse was a little harder for you to memorize, wasn't it? Why don't you go back to your classroom and practice it five more minutes and then come and say it to me again."

Preschoolers . . . Oh, my!

Being a Scripture Listener for preschoolers is an interesting challenge! When asked, "Who wants to say a Bible verse?" they may all respond enthusiastically, even if they have not learned a verse. Generally, you can use the time to practice with each individual child. Once he has said, "God is love. I John 4:8" standing up, sitting down, hopping on one foot, hopping on the other foot, and then saying it with his eyes closed, he probably can say it all by himself and receive a sticker.

No comparisons!

Please avoid motivating a child to learn verses by competition or by comparing him with another. You may be unaware of each child's memorizing ability or his workload at home or at school. That is why private praise, not public recognition, is given. The child who easily memorizes fifty verses is not more worthy of recognition than the child who struggles to learn ten. Yes, we want to praise and encourage hard work and effort, but a tender heart for God's Word is what is most important.