

App Store

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

God wants us to learn the Bible.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will name something they can do to memorize Bible verses.

KEY PASSAGE:

Psalm 119:11, Psalm 119:105

INTRO:

Can you imagine a world without phones in our pockets? Imagine what life was like just a few decades ago when these things we call phones did not have screens or browsers or apps. Imagine having to go to the wall, where the phone was plugged in, every time you got a call. Imagine not being able to send a text or even take a photo with that phone. Can you believe your moms and dads and grandparents lived in such a backwards world?

There are many things, good and bad, we can say about smart phones and how they have changed our lives. In some ways phones have caused people to become more distant and more hostile toward one another, but these phone have also made life more convenient and easier for all of us. We can use an app to help us get directions to a new place. We can use an app to help us look up the answer to a homework question - or a trivial question like who was the voice of Darth Vader in Star Wars? (It was James Earl Jones, by the way.)

Every day more and more apps show up on our phones. Programmers are constantly creating new and creative apps that they hope will make money as well as make life easier for us. They've given us everything from electronic books to games to apps that cannot only tell us the name of that song we keep hearing, but who sings it and where we can buy a copy to download to our phone.

But as great as these phones are, they don't have all the answers we need. Phones can't heal broken hearts. Phones can't give us the wisdom to make good decisions in tough situations. Phones can show us how to get to Disneyland, but they can't show us the way to Heaven.

Thankfully, God has given us a resource that can do all of these things.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

The Bible, God's Word, has the answers for every situation we encounter. God wants us to rely on the Bible in the way many people today rely on their phones. He wants us to keep it close to our hearts, and he wants us to reach for the Bible every time we need it.

We are very blessed to be living in a time when we can actually put the entire Bible on our phones in the form of an app, but even if we didn't have a Bible app, there are ways we can carry the Bible with us everywhere we go.

READ PSALM 119:11 AND PSALM 119:105

MAIN POINT:

The Bible is a map app, showing us the way to Heaven. It's a messenger app, allowing us to hear from God. It's a reading app, allowing us to pass the time by meditating on God's Word. It is so much more valuable than all the apps on our phones.

God wants us to read the Word every day, to learn it, and to hide it in our hearts. One of the best ways to do this is to memorize Bible verses. The more verses we memorize, the better prepared we will be to face the challenges of every day.

DRIVE IT HOME:

Memorizing Bible verses seems like a silly idea in the age of smart phones. Why memorize anything if you can simply put it in your phone? People don't memorize phone numbers like they used to because they store all their phone numbers on their phone. Why would we memorize Bible verses when they're right there on the app?

Memorizing verses is more than just a quick way to remember God's Word. It's a way of filling your mind with the Word of God. The more Bible verses you have in your head, the more the Word of God will come to mind in your daily life. You won't need a Bible app in your pocket because you'll have the Bible right here, in your mind.

There are many ways to work on memorizing verses. You can start a journal, writing each verse down as you learn them. You can write the verses you learn on note cards, using them as flashcards like you do with math facts. You can highlight them and bookmark them in your Bible.

Every person is different, and every person learns differently. It doesn't matter what technique you use to memorize Bible verses. What matters is that you do it as often as you can. Try to learn one verse a month, and if you get good at it, try learning one a week. Start now while you're young, and you could have hundreds of Bible verses in your head by the time you're an adult.

The Bible is the ultimate app. It's our guide to living a better life. Commit to learning the Bible and downloading God's Word into your memory.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Let God's Word be a lamp for your feet and a light to your path.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to put your Word in our hearts.

In Jesus' name,

Amen