

Challenge Task Supplement



Memorisation

In the Junior Soldier training course there are times when Junior Soldiers are required to memorise verses of Scripture. It is also one of the challenge tasks for award work. On this page are some tips and ideas to help make teaching memory verses as easy as possible.

Tips for teaching memory verses

1. Print out verses to be memorised on a piece of paper.
2. Enlarge this sheet on a photocopier.
3. Read it to the Junior Soldiers and explain the meanings of any words they do not understand.
4. Then ask the Junior Soldiers to read it back to you:
 - Very softly
 - Very loudly
 - Standing up
 - Sitting down
 - Very fast
 - Very slowly
 - Very high
 - Very low
 - Like an older person
 - Like a preschooler
 - Like a posh person
 - Like an opera singer

(You don't need to use all these suggestions at once. Pick a few ways each time you teach a memory verse to make it more interesting.)

Ideas

1. Cut the photocopied verses in phrases or individual words. Place the pieces into a snap lock bag. Time how long it takes a group of Junior Soldiers to assemble the verses correctly. Repeat the activity and encourage them to better their previous times.

Variations of this idea:

- a. Make multiple sets of the same verses and have races between groups and individuals.
- b. Place the pieces at the end of the room and have a relay race.
- c. Hide the pieces in balloons and Junior Soldiers must pop them to find the missing pieces.
- d. Hide the pieces of the verse around the room and have a treasure hunt.
- e. Stick the pieces to a wall with reusable adhesive and remove the pieces one at a time, reciting the verse between each removal – eventually there will be no pieces left but the Junior Soldiers will be reciting the full verse.

Note: Always return the pieces to the snap lock bags. Caring for the pieces means they can be reused in future sessions for revision or as an extra activity when sessions finish earlier than planned.

2. Enlarge the verse and cut it up like a jigsaw puzzle to be assembled.
3. Write the verse back to front and use a mirror to discover the message.
4. Make a poster containing the verses and display it in the hall.
5. Substitute a nonsense word for a key word and have the Junior Soldiers say which word is wrong.

Understanding the meaning of the verses

To increase understanding of the verses memorised:

- Have the Junior Soldiers look up the verse in their own Bibles.
- Discuss where in the Bible the verse is located – Old or New Testament, before or after Jesus lived, who wrote that particular book of the Bible, etc.
- Learn the meanings of the words in the verse.
- Learn the verse in another language.
- Substitute tricky words with words the children know and then swap back.