

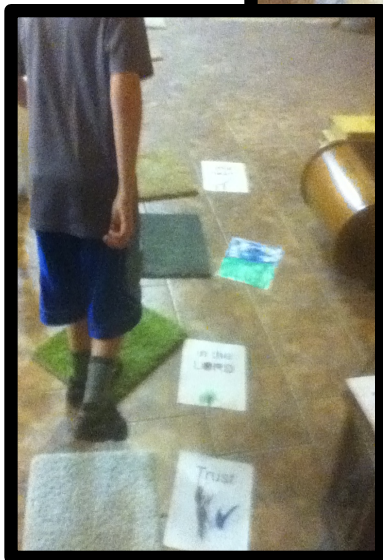
# Bible Verses from Memory

Kay Collins



For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6



His Mer-cy is ev - er - last-ing.

The goal of these lessons is to provide strategies for helping students memorize scripture. It is my hope that the techniques would be utilized with scripture passages in addition to the examples I have given and that the ideas would be improved upon by the teachers and students using them. (It has been so for us! The lessons began with a plan, and the students added elements that have been incorporated into these lessons.) It is a wonderful thing to allow for deviation from a well-planned lesson. As the students and teacher explore the scriptures, the True Teacher guides hearts and souls to know Him. (Permission is granted to make as many copies as you need for your class.)

All praise and glory to God and the Lord, Jesus Christ.

## Table of Contents

Theme singing combined with a craft (Isaiah 9:6)

Puzzle Hunt and dessert (John 12:24)

Add percussion instruments and accents (John 17:21)

“I Have/Who Has?” game (Matthew 3:17)

Stepping Stones (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Re-enact with a craft (Romans 6:4)

Videotape Call and Response (Psalm 118:1-4)

Call and Response combining speaking and singing (1 Samuel 16)

Repeat and Build with motions/actions (2 Peter 1:2)

Cotton Ball Cover-Up (Matthew 17:5)

## **Isaiah 9:6 (Strategy--theme singing and craft)**

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.”

### **Activity overview:**

Learn the song using G.F. Handel’s melody from the “Messiah”. Sing it acapella or along with background music and perform it while passing out Christmas cards created using the verse and Hershey bars. Another option would be to record the singing and play the recording while passing out their created Christmas cards.

### **Activity 1:**

Demonstrate the song from Handel’s Messiah either by singing it or playing one of many recordings available. Sing it and pat or clap to keep a steady beat. You can either sing it all together with the repeated portions or else sing it in two parts with the second part echoing the first:

For unto us a child is born (unto us a child is born)  
Unto us (unto us)  
a son is given (son is given)  
Unto us (unto us)  
a son is given (son is given)

And the government shall be upon his shoulder  
And his name shall be called:

Wonderful (wonderful)  
Counsellor (counsellor)

The Mighty God, the Everlasting Father  
The Prince of Peace...  
The Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.



## Activity 2:

Create a "Christmas card"

Materials for 20 cards:

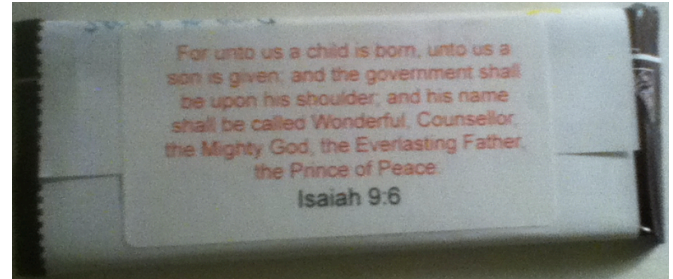
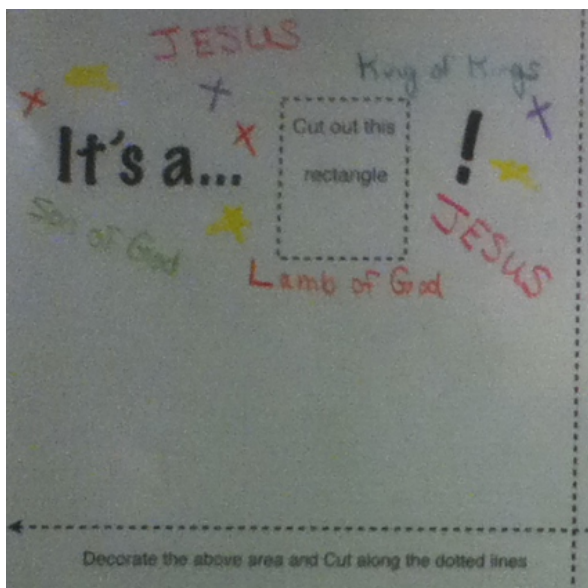
20 Hershey bars (1.55 oz; the ones with almonds will work--just cut the hole slightly smaller on the template)

2 pages of pre-printed labels (we used Avery 5163; 10 per page)

10 pages of the template (2 candy bar covers per page)

Colored pencils, crayons or markers

Clear tape



Decorate each candy bar cover (note that the top and bottom will be covered up by the label on the back of the candy bar).

Cut along the dotted lines and the center rectangle for the cover.

Cover the Hershey bar so that the hole in the cover reveals the "HE" on the candy bar and carefully tape the back so that it stays securely in place.

Use the pre-printed labels of **Isaiah 9:6** to decorate the back of the candy bar. (These were printed on avery labels. A copy is on the enclosed CD.)

### Activity 3:

Have the students sing Isaiah 9:6 and then pass out the Christmas Hershey bar cards to their parents or other members of the fellowship. (We recorded the song and using Audacity increased the speed so that we sound like chipmunks. (Several phone apps can do the same thing in the ever-changing app world.) Copies of our recordings are in the “extras folder”--accompanied by a dog who wanted to sing along.

## **John 12:24 (Strategy--puzzle hunt and dessert)**

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat fall into the earth and dies, it remains by itself alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.”

### **Activity:**

Write the verse on a blank puzzle (or print and cut out the verse provided in the “extras folder” on a blank piece of cardstock). Put one piece of the puzzle (or one word) in a plastic Easter egg. Hide numbered Easter eggs for the students to find. When all of the eggs are found, have them put the puzzle together (or put the words in order) to create a sign which will be added to the bottom of a giant cookie decorated to represent the fruit coming forth from the dying seed.

### **Materials needed:**

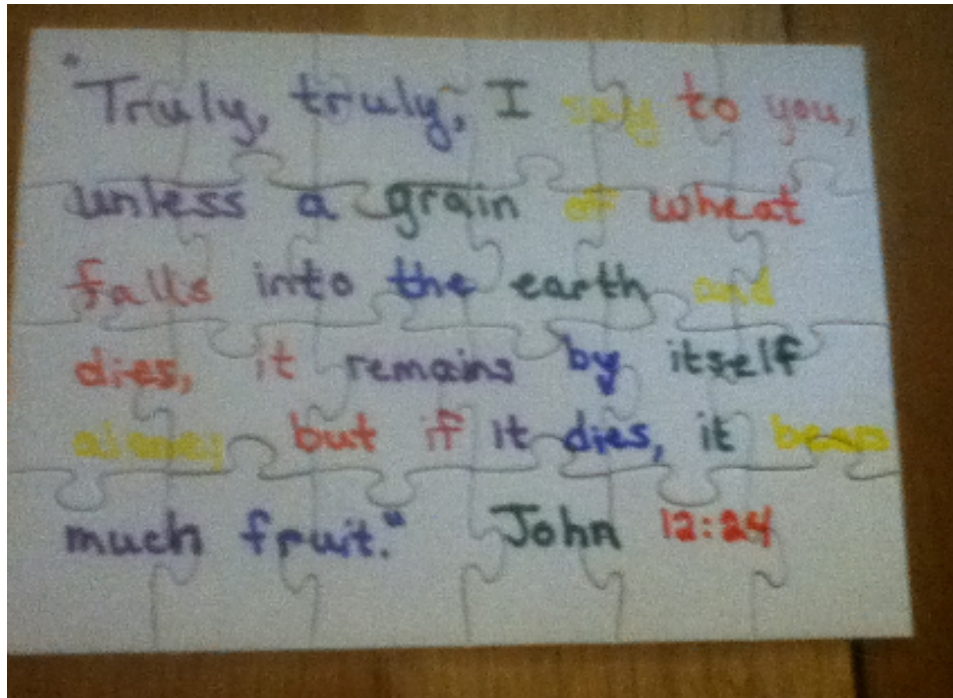
Printed copy of the verse or the verse written on a blank puzzle  
Enough eggs to hide a puzzle piece in each (or 1 egg for each word and verse reference)  
Giant cookie (a giant shortbread or sugar cookie baked in a square or round pan works well)  
cream cheese icing  
variety of pre-washed and cut fruit  
nut or seed to represent the seed in the ground (a cracked pistachio works well)

Step 1: Hide the eggs containing the verse.

Step 2: Read John 12:1-32 and discuss the events described mere days before Jesus is crucified. Focus specifically on verses 24-32 that show the necessity of His death and resurrection.

Step 3: Have the egg hunt.

Step 4: Put the puzzle together and recite the verse.



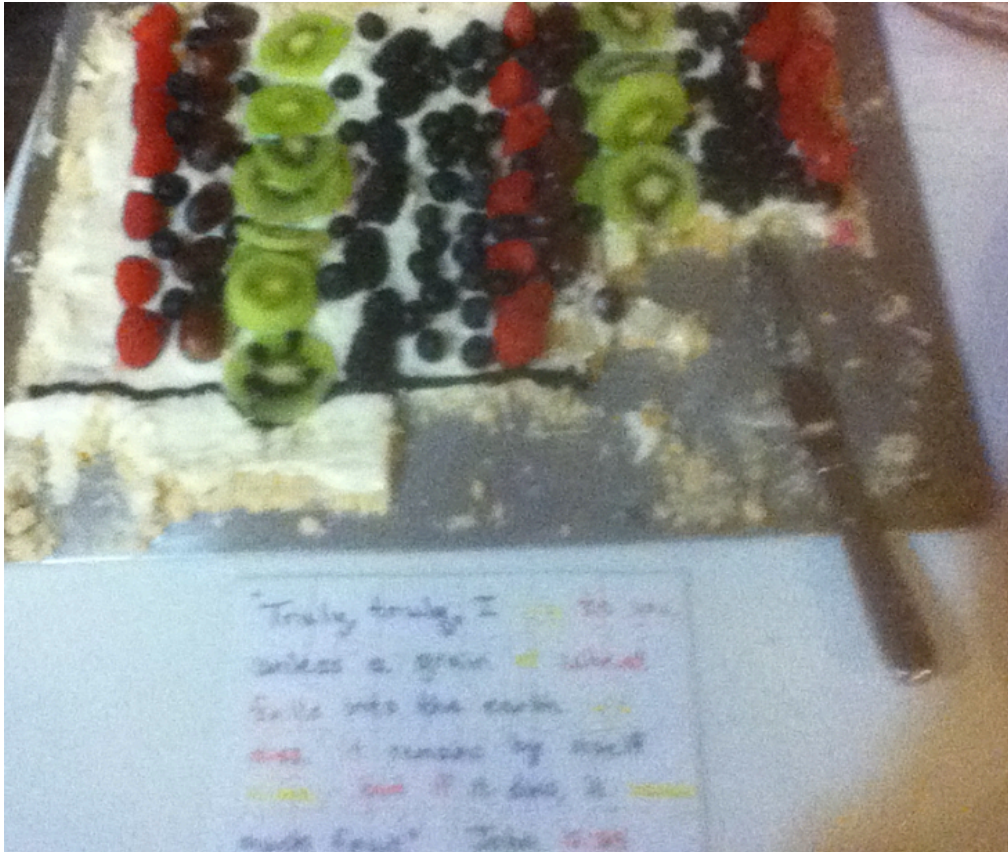
Step 5: Remove a puzzle piece and recite the entire verse again. (Continue removing puzzle pieces one-at-a-time, reciting the verse after each removal, until the puzzle is gone and the verse can still be recited. Put the puzzle back together again.

Step 6: Decorate the giant cookie with frosting and fruit and put the seed in the ground.





Step 7: Serve the fruit cookie with the verse along side.



Recipe for shortbread cookie:

1 1/2 Cups of all purpose flour  
6 T of sugar  
1 Cup of butter (or part coconut oil) softened

Blend the flour and sugar and combine with the butter/oil until crumbly.  
Roll together into a ball until well combined.  
Spread out on a large cookie sheet or pizza pan.

Bake at 350 for 20 minutes or until slightly golden.

After cooled, add frosting and fruit.

Recipe for frosting:

8 oz of cream cheese  
2 1/2 Cups of powdered sugar  
1/2 tsp. of vanilla

(If too runny, add more sugar)

## **John 17:21 (Strategy--percussion instruments and accents)**

“That all of them may be one; just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they may be one in us: that the world may believe that you have sent me.”

### **Activity:**

Use musical instruments to accent and represent different words as a tool for memorizing scripture.

Collect a variety of handheld percussion. These can be purchased instruments, homemade instruments or found sounds from the classroom.

Write the scripture on the board and teach it by rote until it is mastered.

Play and say the verse using all the instruments to keep a steady beat. Then, assign a different instrument for each word (or phrase) and perform. For example:

“That all of them may be one”--played on maracas  
“just as you, Father, are in me”--played on hand drums  
“and I in you,”--played with tambourines  
“that they may be one in us”--played on the table  
“that the world may believe”--snapping fingers  
“that you have sent me”--stomping feet

Say the verse, and each time replace one portion with percussion until the entire verse is performed with percussion.

1. Try saying the entire verse with percussion.
2. Try performing the entire verse with percussion while whispering the verse.
3. Try performing the entire verse with percussion while saying the verse silently (audiate).
4. Have the students choose which phrases to say, play or both.
5. Choose certain words to accent (say and play more forcefully than the rest)

## Matthew 3:17 (Strategy--"I Have/Who Has" Game)

"...while a voice came from Heaven, saying, "This is My Son, the dearly loved, in whom is My delight." (Weymouth)

Activity: "I have/who has?" game

Write or print out the verse on index cards or card stock so that the verse is discovered via a game. Each card will have a word on it followed by a request for the next word in the verse. The cards are shuffled and randomly passed out (or you can give the easiest cards to the youngest readers). The first card has a number 1 on it; the rest of the cards only have the words. The person with the first card reads the card, "I have 'while'; who has 'a'." The person with the first card then places that card on the table or board at the far left. Everyone reads that card, and the game continues. The person who has "a" then says, "I have 'a'; who has 'voice'?" and places that card next to the first. Everyone reads the two cards displayed, and the game continues. Each time a card is added, everyone reads to that point. This continues until all of the cards are displayed in order and the entire verse can be read. At this point, let them randomly remove words to see if they can still recite the verse without all of the words. As their ability improves, remove more and more words until all of the words are removed and they are able to recite the verse from memory. Another option, is to shuffle and redistribute the cards and see how quickly they can complete the game. Using a stopwatch, give them 3 rounds to see how much they can improve their time.

<b>is</b> <small>Who has "My"?</small>	<b>My</b> <small>Who has "Son"?</small>
<b>Son,</b> <small>Who has "the"</small>	<b>the</b> <small>Who has "dearly"</small>

A complete printable copy is available in the "extras folder".

### Proverbs 3:5-6 (Strategy--stepping stones)

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Activity:

Print short portions of the verse and have the kids decorate each page as we recite the shorter portions.

Then, arrange them on the floor out of order. Have the students recite the verses to put them in the correct order. Then, using carpet squares (if available) let them arrange the carpet squares in a path. Then, have them place the portions of scripture beside each square and walk along the path while saying the verse at each step.





1. Challenge: Let one student challenge the other students by selecting which stepping “stone” to turn over while the others aren’t watching. The others must be able to recite the hidden portion in order to make it through the entire path to the end.
2. Challenge: Continue one-by-one turning over the stepping “stones” to see who can recite the entire scripture from memory and make it through the path to the end.
3. Challenge: Who can go backwards?



## **Romans 6:4 (Strategy--re-enact with a craft)**

“Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”

Color and cut out the base and both figures. (1 set for each child)

Fold the base so that the verse reference shows in front and the rest creates a place for the two figures to be taped to. Fold the two figures accordion style and tape the base of the first figure on the platform in front and the base of the second figure immediately behind.



Recite the verse while re-enacting:

Begin with the first figure standing and the second figure folded down to the base. As you read, "Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death...", lower the first figure onto the base. Continue by raising the second figure as you recite the second part, "...so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life."



## **Psalm 118:1-4 (Strategy--videotape call and response)**

Give thanks to the LORD for He is good; His mercy is everlasting. Oh, let Israel say, "His mercy is everlasting." Oh, let the house of Aaron say, "His mercy is everlasting." Oh let those who fear the LORD say, "His mercy is everlasting."

Activity: Call and Response Singing

Use four dry boards for the four separate portions of these verses. Let a student (or students) decorate each board that already has a portion of the verse written at the top. Then, put them in order and have those four students sing a calling solo. Everyone joins in singing the response. As each student sings, he holds up his board to show that part of the verse and the picture he has drawn to go with it. This is also fun to videotape.

Caller 1: Give thanks to the LORD for He is good...

Response: His mercy is everlasting.

Caller 2: Oh, let Israel say...

Response: His mercy is everlasting

Caller 3: Oh, let the house of Aaron say...

Response: His mercy is everlasting

Caller 4: Let those who fear the LORD say,

Response: His mercy is everlasting.


Following is the written music for the melody we used:

Caller 1:




Give thanks to the LORD for He is Good.

Response:



His Mer-cy is ev - er - last-ing.

Caller 2:



Oh, let Is - rael say...

Response:



His Mer-cy is ev - er - last-ing.

(Repeat the same melody that caller 2 used for callers 3 and 4; repeat the response melody for the 3rd and 4th responses as well.)

Option 1:

Allow the students to teach their parts to each other and take turns singing the called solos.

Option 2:

Add instruments for the responses.

Option 3:

Have students take turns singing all of the called solos while the rest sing and play the responses.

An audio example of the song is in the “extras folder”. We used iMovie to videotape and add fun effects. The kids had a great time creating the video. However, we have NOT included a copy of the video... due to the mortification of the children who are now teenagers.

"But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

If you have a verse or group of verses that is longer or more complicated, you can create a song or chant in which the students respond with a portion of the scripture. It is like having a verse and a chorus. Using 1 Samuel 16:7, read the entire verse and then create a song as follows in which a caller speaks and the students sing the response:

Response (Sung): “for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

A student created our melody. You can hear an example in the “extras folder”.

[illegible]

## **2 Peter 1:2 (Strategy--repeat and build with motions)**

“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.”

*Activity: This idea originally came from a children’s chant “Tooty Ta” written by Dr. Jean Feldman. It has been modified to fit our purpose.*

Repeat the verse a couple of times keeping a steady rhythm as you say it. Then add the following call/response with movements:

Teacher: “Thumbs up!”

Students: “Thumbs up!”

All say the verse while gesturing to the right and left in rhythm with the words.

Teacher: “Thumbs up!”

Students: “Thumbs up!”

Teacher: “Elbows back!”

Students: “Elbows back!”

All say the verse while gesturing with the thumbs again but this time with elbows back and held close to the body.

Teacher: “Thumbs up!”

Students: “Thumbs up!”

Teacher: “Elbows back!”

Students: “Elbows back!”

Teacher: “Knees a-knockin!”

Students: “Knees a-knockin!”

All say the verse again with all of the motions in rhythm with the words.

Teacher: “Thumbs up!”

Students: “Thumbs up!”

Teacher: “Elbows back!”

Students: “Elbows back!”

Teacher: “Knees a-knockin!”

Students: “Knees a-knockin!”

Teacher: “Tongues out!”

Students: “Tongues out!”



All say the verse again (although it will sound funny with tongues hanging out) with all of the motions in rhythm with the words.

Teacher: "Thumbs up!"  
Students: "Thumbs up!"  
Teacher: "Elbows back!"  
Students: "Elbows back!"  
Teacher: "Knees a-knockin!"  
Students: "Knees a-knockin!"  
Teacher: "Tongues out!"  
Students: "Tongues out!"  
Teacher: "Turn around!"  
Students: "Turn around!"

Repeat the verse doing all of the motions.

Teacher: "Thumbs up!"  
Students: "Thumbs up!"  
Teacher: "Elbows back!"  
Students: "Elbows back!"  
Teacher: "Knees a-knockin!"  
Students: "Knees a-knockin!"  
Teacher: "Tongues out!"  
Students: "Tongues out!"  
Teacher: "Turn around!"  
Students: "Turn around!"  
Teacher: "Sit down!"  
Students: "Sit down!"  
All sit down in their chairs.

These are some motions the students added:

Be a chimp  
Bend over  
On one foot  
Spin around  
Ride a horse (We have stick horses.)  
Pat your head  
Rub your tummy  
Use a puppet

### **Matthew 17:5 (Strategy--cotton ball cover-Up)**

"While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"

#### **Activity:**

Print the verse on card stock or poster board and display it on a cork board, white board or other space.

Read the verse out loud together. Have the students take turns gluing cotton balls one-at-a-time onto the poster board, reciting the verse after each cotton ball is added. By the time the entire poster is covered (along with the verse,) the verse should be memorized.

# Matthew 17:5

“While he was still  
speaking,  
a bright cloud  
overshadowed them,  
and behold, a voice  
out of the cloud said,  
“This is My beloved  
Son, with whom I am  
well-pleased;  
listen to Him!”