

Memorization Tips for Sparks

Memorizing God's Word is one of the foundational goals of the Awana program.

While we assist and encourage children to memorize Scripture it is important we convey the incredible importance and power of God's Word. Children should know why we put all the time and effort into memorizing verses. Below are some techniques to help your clubbers.

- Pray with the Sparkie for God's help to memorize.
- Set manageable and reasonable goals for Sparkies with special needs. Break material into small increments of a few words or a phrase.
- Use repetition as much as possible by repeating the memory verse with Sparkies over and over again.
- Encourage your Sparkies to use the verse music that is available for each handbook. See the *Awana Ministry Guide*.
- Print material on stiff cardboard or precut puzzles blanks (available at most craft stores). Cut the cardboard (paper can also be used) into puzzle pieces. Have the clubbers assemble the puzzle as they learn the material. Store the puzzle pieces in a plastic bag for review at another time.
- Write individual words on 3"x5" cards. Shuffle the cards and ask Sparkies to arrange them in order. When finished, clubbers can challenge other Sparkies to a race.
- Read the verse out loud with clubbers several times until they can pronounce all the words correctly.
- Help clubbers understand the meaning of the verse by restating it in your own words. It's much easier for clubbers to memorize when they understand the meaning behind the verse.
- Underline the main words of the verse for the clubber. Be sure to ask permission to mark their handbook before you start underlining.
- Break up the verse into meaningful parts by putting parentheses around phrases. For example, Titus 3:5: (*Not by works of righteousness*) (*which we have done*) (*but according to His mercy*) (*He saved us*) (*by the washing of regeneration*) (*and renewing of the Holy Ghost*).
- Use the first letter of each of the words in the verses as a memory aid. For example, write out on a piece of paper Romans 5:1 in this way: T B J B F, W H P W G T O L J C. (*Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*) Let the clubber try to recall the words of the verse just by looking at the first letter of each word of the verse. Let him or her keep practicing until he or she can say the verse without the letters.
- Write out the verse on a chalkboard or marker board (dry-erase board). Erase a word at a time to help a clubber learn his or her memory verse. Each time he or she correctly says the verse, erase another word until he or she knows the entire verse.
- Write out verses on 3"x5" index cards for clubbers to carry with them throughout the week. Encourage them to pull them out and review while they are waiting for the school bus or during other "down times" during the week. Suggest that they say the memory verses right before bedtime and first thing in the morning.
- Set the verse to music using a familiar tune. For instance, use a nursery rhyme tune to remember a handbook section and it will come more naturally. The names of the books of the Bible are also easy to memorize when set to music. Cassette tapes and CDs, with all the memory verses set to music, are also available for Cubbies, Sparks and T&T (see the *Awana Ministry Guide*.)