

Using Scripture Memory with Children

I remember when our children were little, they had a distinct reason for why they were memorizing Scripture - to receive a prize or a trinket. To be honest, that use to bother me. I wanted them to know God's Word just for the sheer joy of it, not for a sticker or a piece of candy. But, what I had to realize was that the Word was still being hidden in their hearts, regardless of the reason.

The Bible tells us that memorization is one of the keys to putting God's Word in our hearts and then God uses it to change us and grow us in His will.

Psalms 119:104,105 says, "I gain understanding from Your precepts; therefore, I hate every false way. Your Word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path."

We want our children to be able to memorize a Bible verse, put it into practice in their daily lives and then recall it throughout their lives.

Remember the following:

- *Learning that will remain with a preschooler involves more than a one-time use and interpretation of the verse.
- *Preschoolers learn by repetition. The more often a Bible verse is used and recalled, the better a child will remember and apply it.
- *Preschoolers absorb new material gradually. Generally speaking, the younger the child, the fewer words.
- *Preschooler's learning is enhanced when they have a part in activities such as singing the verse, using hand motions, matching verses with current day pictures, etc.

Enjoy helping your preschooler "treasure God's Word."