

15 FUN & EASY BIBLE VERSE GAMES FOR KIDS

Using simple materials around your house!

1. Verse Word Lineup

Materials

- Index cards
- A pen or pencil
- A timing device (a phone)

Write out the verse on a set of index cards, one word per card. Have everyone stand in a circle facing one another with arms locked together. Place the stack of verse word-cards face up in the center. The cards should be mixed up in random order. On "go," everyone works together to lay out the verse in order, without using hands. Time how long it takes. Then, play again and see if you can beat your time!

2. Wipe Out!

Materials

- A small whiteboard and dry erase marker

(Note: Another option if a whiteboard is not available is to write on regular paper and cover each word up with sticky notes.)

Write the verse on a whiteboard, and have everyone say the entire verse. Then erase a couple letters, and say the verse again. Then erase a few more letters or entire words, and so on. Continue saying the verse until they remember it. If you have more than one child, let them take turns trying to say the verse as words and letters are erased.

3. Mystery Word

- No materials needed

This game requires two or more players. Practice saying the verse together a few times. Then have one person turn their back and close their eyes. Let another person choose one word from the verse by pointing to it and showing the others, until everyone has seen what the "mystery word" is. Then, the person whose eyes are closed must listen as the others say the verse, but clap on the selected word without saying it. The person whose eyes are closed must guess the mystery word. Let players take turns guessing. To make it more challenging, choose multiple mystery words at a time.

4. Balloon Toss

Materials: one inflated balloon

Toss a balloon in the air, and each person must say a word of the verse before they tap the balloon. Try to say the verse without the balloon hitting the ground.

5. Sing the Verse

- No materials needed

Practice saying the verse together a few times. Challenge kids to turn the verse into a song to help them remember it. You may suggest they choose one of their favorite songs and change the lyrics.

6. Sticky Note Tic-Tac-Toe

Materials

- A sheet of blank copy paper
- A pen or pencil
- Nine sticky notes (or slips of paper)

On a sheet of blank copy paper, draw a 3 x 3 table grid. (The boxes should be roughly the size of the sticky notes you are using.) Write out words or phrases of the verse to fill all nine boxes.

You will need two players or two teams. Ask everyone to recite the verse. The first player (or a player from team one) should write an X on a sticky note and cover one of the squares on the grid. Recite the verse together again. The second player (or a player from team two) should draw an O on a sticky note and cover another box. Continue until Tic-Tac-Toe is complete. Repeat the game.

7. Hot Potato Bible Verse

Materials: a soft, throwable ball

This game works best with three or more players. Give one player the ball and have them pass it around to everyone, each person saying one word of the verse at a time (in order). Whoever is holding the ball on the last word is "out." Continue until one person is left. Repeat for a few rounds.

8. Over-Under

Materials: a soft, throwable ball

This game works best with at least three players. Have players form a line. The first person in the line says the first word of the verse and holds the ball over their head. The second person grabs the ball while the first person goes to the end of line, says the second word and passes the ball between their legs to the third person, who says the third word and passes the ball overhead and so on. Each person goes to end of the line each time they pass. See how far you can go without a mistake!

9. Candy Pass

Materials

- A small bag of individually-wrapped candies, enough for at least one per person

This game works best with at least three players. Have everyone seated in a circle facing one another. Instruct the first player to say the first three words of the verse and pass the bag of candy to the person on their right. Each player says three words on their turn. When the last word/reference of the verse is said, that player takes a candy from the bag and passes the bag to the right. Repeat until everyone has received a candy.

10. Memory Match

Materials

- Index cards
- A pen or pencil

Write out the verse on individual index cards, one word or one short phrase per card. Create a second matching set. Mix up all the cards and place face-down on the floor. Players take turns trying to find the matches. Once all matches are found, line up the word cards in order to spell out the verse and say it together.

11. Verse Sort

Materials:

- Index cards
- A pen or pencil

Create a set of index cards with one word from the verse written on each individual card. Distribute verse sort cards have children work to put the words of the verse in order. Time how long it takes. Afterwards, mix the cards back up and try again—see if you can beat your time!

12. Verse in Motion

- No materials needed

Challenge children to come up with motions or actions to help them memorize the verse. Perform the actions all together until they are comfortable with it and can remember the verse. Let them perform their verse with their motions for an audience (Suggestion: make a video clip and send to another family member!).

13. Race to Fill the Verse

This game works best if you have a verse that is 12 words or easily divided into 12 words/phrases.

Materials:

- One playing mat per pair of students (blank copy paper)
- A pen or pencil per pair of students
- One dice per person

This game is played with partners. Each pair of partners gets two dice, a pen or pencil, and a playing mat with 12 boxes (you may adjust the number down to 10 or 8 depending on the number of words in your verse). You can make the playing mats using blank copy paper and sketching out a 2 x 6 table. You will want a table with the same number of words as the verse. Have children number each box.

When you say "GO," partners roll their dice. Whatever number is rolled, they may find that number box and write in the corresponding word of the verse. They may always choose to roll one or two dice at a time in order to reach a desired number. The goal is to fill in the verse by rolling numbers 1-12. If they roll a number that is already filled in, they should keep trying, alternating between one dice or two as they choose.

If you have multiple teams of partners, they do not need to take turns, they should keep rolling and filling in boxes as quickly as they can. The first team to fill in all twelve boxes wins.

Another option to make the game easier is to allow them to have one or two "free" boxes that they fill in at the beginning of the game.

14. Bible Verse Cup Stack Relay

Materials:

- Fourteen plastic cups
- A permanent marker

This game is designed for two teams, but can also be adapted for two individual players.

Write each word of the verse in permanent marker on TWO of the plastic cups. You may write a short phrase instead of a single word depending on the number of cups and words in the verse. (You will make two identical sets of the verse):

*Example: Our | God | is | a | God | who | saves. |
Psalm 68:20a*

Set all the cups out on the playing area. On the signal "GO," the first player (from each team) may run to find the first cup and start their team's stack. When they return to their line, the next player may go and find the next part of the verse and stack it on top of the first phrase. If any player finds a mistake they can fix it, but they may only add ONE new cup to the stack during their turn. The first team to make a complete stack of cups in the correct order wins. Then, have the team read the verse aloud together.

15. Beach Ball Volley

Materials: one inflated beach ball

This is a fun outdoor game, but can be played indoors as well. Toss a beach ball in the air, and each person must say a word of the verse before they tap the ball. Try to say the verse without the beach ball hitting the ground.