

## *Rocky Creek Springing Up Ministries - Games for Memory Verse*

### **Crazy Stand-Ups**

Have those wearing socks stand and say the verse...those who ate breakfast...those who like baseball...and so on. Keep the game moving from one category to the next, but be sure the children are saying the verse each time.

### **Frozen Exercises**

Have a child lead the group in doing an exercise such as running in place. When the child calls out "Freeze", the group "freezes" in position and quotes the verse without moving. Choose different children to lead and repeat the activity eight to ten times, always quoting the reference at the beginning and end of the verse.

### **Clap A Word**

Repeat the verse twice then have a child stand behind the visualized verse with his back to the class. Choose another child to point to a word on the visual. Lead the children in reciting the verse but when you get to the chosen word, clap instead of saying it. The child behind the visual then tries to guess the word. Choose two different children and repeat as time allows.

### **First Letter**

Have a child pick the first letter of any word in the verse. The children then say the verse, standing for each word beginning with that letter and sitting for the other words. Have another child choose a different first letter and have the children clap when they come to those words. Continue repeating the verse, using different beginning letters and actions. As a special challenge the children could do activities for several first letters at the same time.

### **Guess Who**

Read the verse with the children, beginning and ending with the reference. Then choose a child to come to the front, close his eyes and turn his back to the class. Say the verse with the class, beginning with the reference, then point to another child, who says the reference at the end in a disguised voice. The child at the front tries to guess who said the last reference. Repeat several times.

### **Make a Sandwich**

Use your hands to make a pretend sandwich as you say the verse. One hand represents the reference and stays in place palm up as the bottom slice of bread. Use the other hand to add a pretend ingredient for each word, moving further up from the bottom hand. The second time you say the reference add the top slice of bread, which is placed palm down above all the pretend ingredients. The highlight of this game is eating the pretend sandwich really fast repeat as interest and time allow.

### **Follow the Leader**

Have the children repeat the verse as they copy the movements you make-e.g., hop on one foot, move arms in a circle, march in place. Let several children take turns choosing an action and leading the class as they all say the verse.

### **Verse Pop-Up**

After the class repeats the verse while sitting down, have them “pop up” or stand when they repeat the reference. The next time, they pop up for the reference and for every fifth word of the verse. Then have them pop up for every fourth word, next every third word, then every other word. Finish up by having them pop up then stand throughout the verse.

### **Add a Word**

Starting with the reference, everyone together says just one word, then two, then three, and so on. For example, “Psalm 46:1, Be still and “...”Psalm 46:10, Be still and know.” Play until the verse is said all the way through.

### **Which Direction?**

All stand facing the verse visual and repeat the verse. The teacher calls out a direction to face—back, left or right. All turn and face that direction to say the verse, then turn back toward the front to repeat it facing the visual. Continue, varying the direction you call out. Children may take turns calling out directions.

### **Verse Toss**

Line up the class in two rows so the children are facing each other. Start at one end, having the children toss a beanbag or other soft object back and forth between rows until it reaches the other end. As each child catches the object, everyone repeats the next word of the verse. Reverse the direction of the object each time it reaches the end of the rows.

### **Show or Tell**

Practice motions for each phrase of the verse: both index fingers to make a cross; hands together with palms up for open Bible; push hands down with palms down for burial; bring hands up with palms up for resurrection; hands together with palms up for open Bible. Divide the class into three groups. As you say the first phrase of the verse, point to one group to repeat the phrase. The other two groups do the motions. Point to a second group to repeat the phrase, while the other two groups do the motions. Point to the third group if you wish. Continue with each phrase, varying the order and number of groups you point to. Include the reference with the first and last phrases.

### **Clap a Word**

Repeat several times then choose one child to stand behind the visualized verse, turning his back to the visual and the class. Choose another child to point to a word on the visual. Lead the children in reciting the verse but when they get to the chosen word, clap instead of saying it. The child behind the verse visual then tries to guess the word. Continue the game, each time having the two children choose others to replace themselves.

### **Choral Variations**

Divide the verse into two or three phrases. Explain that after you say a phrase of the verse, you will hold up one, two or three fingers. One finger will indicate that the children repeat that phrase in a very quiet voice, two fingers indicate a normal voice and three fingers indicate a loud voice. Go through the verse phrase by phrase, beginning and ending with the reference and varying the number of fingers you hold up. Repeat as interest and time allow.

### **Jumping Words**

Choose a letter which is the beginning letter of at least one word in the verse-I, M, S, T or W would work best. As the class repeats the verse, children jump to their feet when they say each word that starts with that letter. Continue, allowing the children to take turns choosing a letter.

### **Walk a Verse**

Repeat the verse as the children walk in place, saying one word for each step taken. This reminds us that God's angels are with us wherever we go. Add variety by changing the pace-walking normally, very slowly or quickly, or even jogging in place.

### **Wave a Verse**

Divide the class into three teams, assigning each team a phrase of the verse. For each repetition, have everyone repeat the reference then let each team say it then lowering their arms and sitting. Together the teams will form an ocean wave, rising and falling from one end of the room to the other. Have everyone repeat the reference at the end. Repeat several times, challenging the class to form a smooth wave. Switch phrases and repeat.

### **Be Strong in the Lord**

On each of eight slips of paper, write a time the children need to be strong in the Lord. For example: We need strength to say no when others want us to do wrong. Other examples might include saying no when we're alone and tempted to sin, staying away from places God doesn't want us to go and choosing only the movies God would want us to watch. Place the slips of paper in a bag. Choose a child to draw a slip of paper from the bag and read it. After he reads it the other children say the verse. He can then choose another child to draw from the bag and continue the game.

### **Stop and Go**

Explain that you'll use two hand signals to direct children in saying the verse. Hold your hand up and pull fingers toward you in a beckoning motion to indicate "go"; hold it palm side out to indicate "stop." Start with the signal for go. Children then begin saying verse-reference, verse, reference-until you signal to stop. Signal go again to continue the verse. Repeat the verse a few times, alternating go and stop signals, then let children who volunteer lead the activity.

### **Verse on a Rope**

Divide the verse into five phrases. Write each phrase on a piece of paper. Using clothespins or clips, hang the parts of the verse in order on a rope or clothesline. Repeat the ver several times. Then scramble the parts and choose a volunteer to put the verse back in order. Repeat the verse then choose other volunteers and continue.

### **Teacher Says**

Have the children repeat the verse while following your directions; e.g., "Teacher says, put your hands on your head." Keep the activities simple so the children are thinking about the words while they repeat them. Other examples: pat your head, march in place, clap your hands, close your eyes, nod your head, stand on one foot.

### **Who's Next?**

On six to eight cards, write who will say the verse; e.g., all the boys, all the girls, everyone wearing shoelaces, all who like ice cream, whoever like sport, all who like to talk on the telephone, everyone who came to class today, everyone who enjoys writing on a chalkboard. Place the cards in a paper bag and allow a child to choose one. All who fit that category stand and say the verse together. Continue to have the children draw cards and repeat the verse.

### **Popcorn**

Have the children stand; place a chair in front of them. Beginning with the reference, say part of the verse then stop and sit down. The children then "pop up" and continue the verse until you pop up, at which point they stop and sit down. When you stop and sit down, the pop up again to continue with the verse. Continue to repeat the verse, always saying the reference at the beginning and end.

### **Crazy Cards**

Write each of the following phrases on a note card: blink your eyes, touch your head with your hands, fold your arms, march, turn around slowly, stand on one foot, rub your stomach, jump up and down. Fan the cards in your hand and allow a child to pick one. The class then does what the card says while repeating the verse. Continue until all cards have been drawn.

### **Find It**

While a child is out of the room, hide a small object so the rest of the group knows where it is. The child then comes back into the room and tries to find it. The other children repeat the verse over and over, saying it softly when the child moves farther away from the object and more loudly as he gets close until at last he finds it. Choose other volunteers and repeat as time allows.

### **Change the Volume**

Motion with your hand to indicate how loudly or softly the children should say the verse. Hold your hand low for quiet, in the middle for medium and high for loud. Change the volume either at the end of the verse or several times during the verse. You may want to allow a few well-behaved children to control the volume as the game progresses.

### **Topsy Turvy**

Say the verse with the visual right side up. Turn the visual sideways and have the children turn their heads to see the words while they repeat the verse. Turn the visual upside down and have the children say the verse. Continue turning the visual different directions while saying the verse.

### **Backs to the Class**

Have the children line up in front of the class, one child holding each part of the memory verse visual. Repeat the verse several times. Then have one child holding part of the visual turn his back to the class as the children continue to repeat the verse. Continue until the entire visual is hidden.