

ESV Memory Verse

“Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.”
(1 Corinthians 15:3b-4)

If the children you teach will struggle to memorize a verse of this length, you may desire to explain the entire verse, but then focus only on the phrase “Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures” as you repeat the verse with the children to aid memorization.

INTRODUCTION

I am going to read some sentences. If you think a sentence is true, spin in a circle. If you think it’s false, stand on one foot. *(Read the following, allowing time for the children to respond to each statement. Wait until you have read all of them to tell the children that all these sentences are true.)*

1. Some butterflies have ears on their wings.
2. Some snails can sleep for three years.
3. Most fish never blink their eyes.
4. Giraffes and people have the same number of neck bones.

PRESENTATION

Some of these things probably didn’t sound true, but they are actually all true! It can sometimes be hard to know what is true and what is not, but God’s Word is always true. When God says something, you can know for sure that it’s true. The Bible says, *(read verse from Bible)*. There are lots of words in the Bible—it’s a very big book! But I found the exact words I was looking for by using the reference. It works like a map that gives me directions to the words I’m looking for. The Bible has 66 smaller books inside of it. The name of the book in the reference is like a clue on a map that lets me know which book of the Bible I need to look in. I can use the Table of Contents *(show Table of Contents in Bible)* to

find which page number that book starts on. The books of the Bible are made up of smaller parts called chapters and verses, that’s what the numbers in the reference mean. They are like clues to help me find the exact place where these words are written in the Bible. I can use the first number to find the correct chapter and the second number to find the correct verse. We can use the reference in the verse to help us find the verse in the Bible. I have a map with pictures to help us remember this verse.

EXPLANATION

(As you explain the verse, point to the corresponding symbols on Memory Verse Map Visual.)

Christ died for our sins—Christ is a name for Jesus. He is often called this in the Bible. He died for our sins. You and I do many things that are sin. When you are jealous of someone because he has something you wish you had or you push someone on the playground, that is sin. We deserve to be punished for our sins and never know God. But Jesus allowed people to beat Him and nail Him to a cross, where He died to take the punishment for your sins and mine. *(Show Slide 1.)*

in accordance with the Scriptures—The word scriptures means God’s Word, the Bible. When this book was being written, people had only the Old Testament, the first part of the Bible, because the New Testament was still being written. Hundreds of years before Jesus came to Earth, the Old Testament said what would happen. A Savior would be born, live a perfect life, willingly die on a cross and come back to life to save people from their sins. The whole Bible is full of clues about Jesus, and every one of them is true! God’s Word is always true! *(Show Slide 2.)*

that he was buried—After Jesus died, some kind people buried his body in a tomb (sort of like a cave). (Show Slide 3.)

that he was raised on the third day—Jesus didn't stay dead! He came back to life the third day after He died! Say with me, **"It's true—Jesus is alive!"** (Show Slide 4 and say with children.) (Show Slide 5.)

in accordance with the Scriptures—These things that happened to Jesus—His painful suffering and death, being buried in a tomb that belonged to a rich man and coming back to life—had all been promised in the Scriptures hundreds of years earlier! (Show Slide 6.) Everything happening just like God promised it would proves that Jesus is the promised Savior! God's Word is always true!

APPLICATION

Unsaved: You can know for sure that Jesus really took the punishment for your sin when He died on the cross. You can know for sure that He really is alive again today. Say with me, **"It's true—Jesus is alive!"** (Point to X and say with children.) You can trust Him to save you from your sin today.

Saved: If you have believed on Jesus as your Savior, **you can trust that God's Word is always true.** When hard things happen or people say things that make you doubt God's Word, remember that God has kept every promise He has ever made. This verse reminds you that Jesus died for your sins, just as God had promised. The Scriptures that were written hundreds and even thousands of years before Jesus came to Earth all came true. Everything that God said about Jesus happened exactly like God said it would. Remember that God's Word is always true!

REPETITION

"Map Motions" ("Memory Verse Map" visual) (Use the symbols on the map at the end of the lesson visual to help the children remember the verse. Then use the visual to play a fun game! Have children take turns closing their eyes, spinning around one time, then pointing at the map. Whichever area they point at indicates which motions will be done as they repeat the verse together.)

Rushing River—Repeat the verse while pretending to swim very fast.

Massive Mountains—Repeat the verse while standing tall on your tiptoes or pretending to climb a mountain.

Sandy Desert—Repeat the verse while hopping in place as if standing on hot sand or pretend to ride a camel.

Fantastic Forest—Repeat the verse while pretending to chop down a tree to clear the path to the treasure.

Gospel and Verse Symbols—If a child points at one of the symbols, have the children say the verse and spin around when they say the words that correspond with that symbol.

Variation: If desired, have the children toss a beanbag at the map rather than pointing at it to determine the motion for each verse repetition.)