Family Devotional 3 - MEMORIZATION

Hide it in Your Heart

From God's Word in Our Hearts to God's Word in Our Lives

When: Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - before gathering together for communion

Length: 20-30 minutes

Parent Prep

Read Psalm 19:1 and Psalm 119:11. Think back over the weekend: you learned to slow down and notice God, and you spent time dwelling on His truth. Now your family will learn why memorizing God's Word matters.

Nature can help us notice God, but we don't live under the stars all day. We need God's truth with us in the car, at school, at work, in conflict, when we're afraid, and in the ordinary chaos of Tuesday. Memorization gives us a way to carry God's Word when we don't have a Bible open in front of us.

Think about your own experience with God's Word. Has there been a time when you were afraid, discouraged, angry, tempted, worried, or unsure what to do, and a Scripture helped you remember what was true?

(If a story comes to mind, consider sharing it with your family. A real experience can help your children see that God's Word isn't just something we memorize for church or camp. It is truth we can carry with us and return to when we need it.)

As you talk together, keep coming back to this idea:

The goal isn't just to recite a verse this weekend. The goal is to have God's truth available when you need it.

Go over the **TALK ABOUT IT, BY AGE** and choose which questions you want to ask.

Supplies needed:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Tea from previous day

☕ Before you start your devotional

Bring out the covered tea from yesterday. Ask your family: "What changed?"

"The tea didn't change because we kept looking at it. It changed because it stayed in the water. That's our picture of meditation and memorization. We stay with God's truth. We let it sink in."

Devotional - Hide It in Your Heart

(Find a semi-private location and have your family sit on chairs or a blanket. Bring your devotional kit)

Why Jesus memorized God's WORD

Before reading, say: "As we read this story, listen for what Jesus does when He is tempted.

Read Matthew 4:1–11 together.

Talk About It

Start with the story:

- What was Jesus experiencing when Satan came to tempt Him?
- What did Satan try to get Jesus to do?
- What did Jesus say each time?
- Where did Jesus get the words He used to answer Satan?

Then explain:

> Jesus didn't have to stop and find a scroll. He already knew God's Word. When He was hungry, tempted, and being challenged, God's truth was already in His heart.
>
> Jesus shows us why God's Word is worth putting in our hearts. We don't know when we will need it. We may be scared, angry, tempted, discouraged, confused, or unsure what to do. But when God's Word is in our hearts, we can remember what is true.

One really important reason to memorize God's Word is so we can remember who we are.

> Jesus knew who He was. Before this time of temptation, at His baptism, the Father had called Him His beloved Son. When Satan came to tempt Him, Jesus didn't have to prove His worth or let Satan tell Him who He was. He knew what was true.
>
> We can experience that too. Sometimes we hear messages that make us question our worth, our value, or whether we are loved. God's Word gives us something true to hold on to.

What are some things we might need God's truth to remind us of?

- Who we are
- How much God loves us
- That God is with us
- What is right when we're tempted
- What to do when we're afraid
- Where to turn when we're discouraged

We don't memorize Scripture just so we can say the words. We memorize it so God's truth is available when we need it.

TALK ABOUT IT, BY AGE

Ages 3-5

- What did Jesus do when He was tempted?
- What is something you know by heart, like a song, someone's name, or a short prayer?
- Can you say Psalm 19:1 with the motions?

Ages 6-9

Parents share a real example of a time God's Word helped you know what to do or reminded you what was true.

- Why do you think it helped Jesus to know God's Word before going into the wilderness?
- When might you need God's truth even when you don't have your Bible with you?
- What Bible verse or truth could you remember for that situation? (Psalms 119)

Ages 10-12

Parent: Share a time when you didn't respond the way you wish you had. Is there a Scripture you wish had been in your heart at that moment? Or perhaps there is a Scripture that has helped you respond differently since then.

- Jesus knew God's Word well enough to use it when He was tempted. Why do you think that matters?
- What is the difference between knowing a verse and having God's truth available when you need it?
- Think about a hard moment at school, with friends, or at home. What truth from God's Word could help you in that moment?

Teens

Parent: share a time when you didn't respond the way you wish you had. Is there a Scripture you wish had been in your heart at that moment? Or perhaps there is a Scripture that has helped you respond differently since then.

- Jesus responded to temptation by bringing God's Word to mind. What does that show us about the value of having Scripture already in our hearts?
- What voices compete for your attention during a normal day? How is Scripture different from those voices?
- When you're stressed, tempted, angry, discouraged, or confused, what do you automatically reach for?
- How could having Scripture in your heart change what you reach for in those moments?
- Think about an ordinary Tuesday, not a retreat or church service. Where could God's truth meet you in your everyday life?

FAMILY BLESSING

May our family always make room for God. May His Word take root in our hearts and shape the way we think, speak, and live. May we notice Him in the ordinary moments, remember His truth when we need it, and help one another walk with Him. May the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be pleasing to Him. Amen.