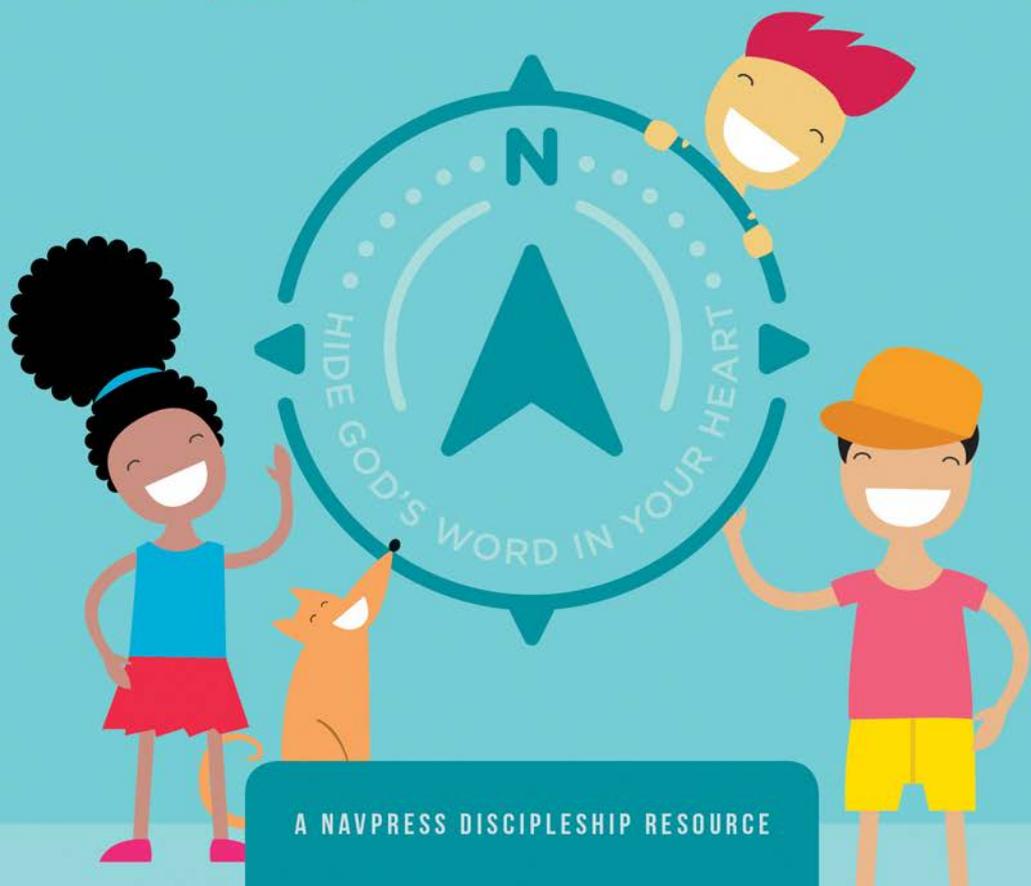


THE NAVIGATORS' SCRIPTURE MEMORY COURSE

Topical Memory System

for
KIDS



A NAVPRESS DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCE

As busy parents of five growing kids, we're always on the lookout for intentional resources to grow our faith together as a family. This was the perfect activity to help us interact with God's Word, discuss how it applies to our lives, and hide it deep in our hearts. Highly recommend for any family seeking to grow in Christ!

CHRIS AND JENNI GRAEBE, hosts of the *Live It Well* podcast

As a mom of six, I work hard to teach our children about Jesus and the importance of knowing God's Word. But if I'm being really honest, our kids often put Scripture memorization in the same category as homework and chores. The *Topical Memory System for Kids*, though, turns grumbling into game-playing. I wish I'd had this when I was growing up! (But guess what, grown-ups? We get to play it too!)

TERESA ANDERSON, author of the Get Wisdom Bible Studies

TMS for Kids comes with many foundational verses, and it allows room for quality family time to turn into a fun period of Scripture memory. The checklist, the verses, and the review all remind me of *TMS*, but with the bonus of easy, pass-along cards for younger children.

OSAZE MURRAY, director of training for The Navigators' Train, Develop, Care

Memorizing Scripture is a key habit in developing a deep and intimate relationship with God. A believer without Scripture memory is like a doctor without a stethoscope. The *TMS for Kids* is a great way to equip children—early on—for writing God's Word on their hearts. Memorizing Scripture builds an operating system for young minds to view the world through God's eyes rather than their own. Kids love games, and the pairing of playing with memorizing Scripture is the perfect combination for parents and grandparents to get the kids in their life exposed to the Bible.

BEN NUGENT, US Collegiate Director, AND MELISSA NUGENT, US Collegiate Staff Placement Director at The Navigators

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Topical Memory System for Kids

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The Team:

David Zimmerman, Acquisitions Editor; Elizabeth Schroll, Copy Editor; Olivia Eldredge, Operations Manager; Jacqueline L. Nuñez, Designer

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Begin a Lifetime of Scripture Memory and Meditation

You and your child can memorize Scripture. It's fun, it's easier than you think, and it's a tried-and-true way of growing in the assurance that God claims you as his and wants to include you in his world-saving work.

Scripture memory is a great practice to instill in a young person at an early age. Children's minds are primed for absorbing and internalizing information. They enjoy repetition, which is an essential ingredient in the Scripture-memorization process. And Scripture memory is best done with others—we recite what we remember to people we love and trust, and they help us to keep moving forward. All the while, the practice of memorizing Scripture, not just the memorized verses, becomes internalized and normalized for your child. They're learning a skill that will help them for a lifetime.

Attitude makes the difference. Because the Bible was written thousands of years ago and was not written specifically for children, your child will encounter unfamiliar and stretching words along the way. (We've included a kid-friendly glossary in the back of the book.) Encourage your child. Express delight in them and their desire to memorize God's Word. Celebrate with them when a particular verse is especially meaningful to them. You can count on God's help as you memorize together. Remember his wisdom—"These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts" (Deuteronomy 6:6, NIV); and, "Let the word of Christ—the Message—have the run of the house" (Colossians 3:16, MSG).

The *Topical Memory System* has been helping people memorize Scripture for decades, and it will help you and your kids too! The tried-and-true methods of the *TMS* are the foundation of this fun game.

What Scripture Memory Will Do for Your Child

Memorizing and meditating on God's Word helps you overcome worry. You can experience God's perfect peace by knowing his promises and having them written on your heart.

Another benefit is victory over sin. The psalmist wrote, "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you" (Psalm 119:11, NIV). God's Word hidden in your heart is the sword of the Spirit, available for battle at any time against sin and Satan.

These things are true even for very young children. Apprehension about making friends, a new start at school—these things can be unsettling and cause much anxiety. God's precious Word will remind your child of his promises and of his care and desire to help him or her overcome worry, sin, or any other obstacle that a young child might encounter.

Scripture memory will also help a child gain confidence in talking about Jesus. It may be the first time that they begin to think of witnessing or evangelism. How lovely to start this desire to share the Good News when full of enthusiasm and the energy of youth!

Finally, Scripture memory will help your child (and you!) keep spiritually fit. You will both experience immediate benefits and become better equipped to meet future needs and opportunities.



How to PLAY

The *Topical Memory System for Kids* contains thirty-six verses in the New International Version (NIV) and *The Message* (MSG). The verses are printed on perforated sheets. Tear out the cards for the version of your choice.



Shuffle the cards and spread them out in rows with the verses faceup.

The first player selects two cards and reads them out loud, turning each card over once it's been read. If the cards are a match, the player reads the topic and the reference. The player keeps the cards, and the next player takes a turn.

If the two cards don't match, the player turns the

cards back over, and it's the next player's turn.

The game ends when all the cards have been matched. The player with the most matches wins.

NOTE: For younger children, the game can be played with fewer cards. Play with 12 verses at first (24 cards), then work your way up to 24 (48 cards), then finally all 36 verses (72 cards).

Next-Level Game Play

As your kids memorize these passages, try using the cards as flash cards. Divide the deck in half so that each player has a complete set of verse pairs. The first player holds up the first half of a pair of cards so the second player can read the text of the verse. The second player reads the text of the verse out loud, then recites the second half of the verse from memory while the first player listens. If the second player gets the verse right—word-perfect!—he or she wins the pair. Then the players switch roles. The player with the most pairs at the end of the game wins.

Once your kids have memorized the passages, try using the topic and reference as prompts. Divide the deck in half so that each player has a complete set of verse pairs. The first player holds up the first half of a pair of cards so the second player can read the topic and reference out loud. The first player listens as the second player recites the complete verse—both cards!—from memory. The player keeps each pair of cards he or she gets

right. Remember, you have to recite the verse word for word! The player with the most cards at the end wins.

Between Games

Your kids will get better and better at the games if they practice. The proven method for memorizing Scripture from the *Topical Memory System* can be used in between games.

Each verse in *TMS for Kids* is part of a series. The topics help you understand the meaning of the verses. They also give you mental “hooks” with which to draw a particular verse from memory when you need it. They serve as pegs on which to hang the verses as you learn them.

Topics are printed on the back of each card, along with the Scripture reference for the passage.

Knowing the reference for each verse you memorize makes it possible to find the verses in the Bible immediately when you need them for personal use or in helping others. So make the reference a part of each verse you memorize.

The surest way to remember the reference is to say it both

before and after the verse each time you review it. This will connect the reference and the verse in your mind. This may seem tedious at first, but it is important—and it works!

So then, using the cards,

- Start by looking at the back of card 1. Read the topic, then the reference.
- Flip card 1 over and read the first half of the passage.
- Now read the second half of the passage from card 2.
- Flip card 2 over and read the reference, then the topic.

Remember that the goal is to memorize the verses, so encourage your kids to do so, gradually reciting the passage from memory and using the cards to check their progress. Many people have found it useful to focus on two verses at a time for a week at a time. Included in this book are questions you and your child can talk about as they memorize these verses.

Once a verse is memorized, it's helpful to review it every now and then. The games are a good way of doing this!

Checklist:

The Topical Memory System for Kids

Place a check next to the reference of the verses your child has successfully memorized.

Series A: Live Life with God

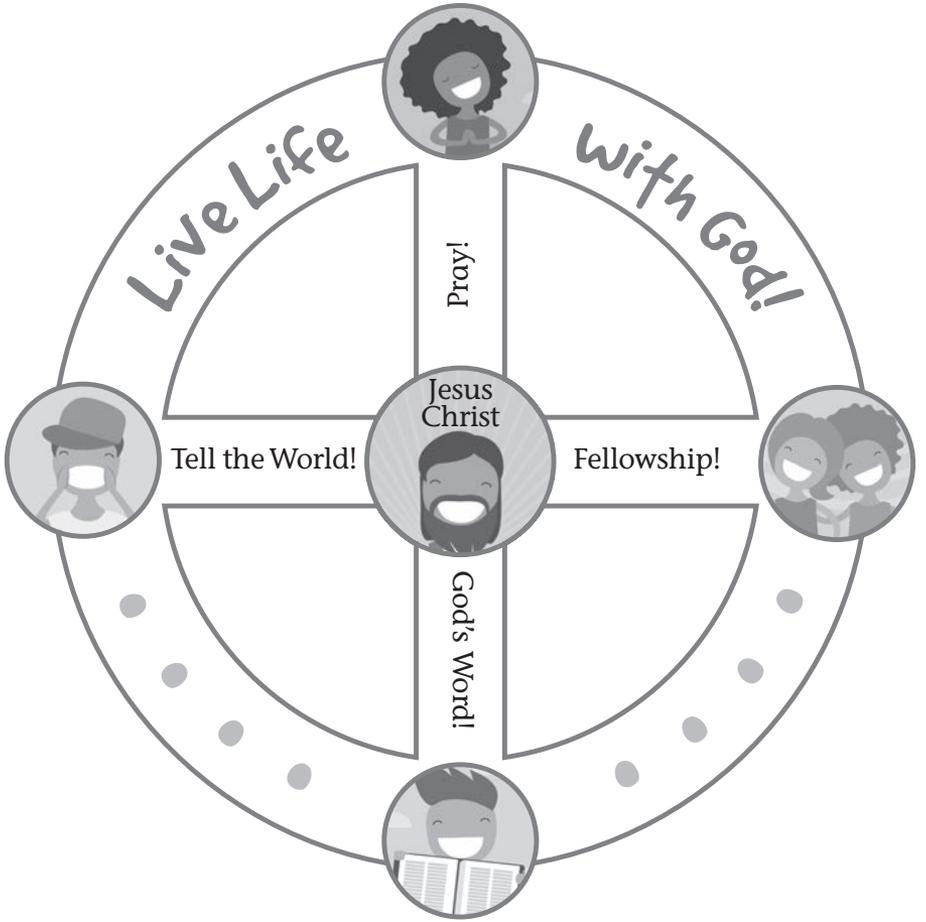
- Jesus at the Center!* ___ 2 Corinthians 5:17 ___ Galatians 2:20
- Obeys Jesus!* ___ Romans 12:1 ___ John 14:21
- God's Word!* ___ 2 Timothy 3:16 ___ Joshua 1:8
- Pray!* ___ John 15:7 ___ Philippians 4:6-7
- Fellowship!* ___ 1 John 1:3 ___ Hebrews 10:24-25
- Tell the World!* ___ Matthew 4:19 ___ Romans 1:16

Series B: Tell People about Jesus

- Everybody Sins* ___ Romans 3:23 ___ Isaiah 53:6
- Sin Costs* ___ Romans 6:23 ___ Hebrews 9:27
- Jesus Died for You!* ___ Romans 5:8 ___ 1 Peter 3:18
- Grace, Not Works!* ___ Ephesians 2:8-9 ___ Titus 3:5
- Only through Jesus!* ___ John 1:12 ___ Revelation 3:20
- Jesus Saves You Forever!* ___ 1 John 5:13 ___ John 5:24

Series C: Trust God to Take Care of You

- The Holy Spirit* ___ 1 Corinthians 3:16 ___ 1 Corinthians 2:12
- God Gives You Strength!* ___ Isaiah 41:10 ___ Philippians 4:13
- God Is Faithful!* ___ Lamentations 3:22-23 ___ Numbers 23:19
- God Gives Peace!* ___ Isaiah 26:3 ___ 1 Peter 5:7
- God Provides!* ___ Romans 8:32 ___ Philippians 4:19
- God Helps!* ___ Hebrews 2:18 ___ Psalm 119:9, 11



Adapted from The Wheel Illustration. Used by permission of The Navigators. All rights reserved.



Series A: Live Life with God

Every person has a body. Having a body is called a *physical life*. Then, when we choose to trust Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, we get a new kind of life. This kind of life is called the *spiritual life*. We can't see the spiritual life. But it means that Jesus is with us. It is also sometimes called the Christian life.

You can understand more about this new life with Jesus by looking at the picture of the wheel on the previous page. The middle of a wheel is called the hub. It's what gives the wheel power and makes it go forward. In the Christian life, Jesus is the hub. He gives us the strength to live every part of our life for him. He also gives us power through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit's purpose is to honor Christ (John 16:13-14).

Prayer is talking to God, and "the Word" is God talking to us through the Bible. As we talk with God and listen to God through his Word, we grow closer to God and feel his love for us every day!

The Christian life isn't just us and God, though. God also wants us to know and love and serve the people around us! We do that through *fellowship*—spending time with other people who love God. We also do it through *witnessing*, which means letting people know that God loves them and wants them to have a wonderful life and live with him forever.

Prayer and Scripture, fellowship and witnessing, are the "spokes" on the wheel. They all connect us to Jesus at the center, who loves us and keeps us moving forward in the Christian life. When we spend time talking to God and listening to him, being with people who love God and letting people know that God loves them, that's obedience in action. And the whole world can see God's love through our everyday lives!

Week 1

Jesus at the Center!

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV

Anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life burgeons! Look at it!

2 Corinthians 5:17, MSG

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 together to see the verse in context. Then read the verse off the cards.

- Start by looking at the back of card 1. Read the topic, then the reference.
- Flip card 1 over and read the first half of the passage.
- Now read the second half of the passage from card 2.
- Flip card 2 over and read the reference, then the topic.

Some questions for you and your child to discuss:

- Who gives us new life?
- What happens to the “old” life?
- What good things happen when we have new life with Jesus?

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20, NIV

I have been crucified with Christ. My ego is no longer central. It is no longer important that I appear righteous before you or have your good opinion, and I am no longer driven to impress God. Christ lives in me. The life you see me living is not “mine,” but it is lived by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20, MSG



Read Galatians 2:17-21 together to see the verse in context. Then read the verse off the cards using the process on the previous page.

Some questions for you and your child to discuss:

- What two things did Christ do for you?
- How do we live now that Christ is in us?
- Faith is trusting and obeying Jesus. How can you have faith in Jesus this week?

Pray with your child about making Jesus the most important thing in your lives.

