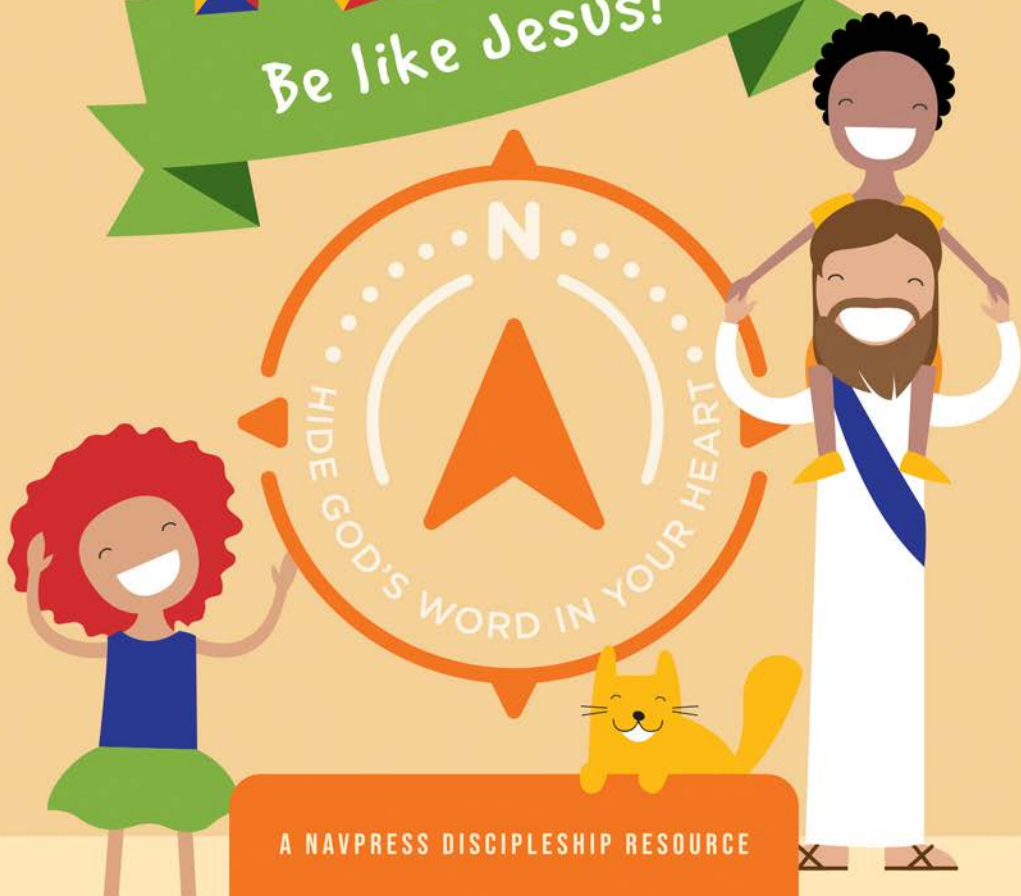


THE NAVIGATORS' SCRIPTURE MEMORY COURSE

Topical Memory System

for
KIDS

Be like Jesus!



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 Rhythm of Us* 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 SWANSTROM 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. *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 lives exposed to the Bible.

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

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NavPress is the publishing ministry of The Navigators, an international Christian organization and leader in personal spiritual development. NavPress is committed to helping people grow spiritually and enjoy lives of meaning and hope through personal and group resources that are biblically rooted, culturally relevant, and highly practical.

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Topical Memory System for Kids: Be like Jesus!

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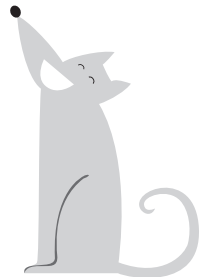
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Begin a Lifetime of Scripture Memory and Meditation

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 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 *TMS* are the foundation of this fun game. This is the second volume of the *Topical Memory System for Kids*: The first volume features series A, B, and C of the memory verses from the *Topical Memory System*; *Be like Jesus!* features series D and E.

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 very 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: Be like Jesus!* contains 24 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 is 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 8 verses at first (16 cards), then work your way up to 16 (32 cards), and then finally play using all 24 verses (48 cards).

Next-Level Game Play

As your kids memorize these passages, try using the cards as flash cards. The first player looks at the back of the card and reads the topic and reference out loud. The second player follows along as the first player recites the verse from

memory. The player keeps each card he or she gets right. The memorization has to be word-perfect! The player with the most cards at the end wins.

Your kids can also combine this deck with other decks in the Topical Memory System for Kids series. So you can expand the matching game to 36, 48, and even 60 verses (120 cards)!

Between Games

Your kids will get better and better at the game 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 these 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. It’s good 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 game is a good way of doing this!

Checklist:

The Topical Memory System for Kids:

Be like Jesus!

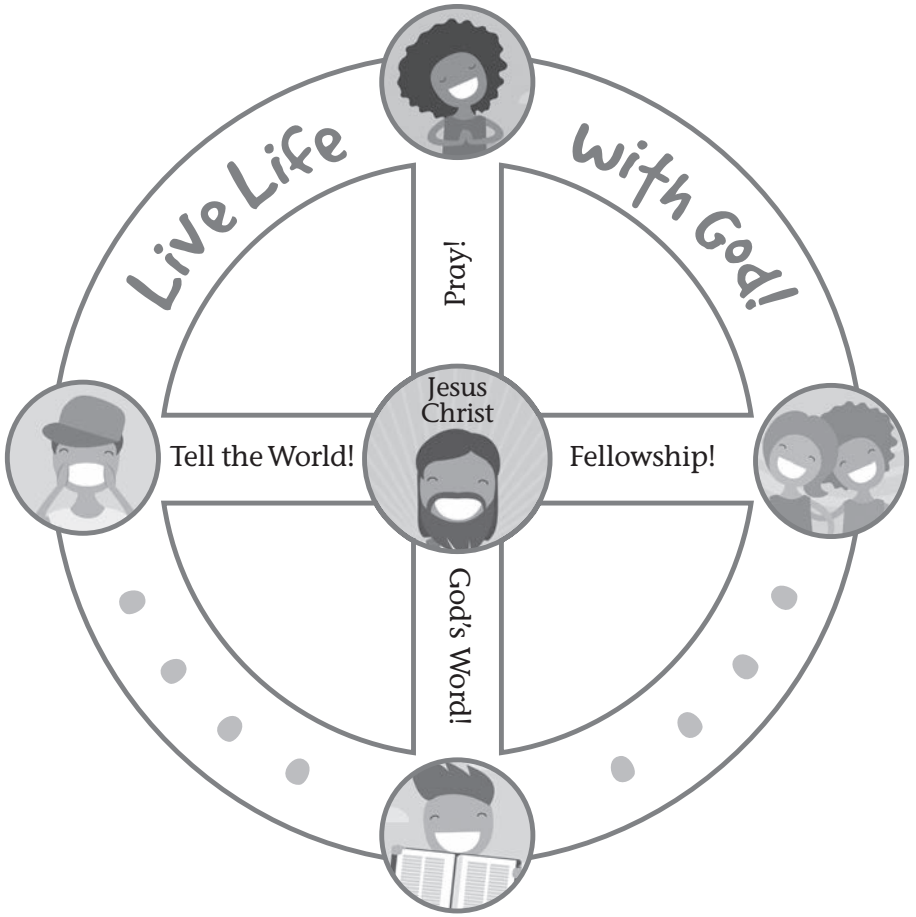
Place a check next to the reference of the verses your child has successfully memorized.

Follow Jesus

- Put Jesus First!* ___Matthew 6:33 ___Luke 9:23
- Be Different like Jesus!* ___1 John 2:15-16 ___Romans 12:2
- Hold Tight to Jesus!* ___1 Corinthians 15:58 ___Hebrews 12:3
- Serve Others!* ___Mark 10:45 ___2 Corinthians 4:5
- Share!* ___Proverbs 3:9-10 ___2 Corinthians 9:6-7
- Love the Whole World!* ___Acts 1:8 ___Matthew 28:19-20

Live like Jesus

- Love!* ___John 13:34-35 ___1 John 3:18
- Be Humble!* ___Philippians 2:3-4 ___1 Peter 5:5-6
- Be Pure!* ___1 John 3:3 ___1 Peter 2:11
- Tell the Truth!* ___Leviticus 19:11 ___Acts 24:16
- Trust God!* ___Hebrews 11:6 ___Romans 4:20-21
- Do Your Best!* ___Galatians 6:9-10 ___Matthew 5:16



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



Follow Jesus

Jesus died on a cross to save people like you and me! That was an amazing thing he did. But he did even more than that! Jesus invited people like you and me to follow him, and to invite others to follow him too. And when they did, they changed the world!

Jesus wasn't just looking for people to follow him around. He wanted them to live the way he lived and to love the way he loved. He wanted people to be different because they followed him. People like you and me, more and more like him!

Week 1

Put Jesus First!

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:33, NIV

Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.

Matthew 6:33, MSG

Read Matthew 6:25-34 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:

- What do you picture when you hear the word *kingdom*? What does that tell you about who Jesus is?
- What does it mean to “seek righteousness”? If Jesus is good, and he wants us to be good, how do we learn how to be good?
- When was the last time you worried about something? What were you worried about? Why don't we need to worry about things when we put Jesus first?

Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”

Luke 9:23, NIV

Then he told them what they could expect for themselves: “Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You’re not in the driver’s seat—I am. Don’t run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I’ll show you how.”

Luke 9:23, MSG



Read Luke 9:18-27 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 got in the way of you following Jesus this past week?
- What does it mean to let Jesus lead you?
- Putting Jesus first means putting him before you. How can you do that tomorrow?

Pray with your child about trusting Jesus enough to let him lead.

