

Think Again

Faith Skill #2: Personalize Scripture (memorize and apply)

Memory Verse: “And now, dear brothers and sisters, let me say one thing as I close this letter. Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.” *Philippians 4:8* NLV

Bible Story: Think Again (think about admirable things) • *Philippians 4:8*

Bottom Line: Think about what God says, and it'll change you.

Plug In: Focus the Energy (Small Groups, 10-15 minutes)

FOR LEADERS ONLY

Today is the fifth week of the month, an opportunity to take a break from the norm and focus on something a bit different: a “faith skill,” specifically the faith skill of memorizing and applying Scripture. God says to think about true, noble, and right things because what goes in comes out in our words and actions. So today, focus on helping kids understand the importance (and benefits) of thinking—really thinking—about what God says.

GET READY

For each small group, do the following:

Gather the leaders together to pray before the kids arrive. Pray that each child would listen and learn the Bible truths presented during today's session. If any kids arrive before or during the prayer, invite them to participate with the leaders.

Early Arriver Idea

Ask kids to talk about things that change (or that we change), such as seasons, clothes, babies, etc. Challenge them to think of as many things as they can. Invite the kids to put their offerings in the offering container.

The Word's the Thing (a classroom-wide activity)

SUPPLIES: paper, pens or pencils, watch with second hand

You can also play this as a classroom-wide game, groups work as a team or Instead of each group working as a team each child can write their own words on a paper or work in pairs please adapt as needed. Explain that you will call out a word. Each small group will then have 30 seconds to think of as many words as possible that mean the same thing. Kids will tell their Small Group Leader (SGL) and the SGL can write them down. When you call time, small groups can count the number of words they thought of, and tell you the number. The small group with the most words wins that round. Play several times. Applaud the group that won the most rounds.

Use the following words: *happy, hot, trip, friend, learn, think.*

WRAP UP

SGL: “You guys thought of lots of words. Aren't words fun? There are so many of them that mean almost—but not quite—the same thing. I especially like how many words you thought of that mean ‘think.’ **[Transition] Let's go to large group and learn about what God wants us to think about—and all the words He gave us to help us know exactly what He means.**”

Move to the large group area for Worship and Videos

Think Again

Faith Skill #2: Personalize Scripture (memorize and apply)

Memory Verse: “And now, dear brothers and sisters, let me say one thing as I close this letter. Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.” Philippians 4:8 NLV

Bible Story: Think Again (think about admirable things) • Philippians 4:8

Bottom Line: Think about what God says, and it'll change you.

Power Up: Engage the Heart (Large Group, 20-25 minutes)

FOR LEADERS ONLY

Today is the fifth week of the month, an opportunity to take a break from the norm and focus on something a bit different: a “faith skill,” specifically the faith skill of memorizing and applying Scripture. God says to think about true, noble, and right things because what goes in comes out in our words and actions. So today, focus on helping kids understand the importance (and benefits) of thinking—really thinking—about what God says.

Power Up: (Large Group, 25-30 minutes)

Opening Announcements (Worship Team – 2 minutes)

Worship Time (10 – 12 minutes)

Video Lesson –Drop It (10 minutes)

Prayer (2 minutes) - Worship Leader

Prayer:

Worship Leader: “Dear God, You made us, so You know exactly what’s best for us. This is the reason You tell us to focus on good stuff. Help us to focus on You, help us to use words that honor You, and help our actions to point others only to You. Change our hearts, God, so we can better understand how truly awesome You are. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Dismiss children to their small groups.

Think Again

Faith Skill #2: Personalize Scripture (memorize and apply)

Memory Verse: “And now, dear brothers and sisters, let me say one thing as I close this letter. Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.” Philippians 4:8 NLV

Bible Story: Think Again (think about admirable things) • Philippians 4:8

Bottom Line: Think about what God says, and it'll change you.

Catch On: Make the Connection (Small Groups, 25-30 minutes)

* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #1 or #3. Activity #3 is also particularly good for children who need to move in order to stay engaged (not just for boys).

* 1. Admirable Mural (*application & memory verse activity / Bible lesson review*)

SUPPLIES: large sheets of paper, markers, crayons, Bibles

Help kids find Philippians 4:8 in their Bibles. Use the following tips to help them:

Finding the verse with K-1st graders: Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word *Philippians* at the top of the page as you say “Philippians” aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 4 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 4 for the little 8; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud.

Finding the verse with 2nd-3rd graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Philippians in the list under “New Testament.” You can help by telling them that Philippians starts with the letters P-H, not the letter F. When the kids find Philippians, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Philippians. Help the kids find the page. When they find Philippians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 4. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 8 in chapter 4.

Finding the verse with 4th-5th graders: Teach kids the half-half-and-half shortcut: Prompt kids to find the middle of the Bible (Psalms or Proverbs), then turn to the middle again (one of the Gospels), then to the middle again (one of Paul's letters). Repeat the first 12 books of the New Testament to help kids know whether to turn pages to the left or right. Tip: Encourage them to start memorizing books of the NT in sections if they haven't already: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John (Gospels); Acts and Romans; 1 and 2 Corinthians; Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians (General Electric Power Company). Once they find Philippians, prompt them to find chapter 4, verse 8.

Read the verse aloud, or ask a volunteer to read it. Then ask the following questions to review the Bible lesson:

- What does this verse tell us to do? (*Think about what God says to think about*)
- How do we train our minds to think about good things? (*By being careful about what we read, watch, play; by making a habit of thinking about the good things God says*)

- Why should we “think about such things”? (*So God can help us change to become more like Him*)
- What are some admirable—or good—things you can think about? (*Jesus, doing the right thing, being kind, God’s beautiful creation, etc.*)

If you teach younger kids: Invite kids to draw things on their paper that they think are true, good, or beautiful. Ask them to share what they’re drawing with the others. **[Personalize] Draw something yourself, and talk to the kids about what you drew.**

LEADER: [Apply] “Think about what God says to think about: true, good, and beautiful things. When we do, it’ll help us get to know God better. What we think about affects our words and actions, so it’s important to keep on thinking about good things. [Impress] Think about what God says, and it’ll change you.”

If you teach older kids: Ask them to name a key word from the verse, such as true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy. (Kids might name words such as true, noble, right, pure, lovely, worthy of respect, excellent, and worthy of praise.) Briefly talk about the meaning of each unfamiliar word: noble (to have very good qualities); pure (to be free from everything that might injure or lower the quality); clean (sinless); lovely (very beautiful, pleasing); admirable (deserving to be admired, highly thought of). Assign a word to each kid, then guide them to draw a picture or cartoon about the word. When they finish, ask them to comment about what they drew. **[Personalize] Draw something yourself, and talk to the kids about what you drew.**

LEADER: “When we think about what God says, He uses that to change us. He uses it to change our attitudes, words, and actions. He uses it to change how we think about the world, to change our relationship with others, and to change our relationship with Him. **[Apply] What is one way your relationships could change if you really thought in the way God wants us to think?** (*You would be more honest, a better friend, more trustworthy, looking out for others more than yourself, more concerned about others than yourself, more likely to forgive, more encouraging, etc.*) **[Impress] Think about what God say, and it’ll change you.”**

2. Sing It! (application activity)

SUPPLIES: bible, paper, & pencils

Tell kids that they can use music and rhythm to help them memorize Scripture. Depending on the ages of the kids in your group, lead them to sing a verse to a familiar song (like “London Bridge”; “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star,” “If You’re Happy and You Know It,” or “Hokey Pokey”), make up a cheer using the verse, or set it to a cadence (like the rhythm of “I don’t know but I’ve been told ...”).

Look up verses verse in the bible.

(You may choose one of your favorites or choose one from the list below)

Genesis 1:1; John 15:12; Psalm 139:1-4a; Luke 6:31; John 3:16;
Psalm 17:6; Psalm 107:1; Joshua 1:9; Matthew 22:37-39

Let kids work in pairs or trios to choose one of the verses and set it to a song, cheer, or cadence. Be ready to help beginning readers read the verses, and be ready to assist in coming up with a song, cheer, or cadence as needed.

Kids will have to work a little to make the words fit, but encourage them to be creative. Give groups a few minutes to make their selection and prepare their song, cheer, or cadence, and then let groups present it to the rest of the small group. Remind kids that they can use this skill to help them memorize other verses at home.

LEADER: “It’s important not only to memorize Scripture, but to understand it and put it into practice. **[Impress] Think about what God says, and it’ll change you.** It can help you make wise choices about relationships, and it can improve your relationships with friends, family members, and God. **[Apply] Which of these verses will you memorize this week? How could it change you and your relationships?”**

Optional Club 56 Discussion Questions

If you lead Club 56, consider asking these discussion questions:

- Think about the people you hang out with most. What do you hear them talk about? What do you think they set their minds on? Do you want to be more like they are or less like they are? What can you do about it? *(Spend time with people who are more positive, find more time to spend alone with God instead of being with friends constantly.)*
- You’ve heard the phrase, “You are what you eat,” right? It’s the same principle: what goes in impacts what comes out. So what goes into your mind the most, do you think? *(Help kids think through how what they read, watch, and spend the most time doing impacts who they are becoming.)*
- What’s so powerful about the Bible? Why is it so important for its words to be “in” us? Before you answer, have a look at Hebrews 4:12. *(The Bible teaches that God’s Word is living and active. That means God uses it to keep on leading us and teaching us, no matter how many times we read it. Jesus said in John 15:7 that if we stay close to Him by reading, understanding, and doing what He says in Scripture, what we ask for in prayer will be in line with what He plans for us—which means He’ll give us what we ask for. Psalm 119:97-100 also teaches us that thinking deeply on God’s words makes us smarter and wiser. God’s Word has power to do things we can’t do without it.)*

WRAP UP

LEADER: Remember to memorize the verse, “And now, dear brothers and sisters, let me say one thing as I close this letter. Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.” **Philippians 4:8 NLV**. However you choose to memorize it, think about what God says, and see how He uses it to change you. You may even want to challenge your parents to memorize the verse—and see who can do it the fastest!”

Distribute the GodTime and Fridge Door cards.