

Hiding God's Word In Your Heart

UPPER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: We need to read and study God's Word daily

Scripture: Psalms 119:11

Memory Verse: I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. -

Psalms 119:11

The Children's Sermon

Recently I was reading my Bible and I read a verse that was a bit hard to understand. It said, "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." Well, I know that we call the Bible "The Word of God," but I don't quite understand how I could hide it in my heart.

How do you hide something? To hide something, you put it somewhere so that it is out of sight. Right? That means it is hidden from view.

If I take my Bible and lay it on the organ, is it hidden? No, of course it isn't. It is right there in plain sight. If I take my Bible and put it under my coat, is it hidden? Yes, it is. Now no one can see it.

Well, I understand what it means for something to be hidden, but how do you hide something in your heart? If I were to ask one of you to lay down on the floor, could I put the Bible on your chest and get it into your heart? No, that's silly, isn't it?

What if we went to a doctor? Could a doctor operate and put the Bible in our heart? I suppose he could, but I don't think it would be very good for us to have a Bible in our heart. If we can't put the Bible in our heart, then what does that verse mean? How does God's Word get into your heart? It gets there when we read and study the Bible every day until we will know it "by heart."

Studies have shown that we must read, hear, or do something six times before it is in your head – so for the Bible to get from our head to our heart, we need to read the Bible each and every day.

Now, let's talk more about how we can get God's Word into our hearts. It's not like eating a piece of candy that you can just pop into your mouth. It's something we have to work on, like learning to ride a bike or tie our shoes. And one of the best ways to do this is through Bible verse memorization.

Bible verse memorization might sound big, but it's just a fancy way of saying learning Bible verses by heart. It's like when you memorize your favorite song because you hear it so many times. The words just stick in your head. We can do the same thing with Bible verses!

When we memorize a Bible verse, we keep saying it over and over until we can say it without looking. This can be fun! You can make it into a game with your friends or family. See who can remember the verse first. You can even put the verse to a tune or act it out. This makes Bible verse memorization not just good for our hearts, but also a lot of fun.

But why is Bible verse memorization so important? Well, when we have God's Word in our hearts, it's like having a treasure inside us. It can help us when we're scared, when we need to make a tough decision, or when we want to help a friend. It's like having a little piece of God's wisdom ready to use whenever we need it.

Imagine you're in a situation where someone is being unkind. If you've memorized a verse about kindness, like Ephesians 4:32, which says, "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you," it can remind you to choose kindness instead of getting angry or upset. That's how powerful having Bible verses in our heart can be!

Now, you might be thinking, "But there are so many verses in the Bible! How can I memorize them all?" Don't worry. You don't have to memorize the whole Bible all at once. Start with just one verse. Pick a short one that means something special to you. Say it out loud every day, write it down, or draw a picture about it. The more you play with the verse, the deeper it will sink into your heart.

Also, remember that it's okay to ask for help. Maybe you can ask your parents, a sibling, or a friend to memorize a verse with you. You can help each other and make it a team effort. Sharing God's Word is a great way to grow closer to others and to God.

And don't forget to pray about it. Ask God to help you remember the verses you're learning. God loves to help us when we're trying to learn more about Him. He can make it easier for you to remember and understand the verses you're studying.

So, let's make a plan to start memorizing one Bible verse this week. Choose a verse that speaks to you, and let's see how God's Word can change our hearts. Remember, it's

not a race. Take your time, have fun with it, and watch how those words start to make a difference in your life.

PRAY: Thank you, God, for your word. Help us to be faithful to read it and to keep it in our heart to be used each day. Amen.

Bible Memory Verse

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. - Psalms 119:11

You Will Need:

- Colored construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Glue sticks
- Heart-shaped templates

Get Ready:

- Cut out heart-shaped templates from the construction paper.
- Set up a crafting station with markers, crayons, scissors, and glue sticks.

Do This:

1. Give each child a heart-shaped template and ask them to write Psalms 119:11 on one side of the heart using markers or crayons.
2. On the other side of the heart, have them draw or write ways they can hide God's word in their heart (e.g., reading the Bible daily, memorizing scripture, listening to worship music).

3. Encourage the children to decorate their hearts with the markers and crayons. Once they are done, they can use the glue sticks to seal their hearts with another piece of construction paper, creating a double-sided heart.

4. Conclude the activity by discussing the importance of keeping God's word in our hearts and how it helps us to not sin against Him. Encourage the children to place their crafted hearts in a spot where they will see it daily as a reminder.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Bibles or printed copies of Psalm 119:11
- Blank index cards
- Pens or markers
- A small treasure chest or decorated box
- Sticky notes
- A "treasure map" template

Get Ready:

- Write Psalm 119:11 on a large poster or whiteboard.
- Hide the treasure chest or box somewhere in the room before the class.
- Prepare the "treasure map" with clues leading to the hidden treasure chest. Ensure each clue involves a task or question related to Psalm 119:11.

Do this:

1. Start by reading Psalm 119:11 together as a class. Discuss what it means to "hide God's word in your heart" and why it's important.

2. Give each student an index card and a pen or marker. Ask them to write down Psalm 119:11 on one side and on the other side, write a personal commitment to how they will apply this verse in their daily life.
3. Explain that they will now go on a treasure hunt to find a hidden treasure chest. The clues on the treasure map will guide them, but each clue requires them to reflect on Psalm 119:11.
4. Divide the class into small teams and give each team a treasure map. As they find each clue, they must work together to answer questions or complete tasks that relate back to the verse. For example, one clue might lead them to a location where they have to write down one way they can hide God's word in their heart on a sticky note before receiving the next clue.
5. The final clue leads them to the hidden treasure chest. Inside the chest, have small prizes or treats and additional index cards with Psalm 119:11 written on them as a reminder of the day's lesson.
6. Conclude with a discussion on how the treasure hunt relates to searching for and valuing God's word in our lives. Encourage students to place their Psalm 119:11 index cards in a place where they will see it daily as a reminder of their commitment.

Snack Activity: Scripture Scrolls

You'll Need:

- Tortillas
- Peanut butter (or any nut-free spread if allergies are a concern)
- Honey
- Small bowls
- Butter knives or spreaders
- Parchment paper
- Markers

Get Ready: Write Psalms 119:11 on a piece of parchment paper for each child. Discuss the importance of hiding God's Word in our hearts and how it guides us daily.

Do this:

1. Give each child a tortilla and have them lay it flat on their workspace. Explain that the tortilla represents the foundation of our faith, which is the Word of God.
2. Ask the children to spread peanut butter (or alternative spread) on their tortilla using a butter knife or spreader. Discuss how the spread represents spreading the Word of God in our hearts and lives.
3. Drizzle honey over the spread, symbolizing the sweetness of God's Word and how it makes our life better. Then, have the children roll up their tortilla tightly like a scroll.
4. While they enjoy their scripture scroll snack, encourage them to create their own verse on the parchment paper using markers, reflecting on Psalms 119:11 and its meaning in their lives.

Game Activity: Treasure Hunt for the Heart

You'll Need:

- A Bible or printed copies of Psalms 119:11
- Small treasure boxes or envelopes
- Small prizes or treats to put inside the boxes/envelopes
- Paper and pens

Get Ready: Write out individual words or short phrases from Psalms 119:11 on separate pieces of paper. Place each paper into a treasure box or envelope along with a small prize or treat. Hide these boxes or envelopes around your activity area before the children arrive.

Do this:

1. Divide the students into small teams and give each team a Bible (if using) or a printed copy of Psalms 119:11. Explain that their mission is to find hidden treasures that contain words or phrases from the Scripture. Their first clue is the verse itself: 'I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.'
2. Teams must search for the hidden treasure boxes or envelopes. Once a team finds one, they must work together to place the found word or phrase in the correct order of Psalms 119:11. They can check their Bibles or the printed verse to make sure they are correct.
3. The game continues until all the treasures are found and the verse is correctly assembled. The first team to correctly assemble the verse and understand its meaning wins. Conclude the activity with a discussion on the importance of hiding God's Word in our hearts and how it helps us make wise choices.

Craft Activity: Treasure Box of God's Word

You'll Need:

- A small wooden or cardboard box (one per child)
- Acrylic paints and brushes
- Permanent markers
- Decorative items (stickers, gems, etc.)
- Copies of Psalms 119:11 on printed paper

Get Ready: Prepare a sample treasure box ahead of time to show as an example. Cut out the verse Psalms 119:11 into small strips that can fit inside the boxes.

Do this:

1. Start by discussing Psalms 119:11 with the children. Explain that just like we store treasures in a box, we can store God's words in our hearts as a treasure. Ask them why it's important to keep God's word in our hearts.
2. Give each child a box to decorate. They can paint the box in their favorite colors and use markers to write 'God's Treasure' or their own name on it. Allow them to be as creative as they want with the decorative items.
3. Once the boxes are dry, have the children place the verse Psalms 119:11 inside their box. Encourage them to add other verses they learn over time, turning their box into a personal treasure chest of God's Word.

Prayer Activity: Treasure Hunt for God's Word

You'll Need:

- A Bible
- Index cards
- Pens or pencils
- A treasure box or decorated container

Get Ready: Write Psalms 119:11 on several index cards and hide them around your classroom or designated area. Prepare a 'treasure box' with small prizes or treats.

Do this:

1. Start by reading Psalms 119:11 together as a class: 'I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.' Discuss the importance of keeping God's Word in our hearts and how it can guide us in making good decisions.
2. Explain that they will go on a treasure hunt to find the hidden verses. Each student must find at least one card but encourage them to find more if they can.

3. Once all the cards are found, gather the students and have them share the verse they found. Discuss how this verse can be applied in their daily lives.
4. Conclude by allowing each student to pick a prize from the treasure box as a reminder that God's Word is more precious than any earthly treasure.