

Passport Memory Verse Program Frequently Asked Questions

General Program Questions:

- Q1: Should all students participate in the memory verse program as part of Sunday school or should participation be voluntary?
A1: *This program can be used either way. We have found that not all students and parents want to participate and for that reason we would recommend having this be voluntary.*
- Q2: How should this program be communicated / introduced?
A2: *When introducing a new program at your church, we suggest that you start by introducing it to your children's ministry staff first. Next, a meeting should be scheduled to communicate with parents and allow time for question and answers. This program relies on the support of parents to help the kids stay motivated to learn God's word.*
- Q3: Can preschoolers use this program also?
A3: *It is up to your program to determine whether preschool age children are ready for such a structured program. We recommend that students start the program beginning in first grade.*
- Q4: What role do the Sunday school teachers have in this program?
A4: *Although students will be going to the "Passport Station" to record their memory verse activities for the week, each Sunday school teacher plays a **key** role in encouraging and recognizing the student's participation to commit God's word to memory. It is absolutely necessary for the teachers to be involved and aware of their student's progress!*
- Q5: Should there be a material fee for participating in the program?
A5: *This is to be determined by your church depending on your budget. Cost will vary based on the number of students participating and how frequently they earn their pins.*

Passport Booklets:

- Q1: What is the best way to create the passport booklets?
A1: *First start by assembling the "blank" pages (without memory verse stickers.) We recommend printing an additional 10% more books than needed for adding children or replacing lost books throughout the year. The same "blank" book can be used for all grades. Once the memory verse stickers are added, they become grade-specific. Creating the books is easy when using an assembly line process.*
- Q2: When should memory verse stickers be added to the passport books?
A2: *For the initial distribution of the passport books, we recommend having the program coordinators (or team) add the stickers to the booklets so they are ready to go for each student. For replacement passport books, a blank passport and set of memory verse stickers can be handed out.*
- Q3: Is it necessary to take a photo of each student for the passport books?
A3: *No. The photo is optional. The photo just goes along with the "passport" theme and makes it personal for the child, but it is not necessary.*
- Q4: Does every child need a passport book?
A4: *Yes! If they want to participate in the program, this is the students' way to track their progress.*
- Q5: What if a passport is lost?
A5: *If (and when) a student loses his passport, it should be replaced. This is the reason the program coordinator is also keeping track of the student's points using a student tally sheet so no points earned will be lost.*

Passport Booklets – keeping track of points:

Q1: Does the student have to know the verse perfectly to receive a point?

A1: *The student's age really plays a role in answering this question. Younger students are typically given more leniencies when reciting their verse than older students. Remember, the goal of this program is to encourage the students and create a habit with the children to put God's word in their heart. Awarding points is a judgment call—not absolute.*

Q2: If a student helps another student learn the memory verse, does that count for “sharing God's word?”

A2: *Yes and YES! If you have students willing to help each other learn God's word then points should be awarded for sharing.*

Q3: Can students get points for looking up the verse even if they haven't memorized it?

A3: *Yes! Some student will start out slowly with this program and will only be willing to look up the memory verse. Great, they are learning to use their Bible. Some weeks, the students may forget to learn the verse but they still want to participate; this is a good way to keep them involved. Always encourage participation in anyway.*

Q4: How do you track completion of the God Talk take home sheets?

A4: *Students can have their parent sign the take home sheet and bring it back for points, or their parent can verbally tell you it was completed. Again, this is a judgment call not a hard rule.*

Challenge Memory Verses:

Q1: Can the challenge memory verses be changed?

A1: *Yes, replace any or all of the verses to meet the needs of your program.*

Q2: How well does the student need to know the verse before earning the pin?

A2: *Because these are “challenge verses”, it is expected for the student to know the verse very well (reciting it without error or assistance). If they attempt to recite it and make a mistake, encourage them to study longer and try again next week. You do want the students to feel a sense of accomplishment and have them truly earn the pin, otherwise the program loses its purpose.*

Q3: Can the student receive the pin immediately after reciting the verse?

A3: *We recommend that all pins be awarded at the same time during the scheduled award ceremony.*

Student Tally Sheets:

Q1: Why does the program use student tally sheets and passports to track points?

A1: *The passport is the student's tracking tool. The student tally sheets are used by the program coordinator to keep track of points in the event that a student's passport book is lost. Also, it is an easy way to track and count points prior to an award ceremony. It may seem redundant but, it will save time in the end.*

Q2: Why do new sheets need to be issued each year?

A2: *We recommend issuing new sheets each year to keep things neat and organized. This also allows the program coordinator to take the completed sheets and track the points earned from year to year on the program tracking sheet.*

Award Pins:

Q1: Can a pin be changed for a milestone achievement?

A1: *Yes, if your program prefers a different pin, or a pin becomes unavailable then pins can be changed.*

Q2: What if a student loses a pin?

A2: *We recommend that you have replacement pins available for purchase. This can be a sensitive issue so make sure you clearly communicate to parents what the replacement costs are up front.*

Award Ceremony:

Q1: How often is an award ceremony held?

A1: *We have found that it works best having two award ceremonies a year, one ceremony close to January and the second in June. This is with the assumption that the program will be used during a typical September to June timeframe. If you are using this program year round you may want to alter the time and number of ceremonies.*

Q2: Should the award ceremony be part of the Sunday school lesson?

A2: *Depending on the number of students involved in the program you may want to schedule a special time for this ceremony outside of the Sunday school hour. The students worked hard to earn their points and the appropriate amount of time should be allowed to honor their achievements.*

Q3: How should the pins be presented to the students?

A3: *Sorting the pins earned per student works well. Students can then be called by name or by grade to receive all their pins earned during the past weeks.*