

SCRIPTURE SONGS IN The Shepherd's Meadow

♥ Songs to Hide God's Word in Little Hearts ♥

12

BIBLICAL
MUSIC SONGS
FOR CHILDREN
AGES 2-7

A GUIDEBOOK
FOR PARENTS &
GRANDPARENTS

TEACHING • SCRIPTURE
PRAYERS

Practical helps to teach God's Word,
build faith, and create lasting
memories through music



SCRIPTURE SONGS

in The Shepherd's Meadow

Songs to Hide God's Word in Little Hearts

A Family Guidebook for Parents and Grandparents

Joe Soares

The Shepherd's Meadow - Songs for Little Hearts

King James Version Scripture used throughout

Welcome, Parents and Grandparents

Music can place words in a child's memory long before the child can explain everything those words mean. That is the opportunity behind Scripture Songs in The Shepherd's Meadow. These songs are designed to make important KJV phrases familiar, joyful, and easy to recall. This guidebook helps you do the deeper work around the music: read the full verse, explain it accurately, connect it to everyday life, pray it, and practice it without turning Bible memory into pressure.

THE PURPOSE

We are not trying to make children sound impressive. We are helping little hearts become familiar with the actual words of Scripture and with the God who spoke them.

What You Will Find in Every Song Chapter

- The complete KJV verse
- A Big Truth and Words to Remember
- KJV word help for adults to explain simply
- Real-life examples and theological guardrails
- Grandpa Joe and child discussion ideas
- A five-minute family devotion and prayer
- Movement, games, and no-supplies activities
- A seven-day practice plan and notes space

A Note About the Recorded Songs

The songs use original wording around recognizable KJV phrases. This is intentional. The complete Scripture belongs here in the guidebook, where it can be read exactly and explained in context. The song helps the phrase become memorable; the Bible remains the authority.

How to Use This Guidebook Without Making It Feel Like School

For ages 2-7, short and repeated is usually better than long and impressive. You do not need to complete every activity. One song, one verse, one question, and one prayer may be enough for a whole week.

LISTEN FIRST

Play the song naturally. Let the child enjoy it before asking questions.

OPEN THE BIBLE

Read the complete KJV verse. Let the child see that the song points back to a real place in Scripture.

KEEP ONE TRUTH

Choose the Big Truth or Words to Remember. Do not demand the whole chapter.

USE REAL MOMENTS

Bring the verse back when life supplies a natural example.

ASK LESS, LISTEN MORE

One sincere child-sized answer is better than ten forced responses.

PRAY SIMPLY

Short prayers teach children that Scripture belongs in real conversation with God.

REPEAT OVER TIME

Memory grows through ordinary repetition. There is no need to rush.

Seven Principles for Scripture Memory With Little Hearts

Scripture is the star

The melody serves the verse. The verse does not serve the melody.

Context still matters

Even a short memory phrase should be explained in light of the surrounding passage.

KJV words are teachable

Words such as hath, thee, always, and strengtheneth do not need to be feared. Explain them simply.

Understanding grows in layers

A three-year-old can learn a true sentence now and understand more deeply at six, ten, and sixteen.

No performance pressure

Memory is a gift for the heart, not a stage for comparison.

Correction and grace belong together

Scripture can correct behavior without making a child feel that love must be re-earned.

Safety is never opposed to obedience

No Bible verse should be used to silence a child about harm, fear, unsafe touch, or wrongdoing.

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SONG 1

The Lord Is My Shepherd

Psalms 23:1 KJV

THE SCRIPTURE

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want."

BIG TRUTH

The LORD cares for His people like a good shepherd cares for his sheep.

WORDS TO REMEMBER

The LORD is my shepherd.

Sing and Move

Make a gentle shepherding motion with one hand, then place both hands over the heart on "my shepherd."

One Sentence for the Child

The LORD is my Shepherd, and I can trust His care.

Parent and Grandparent Aim

Build trust in the LORD's shepherding care without promising every desire.

The Lord Is My Shepherd: What the Verse Means

David begins Psalm 23 with a relationship: the LORD is his Shepherd. A shepherd knows, leads, protects, and provides for the sheep in his care. "I shall not want" does not mean that a child receives every toy or wish. It means the Shepherd is trustworthy and His care is enough.

KJV Words Worth Keeping

KJV Word or Phrase	Child-Friendly Help
LORD	The covenant name used in the KJV. Help children hear that this is God Himself.
shepherd	One who tends, leads, watches, and cares for sheep.
I shall not want	A statement of trust in the Shepherd's care, not a promise of getting every desire.

Read a Little More

FAMILY READING

Read Psalm 23:1-4 together. Notice the Shepherd's leading, presence, and comfort.

A Helpful Question for Adults

Am I teaching my child to trust the Shepherd, or merely promising that God will make life comfortable?

Bring the Verse Into Everyday Life

Young children learn Scripture best when the verse becomes part of ordinary life. Look for natural moments instead of creating a lecture.

- When a child is worried about a new place, remind them that the Shepherd is with His people.
- At bedtime, connect the quiet of the room with the truth that the LORD watches over His own.
- When a child asks for something they cannot have, explain that "I shall not want" is about trusting God, not getting every want.

TEACHING GUARDRAIL

Do not turn Psalm 23:1 into "God gives me everything I want." Keep the child's attention on who the Shepherd is and why He can be trusted.

Try These Words in the Moment

When a child worries: "The LORD is your Shepherd. What do shepherds do? They care for their sheep. Let us ask Him to help us trust."

When a child wants more: "It is okay to want something. Psalm 23 is teaching us that God is our Shepherd, not that we get every want."

Grandparent Connection

Grandparents often become a child's picture of steady care. Use that gift to point beyond yourself: "Grandpa loves you, and the LORD is the perfect Shepherd."

Talk It Through With a Little Heart

Keep questions short. Ask one, wait, listen, and accept a child-sized answer. The goal is not to make the child perform a lesson. The goal is to help truth become familiar.

- What does a shepherd do for sheep?
- Who does David say is his Shepherd?
- Does "I shall not want" mean we get every toy we ask for?
- What is one way we can trust the LORD today?

A Simple Grandpa Joe Conversation

Grandpa Joe: Who is the Shepherd in our verse?

Child: The LORD.

Grandpa Joe: And can we trust a good shepherd to care for his sheep?

Child: Yes.

Grandpa Joe: That is the truth we are hiding in our heart.

KEEP IT SAFE AND TRUE

Never use a Bible verse to force a child to hide fear, pain, confusion, unsafe touch, or wrongdoing. Scripture should lead children toward truth, safety, trust, and obedience to God.

If the Child Asks "Why?"

Because the verse begins with who God is to His people before it speaks about what they receive.

Five-Minute Family Devotion

1. Read Psalm 23:1 aloud from the KJV. Let the child hear the whole verse exactly as written.
2. Sing the song once. Do the simple movement that goes with the memory phrase.
3. Ask: "What does a shepherd do, and what does that teach us about the LORD?"
4. Give one real-life example from today. Keep it concrete and short.
5. Pray together. Let the child repeat one short sentence if they want to.

PRAYER TO SAY TOGETHER

Dear LORD, thank You for being the Shepherd who cares for Your people. Help me trust Your care today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

One-Minute Memory Practice

Say the reference first: Psalm 23:1. Then say the memory phrase slowly: "The LORD is my shepherd.". Let the child echo only a few words at a time. Finish by reading the complete KJV verse once, without requiring a perfect recitation.

Bedtime Version

Whisper the memory line, name one way God cared for the family today, and pray a one-sentence prayer of trust.

Activities That Make the Verse Stick

Shepherd and Sheep

One person is the shepherd and gently leads the others through a simple path of pillows or chairs. Talk about careful leading, not blindfolds or unsafe obstacles.

Needs and Wants Sort

Name everyday items or desires and sort them into "need," "want," or "not sure." Explain that Psalm 23:1 is about trusting the Shepherd, not receiving every want.

Shepherd Care Drawing

Draw a shepherd caring for sheep. Add one sentence: "The LORD is my shepherd."

Car or Waiting-Room Version

Spot sheep, fences, fields, or signs of care and repeat, "The LORD is my shepherd."

No Supplies Needed

Pretend one child is a sheep and one adult is the shepherd. Use voice and hand signals to lead safely across the room.

Grow This Verse Through the Week

Day	Simple Practice
Day 1	Read Psalm 23:1 once and sing the song.
Day 2	Repeat only the Words to Remember and do the movement.
Day 3	Use one real-life example from this chapter.
Day 4	Ask one discussion question and listen without rushing.
Day 5	Do one activity or car game.
Day 6	Let a grandparent or another trusted adult review the verse with the child.
Day 7	Read the complete KJV verse again, pray, and celebrate what the child remembers.

What I Noticed This Week

This Is the Day

Psalm 118:24 KJV

THE SCRIPTURE

"This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

BIG TRUTH

Today belongs to the LORD, so His people can rejoice in Him.

WORDS TO REMEMBER

We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Sing and Move

Open arms wide for "this is the day," clap softly on "rejoice," and point upward on "the LORD."

One Sentence for the Child

Today belongs to the LORD, so I can rejoice in Him.

Parent and Grandparent Aim

Teach rejoicing in the LORD without demanding fake happiness.

This Is the Day: What the Verse Means

Psalm 118:24 gives the child a God-centered way to begin a day. The verse does not say every event will feel pleasant. It says the day is the LORD's making, and His people choose to rejoice. The focus is not forced cheerfulness. The focus is the LORD.

KJV Words Worth Keeping

KJV Word or Phrase	Child-Friendly Help
which the LORD hath made	KJV wording that points to God as the Maker of the day.
rejoice	To take joy, especially in the LORD and His goodness.
be glad	To respond with gladness rather than treating the day as meaningless.

Read a Little More

FAMILY READING

Read Psalm 118:21-24. The day of rejoicing sits inside a larger song of thanksgiving and salvation.

A Helpful Question for Adults

Do I allow a child to be sad while still showing them reasons to rejoice in the Lord?

Bring the Verse Into Everyday Life

Young children learn Scripture best when the verse becomes part of ordinary life. Look for natural moments instead of creating a lecture.

- Say the memory line when opening the curtains in the morning.
- Use the song on a rainy day so children learn that rejoicing is not limited to perfect weather.
- Before school, preschool, or church, ask, "Whose day is this?" and let the child answer, "The LORD's."

TEACHING GUARDRAIL

Do not use the verse to silence sadness. A child may be disappointed and still learn to rejoice in the LORD. Biblical joy and honest feelings can exist together.

Try These Words in the Moment

On a hard morning: "This is still the LORD's day. We do not have to pretend everything feels easy. What can we rejoice in about Him?"

On a happy morning: "This is the day the LORD hath made. Let us thank Him before we rush into it."

Grandparent Connection

Tell a grandchild about an ordinary day you once thought was unimportant that later became precious. Then thank the LORD for today.

Talk It Through With a Little Heart

Keep questions short. Ask one, wait, listen, and accept a child-sized answer. The goal is not to make the child perform a lesson. The goal is to help truth become familiar.

- Who made this day?
- What does it mean to rejoice?
- Can we rejoice in the Lord on a hard day?
- What can we thank God for today?

A Simple Grandpa Joe Conversation

Grandpa Joe: Whose day is this?

Child: The LORD's.

Grandpa Joe: Do we have to pretend every part is easy?

Child: No.

Grandpa Joe: Right. We can still rejoice in the Lord.

KEEP IT SAFE AND TRUE

Never use a Bible verse to force a child to hide fear, pain, confusion, unsafe touch, or wrongdoing. Scripture should lead children toward truth, safety, trust, and obedience to God.

If the Child Asks "Why?"

Because rejoicing is rooted in the LORD, not in pretending every circumstance feels good.

Five-Minute Family Devotion

6. Read Psalm 118:24 aloud from the KJV. Let the child hear the whole verse exactly as written.
7. Sing the song once. Do the simple movement that goes with the memory phrase.
8. Ask: "What can we rejoice in about the LORD today?"
9. Give one real-life example from today. Keep it concrete and short.
10. Pray together. Let the child repeat one short sentence if they want to.

PRAYER TO SAY TOGETHER

LORD, thank You for this day. Help us rejoice in You and use today in a way that pleases You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

One-Minute Memory Practice

Say the reference first: Psalm 118:24. Then say the memory phrase slowly: "We will rejoice and be glad in it.". Let the child echo only a few words at a time. Finish by reading the complete KJV verse once, without requiring a perfect recitation.

Bedtime Version

Name one hard thing and one good thing from the day. Then rejoice in one unchanging truth about the LORD.

Activities That Make the Verse Stick

Morning Window Practice

Open the curtains, say the reference, and sing the memory phrase before the day begins.

Rejoice Motion Game

Choose a simple clap, turn, or step each time the word "rejoice" appears.

Hard Day, True God

Name a disappointing situation, then name one truth about God that has not changed.

Car or Waiting-Room Version

At each red light, say one reason to rejoice in the Lord.

No Supplies Needed

Clap a simple rhythm while repeating the memory phrase.

Grow This Verse Through the Week

Day	Simple Practice
Day 1	Read Psalm 118:24 once and sing the song.
Day 2	Repeat only the Words to Remember and do the movement.
Day 3	Use one real-life example from this chapter.
Day 4	Ask one discussion question and listen without rushing.
Day 5	Do one activity or car game.
Day 6	Let a grandparent or another trusted adult review the verse with the child.
Day 7	Read the complete KJV verse again, pray, and celebrate what the child remembers.

What I Noticed This Week

Thy Word Have I Hid

Psalm 119:11 KJV

THE SCRIPTURE

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

BIG TRUTH

God's Word belongs in the heart so it can guide us when choices come.

WORDS TO REMEMBER

Thy word have I hid in mine heart.

Sing and Move

Pretend to open a Bible, then place both hands over the heart.

One Sentence for the Child

I can keep God's Word in my heart and remember it when I need it.

Parent and Grandparent Aim

Make Scripture memory warm, purposeful, and connected to obedience.

Thy Word Have I Hid: What the Verse Means

To hide God's Word in the heart means to treasure, remember, and keep it ready. The purpose named by the verse is moral and spiritual: "that I might not sin against thee." Scripture memory is not a contest. It is storing truth where the Holy Spirit can bring it to mind when a child needs direction.

KJV Words Worth Keeping

KJV Word or Phrase	Child-Friendly Help
Thy word	God's revealed Word, not merely encouraging thoughts.
hid in mine heart	Treasured and remembered within.
sin against thee	Sin is first against God. The verse gives Scripture memory a purpose beyond recitation.

Read a Little More

FAMILY READING

Read Psalm 119:9-16. Notice how cleansing, seeking, hiding, declaring, rejoicing, and meditating all surround God's Word.

A Helpful Question for Adults

Is Scripture memory becoming a relationship with God's Word, or only a recitation task?

Bring the Verse Into Everyday Life

Young children learn Scripture best when the verse becomes part of ordinary life. Look for natural moments instead of creating a lecture.

- When a child is tempted to grab, lie, or shout, recall a short verse already learned.
- Keep one memory verse card at the breakfast table for a whole week.
- Ask grandparents to repeat one verse with the child on phone or video calls.

TEACHING GUARDRAIL

Do not turn Bible memory into performance pressure. A child who cannot recite a verse perfectly can still be learning to love God's Word. Praise attention, understanding, and faithful practice.

Try These Words in the Moment

Before a choice: "What has God's Word taught us that could help right now?"

During memory time: "We are not racing. We are putting God's Word in our hearts little by little."

Grandparent Connection

Choose one verse you learned as a child and tell why it still matters. The story of remembering Scripture can be as valuable as the recitation.

Talk It Through With a Little Heart

Keep questions short. Ask one, wait, listen, and accept a child-sized answer. The goal is not to make the child perform a lesson. The goal is to help truth become familiar.

- Where do we hide God's Word?
- Why do we want Scripture in our hearts?
- What verse do you already remember?
- When might God's Word help you make a choice?

A Simple Grandpa Joe Conversation

Grandpa Joe: Where do we hide God's Word?

Child: In our heart.

Grandpa Joe: Why?

Child: So we remember it.

Grandpa Joe: Yes, and so it can help us turn from sin and obey God.

KEEP IT SAFE AND TRUE

Never use a Bible verse to force a child to hide fear, pain, confusion, unsafe touch, or wrongdoing. Scripture should lead children toward truth, safety, trust, and obedience to God.

If the Child Asks "Why?"

Because remembered Scripture helps us recognize truth and turn from sin when choices come.

Five-Minute Family Devotion

11. Read Psalm 119:11 aloud from the KJV. Let the child hear the whole verse exactly as written.
12. Sing the song once. Do the simple movement that goes with the memory phrase.
13. Ask: "What is one verse we want to hide in our heart this week?"
14. Give one real-life example from today. Keep it concrete and short.
15. Pray together. Let the child repeat one short sentence if they want to.

PRAYER TO SAY TOGETHER

God, thank You for giving us Your Word. Help us treasure it, remember it, and obey You when choices are hard. In Jesus' name, Amen.

One-Minute Memory Practice

Say the reference first: Psalm 119:11. Then say the memory phrase slowly: "Thy word have I hid in mine heart.". Let the child echo only a few words at a time. Finish by reading the complete KJV verse once, without requiring a perfect recitation.

Bedtime Version

Read the verse once and ask, "What word do you remember?" Let that be enough.

Activities That Make the Verse Stick

Heart Pocket

Cut a paper heart with a pocket and place one short verse card inside. Explain that the paper is a picture; the real hiding happens by remembering God's Word.

Echo the Verse

Adult says two or three words; child echoes. Stop before frustration.

Verse Treasure Hunt

Hide a few word cards around the room and assemble the memory phrase together.

Car or Waiting-Room Version

Adult begins a learned verse phrase and child finishes whatever portion they remember.

No Supplies Needed

Tap the heart each time you say "hid" or "heart."

Grow This Verse Through the Week

Day	Simple Practice
Day 1	Read Psalm 119:11 once and sing the song.
Day 2	Repeat only the Words to Remember and do the movement.
Day 3	Use one real-life example from this chapter.
Day 4	Ask one discussion question and listen without rushing.
Day 5	Do one activity or car game.
Day 6	Let a grandparent or another trusted adult review the verse with the child.
Day 7	Read the complete KJV verse again, pray, and celebrate what the child remembers.

What I Noticed This Week

What Time I Am Afraid

Psalm 56:3 KJV

THE SCRIPTURE

"What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee."

BIG TRUTH

Fear is a moment to turn toward God in trust.

WORDS TO REMEMBER

What time I am afraid.

Sing and Move

Hands on cheeks for "afraid," then move hands to the heart and point upward for trust.

One Sentence for the Child

When I am afraid, I can tell God and trust Him.

Parent and Grandparent Aim

Give children a truthful response to fear: name it, pray, trust.

What Time I Am Afraid: What the Verse Means

David does not pretend fear never happens. He names it directly: "What time I am afraid." Then he chooses trust. That pattern is especially valuable for children. They do not need to deny the fear. They can tell the truth about it and turn to God.

KJV Words Worth Keeping

KJV Word or Phrase	Child-Friendly Help
What time	Whenever, at the time when.
afraid	Fear is acknowledged, not mocked or denied.
trust in thee	To place confidence in God rather than letting fear rule the heart.

Read a Little More

FAMILY READING

Read Psalm 56:3-4. David moves from fear to trust and praise in God's Word.

A Helpful Question for Adults

When a child is afraid, do I rush to say "There is nothing to fear," or do I help them bring fear to God?

Bring the Verse Into Everyday Life

Young children learn Scripture best when the verse becomes part of ordinary life. Look for natural moments instead of creating a lecture.

- Thunderstorms, dark rooms, doctor visits, and separation from a parent are natural moments to recall this verse.
- Let a child say, "I am afraid," before asking what truth they can remember about God.
- At bedtime, pair the memory line with a short prayer rather than a long explanation.

TEACHING GUARDRAIL

Do not promise that trusting God means the frightening situation will instantly disappear. The verse teaches where to place trust while fear is present.

Try These Words in the Moment

When fear is real: "Tell me what feels scary. Now let us say the verse and pray together."

After the fear passes: "God helped us remember where to put our trust."

Grandparent Connection

Share a brief, age-appropriate story of a time you were afraid and prayed. Keep the hero of the story God, not your toughness.

Talk It Through With a Little Heart

Keep questions short. Ask one, wait, listen, and accept a child-sized answer. The goal is not to make the child perform a lesson. The goal is to help truth become familiar.

- Is it wrong to say, "I am afraid"?
- What can we do when we are afraid?
- Who can we trust?
- What fear could we pray about together?

A Simple Grandpa Joe Conversation

Grandpa Joe: Are you afraid right now?

Child: Yes.

Grandpa Joe: Thank you for telling the truth. What does our verse teach us to do when we are afraid?

Child: Trust God.

Grandpa Joe: Let us pray together.

KEEP IT SAFE AND TRUE

Never use a Bible verse to force a child to hide fear, pain, confusion, unsafe touch, or wrongdoing. Scripture should lead children toward truth, safety, trust, and obedience to God.

If the Child Asks "Why?"

Because God welcomes truthful prayer. Trust is not pretending fear is absent.

Five-Minute Family Devotion

16. Read Psalm 56:3 aloud from the KJV. Let the child hear the whole verse exactly as written.
17. Sing the song once. Do the simple movement that goes with the memory phrase.
18. Ask: "What do we do when we are afraid?"
19. Give one real-life example from today. Keep it concrete and short.
20. Pray together. Let the child repeat one short sentence if they want to.

PRAYER TO SAY TOGETHER

God, when I am afraid, help me remember that I can trust You. Thank You for hearing me when I pray. In Jesus' name, Amen.

One-Minute Memory Practice

Say the reference first: Psalm 56:3. Then say the memory phrase slowly: "What time I am afraid.". Let the child echo only a few words at a time. Finish by reading the complete KJV verse once, without requiring a perfect recitation.

Bedtime Version

Ask whether anything feels scary tonight. Listen first, then say the verse and pray.

Activities That Make the Verse Stick

Fear to Trust Steps

Make two floor spots: "I am afraid" and "I will trust." Let the child step from one to the other while saying the ideas.

Prayer Flashlight

At bedtime, use a flashlight to point to three things in the room while naming three truths that help the child trust God.

Trusted Adult List

Name the safe adults a child can tell when afraid or unsafe. Trusting God includes telling the truth and seeking help.

Car or Waiting-Room Version

Name something that can feel scary, then answer together, "I will trust in thee."

No Supplies Needed

Practice a three-step response: say the fear, say the verse, say a prayer.

Grow This Verse Through the Week

Day	Simple Practice
Day 1	Read Psalm 56:3 once and sing the song.
Day 2	Repeat only the Words to Remember and do the movement.
Day 3	Use one real-life example from this chapter.
Day 4	Ask one discussion question and listen without rushing.
Day 5	Do one activity or car game.
Day 6	Let a grandparent or another trusted adult review the verse with the child.
Day 7	Read the complete KJV verse again, pray, and celebrate what the child remembers.

What I Noticed This Week

Be Ye Kind

Ephesians 4:32 KJV

THE SCRIPTURE

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

BIG TRUTH

Christian kindness grows from a tender heart and remembers God's forgiveness in Christ.

WORDS TO REMEMBER

Be ye kind one to another.

Sing and Move

Open hands on "be ye kind" and gently point from one child to another on "one to another."

One Sentence for the Child

God tells me to be kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving.

Parent and Grandparent Aim

Move beyond generic niceness to tenderhearted, forgiving kindness.

Be Ye Kind: What the Verse Means

Ephesians 4:32 is richer than "be nice." Kindness is joined to tenderheartedness and forgiveness. The verse also gives the gospel-shaped reason: God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. For a young child, the everyday doorway is gentle words, helpful hands, and a willingness to forgive.

KJV Words Worth Keeping

KJV Word or Phrase	Child-Friendly Help
kind	Acting with goodness toward another person.
tenderhearted	Not hard or cruel in heart; moved with care.
forgiving	Releasing personal revenge and responding in light of God's forgiveness.

Read a Little More

FAMILY READING

Read Ephesians 4:29-32. Kindness belongs beside truthful speech, forgiveness, and putting away bitterness.

A Helpful Question for Adults

Am I teaching kindness with truth and boundaries, not people-pleasing?

Bring the Verse Into Everyday Life

Young children learn Scripture best when the verse becomes part of ordinary life. Look for natural moments instead of creating a lecture.

- Use the verse after sibling conflict, but only after listening to what happened.
- Ask, "What would a kind word sound like right now?"
- Let grandparents notice acts of kindness without turning them into a reward system.

TEACHING GUARDRAIL

Kindness does not mean staying silent when someone is hurting you. A child can be kind and still say "Stop," move away, and tell a trusted adult.

Try These Words in the Moment

After conflict: "First tell me what happened. Then let us think about what kindness and truth look like now."

When boundaries are needed: "Kindness does not mean letting someone hurt you. You may say stop and tell me."

Grandparent Connection

Model kindness toward service workers, family members, and strangers. Grandchildren learn from what they watch.

Talk It Through With a Little Heart

Keep questions short. Ask one, wait, listen, and accept a child-sized answer. The goal is not to make the child perform a lesson. The goal is to help truth become familiar.

- What does a kind voice sound like?
- What can kind hands do?
- Does kindness mean letting someone hurt you?
- What does forgiveness have to do with kindness?

A Simple Grandpa Joe Conversation

Grandpa Joe: What does God say we should be?

Child: Kind.

Grandpa Joe: Can kindness tell the truth too?

Child: Yes.

Grandpa Joe: Good. Kindness is not pretending wrong is right.

KEEP IT SAFE AND TRUE

Never use a Bible verse to force a child to hide fear, pain, confusion, unsafe touch, or wrongdoing. Scripture should lead children toward truth, safety, trust, and obedience to God.

If the Child Asks "Why?"

Because kindness reflects a tender heart shaped by God's forgiveness in Christ.

Five-Minute Family Devotion

21. Read Ephesians 4:32 aloud from the KJV. Let the child hear the whole verse exactly as written.
22. Sing the song once. Do the simple movement that goes with the memory phrase.
23. Ask: "What would kindness look like in our home today?"
24. Give one real-life example from today. Keep it concrete and short.
25. Pray together. Let the child repeat one short sentence if they want to.

PRAYER TO SAY TOGETHER

Father, help us be kind, tenderhearted, and ready to forgive. Thank You for the forgiveness You give through Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen.

One-Minute Memory Practice

Say the reference first: Ephesians 4:32. Then say the memory phrase slowly: "Be ye kind one to another.". Let the child echo only a few words at a time. Finish by reading the complete KJV verse once, without requiring a perfect recitation.

Bedtime Version

Review one kind choice from the day and one place where tomorrow can be different.

Activities That Make the Verse Stick

Kind Words Basket

Place slips with simple situations in a bowl and practice one kind sentence for each.

Helping Hands

Trace the child's hands and write one helpful action on each finger.

Kind and Safe

Practice saying both "Can I help you?" and "Please stop. I am going to tell an adult." Kindness and safety belong together.

Car or Waiting-Room Version

Listen for kind and unkind tones in made-up examples. Let the child identify which sounds tenderhearted.

No Supplies Needed

Take turns giving one genuine kind sentence to another family member.

Grow This Verse Through the Week

Day	Simple Practice
Day 1	Read Ephesians 4:32 once and sing the song.
Day 2	Repeat only the Words to Remember and do the movement.
Day 3	Use one real-life example from this chapter.
Day 4	Ask one discussion question and listen without rushing.
Day 5	Do one activity or car game.
Day 6	Let a grandparent or another trusted adult review the verse with the child.
Day 7	Read the complete KJV verse again, pray, and celebrate what the child remembers.

What I Noticed This Week

Children, Obey Your Parents

Ephesians 6:1 KJV

THE SCRIPTURE

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right."

BIG TRUTH

God calls children to obey their parents under His authority.

WORDS TO REMEMBER

Children, obey your parents in the Lord.

Sing and Move

Touch ears on "listen," then take one purposeful step on "obey."

One Sentence for the Child

God tells children to obey their parents in the Lord.

Parent and Grandparent Aim

Teach real obedience while preserving the biblical boundary "in the Lord."

Children, Obey Your Parents: What the Verse Means

This verse speaks directly to children and gives a clear command. "In the Lord" matters. Parental authority is real, but it is not higher than God's authority. For preschoolers, obedience can be taught as listening carefully and doing what a parent rightly asks without needless delay.

KJV Words Worth Keeping

KJV Word or Phrase	Child-Friendly Help
obey	To listen with the purpose of doing what is rightly required.
your parents	The command is relational and concrete.
in the Lord	Obedience belongs under Christ's authority.
for this is right	God Himself names obedience as right.

Read a Little More

FAMILY READING

Read Ephesians 6:1-4. Children receive a command, and fathers receive responsibility too.

A Helpful Question for Adults

Do my commands reflect patient, godly leadership, or am I expecting obedience while being careless with my own tone?

Bring the Verse Into Everyday Life

Young children learn Scripture best when the verse becomes part of ordinary life. Look for natural moments instead of creating a lecture.

- Use simple directions and then praise prompt listening rather than repeating commands many times.
- Ask the child to repeat a direction back before acting if they are distracted.
- Grandparents should support the parents' reasonable household rules rather than undermine them for fun.

TEACHING GUARDRAIL

Never use this verse to teach a child to obey sinful, abusive, secretive, or unsafe demands. Teach children to tell a safe adult if anyone asks them to hide harm or wrongdoing.

Try These Words in the Moment

When giving a direction: "Please look at me. Here is what I need you to do. Can you tell me what you heard?"

After obedience: "Thank you for listening and obeying promptly."

Grandparent Connection

Support the parents. Avoid making yourself the "fun grandparent" who treats parental rules as optional.

Talk It Through With a Little Heart

Keep questions short. Ask one, wait, listen, and accept a child-sized answer. The goal is not to make the child perform a lesson. The goal is to help truth become familiar.

- What does obey mean?
- Who gave children parents?
- What does "in the Lord" remind us?
- What is one way you can practice listening today?

A Simple Grandpa Joe Conversation

Grandpa Joe: What does God tell children to do?

Child: Obey their parents.

Grandpa Joe: And where does the verse say?

Child: In the Lord.

Grandpa Joe: That is important. God is over every authority.

KEEP IT SAFE AND TRUE

Never use a Bible verse to force a child to hide fear, pain, confusion, unsafe touch, or wrongdoing. Scripture should lead children toward truth, safety, trust, and obedience to God.

If the Child Asks "Why?"

Because God designed family authority, and He also places that authority under the Lord.

Five-Minute Family Devotion

26. Read Ephesians 6:1 aloud from the KJV. Let the child hear the whole verse exactly as written.
27. Sing the song once. Do the simple movement that goes with the memory phrase.
28. Ask: "What does listening and obeying look like in one real situation today?"
29. Give one real-life example from today. Keep it concrete and short.
30. Pray together. Let the child repeat one short sentence if they want to.

PRAYER TO SAY TOGETHER

Lord, help children listen and obey in the Lord. Give parents wisdom, patience, and fairness as they lead. In Jesus' name, Amen.

One-Minute Memory Practice

Say the reference first: Ephesians 6:1. Then say the memory phrase slowly: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord.". Let the child echo only a few words at a time. Finish by reading the complete KJV verse once, without requiring a perfect recitation.

Bedtime Version

Thank the child for one specific act of listening. If there was disobedience, keep correction clear and forgiveness warm.

Activities That Make the Verse Stick

Listen, Repeat, Do

Give one simple direction. Child repeats it, then does it. Keep it playful and reasonable.

Obedience Race Against Distraction

Not a speed race. Put away one distraction, give one direction, and practice focused listening.

Parent Blessing

After practice, parents pray for the child and also ask God for wisdom to lead well.

Car or Waiting-Room Version

Play "Listen and do" with safe car directions such as "touch your nose" or "point to something blue."

No Supplies Needed

Practice one-step directions with warm eye contact and immediate follow-through.

Grow This Verse Through the Week

Day	Simple Practice
Day 1	Read Ephesians 6:1 once and sing the song.
Day 2	Repeat only the Words to Remember and do the movement.
Day 3	Use one real-life example from this chapter.
Day 4	Ask one discussion question and listen without rushing.
Day 5	Do one activity or car game.
Day 6	Let a grandparent or another trusted adult review the verse with the child.
Day 7	Read the complete KJV verse again, pray, and celebrate what the child remembers.

What I Noticed This Week

God Is Love

1 John 4:8 KJV

THE SCRIPTURE

"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."

BIG TRUTH

Love is not merely something God does. Scripture tells us that God is love.

WORDS TO REMEMBER

God is love.

Sing and Move

Make a heart with hands, then point upward on "God."

One Sentence for the Child

God is love, and His love teaches us how to love.

Parent and Grandparent Aim

Help children see love as rooted in God's character and truth.

God Is Love: What the Verse Means

The short phrase "God is love" is easy for little hearts to remember, but the verse says more. A life untouched by love contradicts a claim to know God. The surrounding passage points to God's love revealed in sending His Son. Our love is a response to who God is and what He has done.

KJV Words Worth Keeping

KJV Word or Phrase	Child-Friendly Help
loveth not	A settled absence of love is inconsistent with knowing God.
knoweth not God	The verse connects love with genuine knowledge of God.
God is love	Love belongs to God's very character.

Read a Little More

FAMILY READING

Read 1 John 4:7-10. God's love is shown in His sending of His Son.

A Helpful Question for Adults

Does my definition of love come from Scripture or from whatever feels pleasant?

Bring the Verse Into Everyday Life

Young children learn Scripture best when the verse becomes part of ordinary life. Look for natural moments instead of creating a lecture.

- When a child sees care, explain that human love is not the definition of God; God defines true love.
- Use the verse to connect kindness and sacrifice to God's character.
- At family prayer time, thank God for one way His love is shown in Scripture.

TEACHING GUARDRAIL

Do not make "God is love" mean that God approves everything. Biblical love is holy, truthful, and good.

Try These Words in the Moment

When discussing love: "God is love. His love is good and true. What did Jesus do that shows us love?"

When correcting behavior: "Love does not mean everything we choose is right. God's love teaches us what is good."

Grandparent Connection

Tell how God's love has shaped your life over many years. Keep it concrete and Christ-centered.

Talk It Through With a Little Heart

Keep questions short. Ask one, wait, listen, and accept a child-sized answer. The goal is not to make the child perform a lesson. The goal is to help truth become familiar.

- What does the Bible say God is?
- How did God show His love?
- Is love the same as saying everything is okay?
- How can we show true love today?

A Simple Grandpa Joe Conversation

Grandpa Joe: What does the Bible say about God?

Child: God is love.

Grandpa Joe: Who teaches us what true love is?

Child: God does.

Grandpa Joe: Exactly.

KEEP IT SAFE AND TRUE

Never use a Bible verse to force a child to hide fear, pain, confusion, unsafe touch, or wrongdoing. Scripture should lead children toward truth, safety, trust, and obedience to God.

If the Child Asks "Why?"

Because love is part of God's character and is revealed by His actions in Scripture.

Five-Minute Family Devotion

31. Read 1 John 4:8 aloud from the KJV. Let the child hear the whole verse exactly as written.
32. Sing the song once. Do the simple movement that goes with the memory phrase.
33. Ask: "What does the Bible show us about God's love?"
34. Give one real-life example from today. Keep it concrete and short.
35. Pray together. Let the child repeat one short sentence if they want to.

PRAYER TO SAY TOGETHER

God, You are love. Help us know Your love in Christ and show true love to one another. In Jesus' name, Amen.

One-Minute Memory Practice

Say the reference first: 1 John 4:8. Then say the memory phrase slowly: "God is love.". Let the child echo only a few words at a time. Finish by reading the complete KJV verse once, without requiring a perfect recitation.

Bedtime Version

Say "God is love" and name one Gospel truth that shows His love.

Activities That Make the Verse Stick

Love in the Gospels

Choose a picture Bible scene or KJV Gospel passage showing Jesus helping, correcting, welcoming, or sacrificing. Ask what true love looks like.

Heart and Truth

Hold a paper heart in one hand and a Bible in the other. Explain that God's love is never separated from truth.

Love Does

Name one loving action that costs something small: share time, help, forgive, or tell the truth gently.

Car or Waiting-Room Version

Name examples of love and ask whether they are also truthful and good.

No Supplies Needed

Say "God is love," then name one thing love does and one thing love never does.

Grow This Verse Through the Week

Day	Simple Practice
Day 1	Read 1 John 4:8 once and sing the song.
Day 2	Repeat only the Words to Remember and do the movement.
Day 3	Use one real-life example from this chapter.
Day 4	Ask one discussion question and listen without rushing.
Day 5	Do one activity or car game.
Day 6	Let a grandparent or another trusted adult review the verse with the child.
Day 7	Read the complete KJV verse again, pray, and celebrate what the child remembers.

What I Noticed This Week

We Love Him

1 John 4:19 KJV

THE SCRIPTURE

"We love him, because he first loved us."

BIG TRUTH

Our love for God is a response. His love comes first.

WORDS TO REMEMBER

He first loved us.

Sing and Move

Point upward first, then place hands on the heart to show the order: His love first, our love in response.

One Sentence for the Child

God loved first, and my love is a response to Him.

Parent and Grandparent Aim

Protect the order of grace: God's love first, our love in response.

We Love Him: What the Verse Means

This verse protects children from a performance-based idea of God. We do not make God love us by singing, behaving, or being impressive. The order is important: He first loved us, therefore we love Him. The guidebook can preserve that exact KJV truth even when the recorded song uses original wording to avoid automated music filters.

KJV Words Worth Keeping

KJV Word or Phrase	Child-Friendly Help
We love him	The believer's love is real and personal.
because	The verse gives the reason for our love.
he first loved us	God's love takes the initiative; ours responds.

Read a Little More

FAMILY READING

Read 1 John 4:9-19. Watch how often God's love comes before our response.

A Helpful Question for Adults

Do I accidentally imply that good behavior causes God to love the child more?

Bring the Verse Into Everyday Life

Young children learn Scripture best when the verse becomes part of ordinary life. Look for natural moments instead of creating a lecture.

- After a child obeys, avoid saying, "Now God loves you more."
- When a child fails, correct the behavior without teaching that God's love must be re-earned.
- Grandparents can say, "We love God because He loved us first," when praying with grandchildren.

TEACHING GUARDRAIL

Do not make the child's love the starting point. The theological order of the verse is one of its greatest gifts.

Try These Words in the Moment

After good behavior: "I am glad you obeyed. Remember, we do not make God love us by being impressive. He loved first."

After failure: "We need to correct what happened, but you do not have to earn love back by pretending."

Grandparent Connection

Grandparents can be powerful voices of unconditional affection. Pair that warmth with the truth that God's love comes first and is greater.

Talk It Through With a Little Heart

Keep questions short. Ask one, wait, listen, and accept a child-sized answer. The goal is not to make the child perform a lesson. The goal is to help truth become familiar.

- Who loved first?
- Do we make God love us by being good enough?
- Why do we love Him?
- How can God's love help us love someone today?

A Simple Grandpa Joe Conversation

Grandpa Joe: Who loved first?

Child: God did.

Grandpa Joe: Do we have to make Him start loving us?

Child: No.

Grandpa Joe: Our love is a response to His.

KEEP IT SAFE AND TRUE

Never use a Bible verse to force a child to hide fear, pain, confusion, unsafe touch, or wrongdoing. Scripture should lead children toward truth, safety, trust, and obedience to God.

If the Child Asks "Why?"

Because grace comes first. God's love is the reason and source of our response.

Five-Minute Family Devotion

36. Read 1 John 4:19 aloud from the KJV. Let the child hear the whole verse exactly as written.
37. Sing the song once. Do the simple movement that goes with the memory phrase.
38. Ask: "Who loved first, and why does that matter?"
39. Give one real-life example from today. Keep it concrete and short.
40. Pray together. Let the child repeat one short sentence if they want to.

PRAYER TO SAY TOGETHER

God, thank You for loving first. Help us love You and love others because Your love has come to us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

One-Minute Memory Practice

Say the reference first: 1 John 4:19. Then say the memory phrase slowly: "He first loved us.". Let the child echo only a few words at a time. Finish by reading the complete KJV verse once, without requiring a perfect recitation.

Bedtime Version

Say, "God loved first." Let the child answer, "We love Him."

Activities That Make the Verse Stick

First and Then

Use two cards: "God loved first" and "we love Him." Put them in the correct order every time.

Love Response Chain

Adult says, "God loved first." Child names one way to respond: pray, obey, help, worship, forgive.

No Earning Game

Name things children sometimes think earn love. Answer together: "God loved first."

Car or Waiting-Room Version

Adult says, "Who loved first?" Child answers, "God did."

No Supplies Needed

Use hand motions to show first and second: God loved first, we respond.

Grow This Verse Through the Week

Day	Simple Practice
Day 1	Read 1 John 4:19 once and sing the song.
Day 2	Repeat only the Words to Remember and do the movement.
Day 3	Use one real-life example from this chapter.
Day 4	Ask one discussion question and listen without rushing.
Day 5	Do one activity or car game.
Day 6	Let a grandparent or another trusted adult review the verse with the child.
Day 7	Read the complete KJV verse again, pray, and celebrate what the child remembers.

What I Noticed This Week

Rejoice in the Lord

Philippians 4:4 KJV

THE SCRIPTURE

"Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice."

BIG TRUTH

Christian rejoicing is centered in the Lord, not in perfect circumstances.

WORDS TO REMEMBER

Rejoice in the Lord alway.

Sing and Move

Clap on "rejoice," point upward on "the Lord," and repeat with a gentle turn or step.

One Sentence for the Child

I can rejoice in the Lord even when the day is hard.

Parent and Grandparent Aim

Center joy in the Lord rather than in changing circumstances.

Rejoice in the Lord: What the Verse Means

Paul does not command endless pretending. He directs joy toward the Lord. Because the Lord is the object of rejoicing, the command can stand even when circumstances are difficult. Children can learn that sadness, disappointment, and rejoicing in God are not opposites.

KJV Words Worth Keeping

KJV Word or Phrase	Child-Friendly Help
Rejoice	Take joy; respond with gladness.
in the Lord	The Lord is the center and reason for rejoicing.
always	Always; at all times.
again I say	Paul intentionally repeats the command.

Read a Little More

FAMILY READING

Read Philippians 4:4-7. Rejoicing, gentleness, prayer, thanksgiving, and God's peace appear together.

A Helpful Question for Adults

Do I confuse rejoicing with emotional performance?

Bring the Verse Into Everyday Life

Young children learn Scripture best when the verse becomes part of ordinary life. Look for natural moments instead of creating a lecture.

- On a disappointing day, ask, "What is still true about the Lord?"
- Use the song for movement, then slow down and name one reason to rejoice in God.
- Let a grandparent tell a brief story of a hard season when God remained faithful.

TEACHING GUARDRAIL

Do not require a cheerful face as proof of faith. Rejoicing in the Lord is deeper than performing happiness for adults.

Try These Words in the Moment

When disappointed: "You can be disappointed and still rejoice in the Lord. What is still true about Him?"

When joyful: "Let us make sure our joy leads us back to the Lord, not only to the fun thing."

Grandparent Connection

Share a hymn, verse, or memory that helped you rejoice in the Lord through a hard season.

Talk It Through With a Little Heart

Keep questions short. Ask one, wait, listen, and accept a child-sized answer. The goal is not to make the child perform a lesson. The goal is to help truth become familiar.

- Who are we told to rejoice in?
- Can a sad person still trust and rejoice in the Lord?
- What is true about God today?
- What could we praise Him for?

A Simple Grandpa Joe Conversation

Grandpa Joe: Who do we rejoice in?

Child: The Lord.

Grandpa Joe: Even when a day is hard?

Child: Yes.

Grandpa Joe: Because the Lord is still the Lord.

KEEP IT SAFE AND TRUE

Never use a Bible verse to force a child to hide fear, pain, confusion, unsafe touch, or wrongdoing. Scripture should lead children toward truth, safety, trust, and obedience to God.

If the Child Asks "Why?"

Because the Lord remains worthy even when our circumstances change.

Five-Minute Family Devotion

41. Read Philippians 4:4 aloud from the KJV. Let the child hear the whole verse exactly as written.
42. Sing the song once. Do the simple movement that goes with the memory phrase.
43. Ask: "What is true about the Lord even when our day is hard?"
44. Give one real-life example from today. Keep it concrete and short.
45. Pray together. Let the child repeat one short sentence if they want to.

PRAYER TO SAY TOGETHER

Lord, You are worthy of joy and praise. Help us rejoice in You in easy days and hard days. In Jesus' name, Amen.

One-Minute Memory Practice

Say the reference first: Philippians 4:4. Then say the memory phrase slowly: "Rejoice in the Lord always.". Let the child echo only a few words at a time. Finish by reading the complete KJV verse once, without requiring a perfect recitation.

Bedtime Version

Sing the memory phrase softly, then name one reason to rejoice in the Lord.

Activities That Make the Verse Stick

Rejoice Freeze

Move while music plays. When it stops, everyone says one truth about the Lord.

Always Means Hard Days Too

Make two simple cards: sunny day and rainy day. Say the memory phrase with both.

Praise Walk

Take a short walk and name things that remind you of God's wisdom, power, or care.

Car or Waiting-Room Version

Take turns saying, "I rejoice in the Lord because..." and finish with a truth about Him.

No Supplies Needed

March or clap to "Rejoice in the Lord," then freeze and whisper the reference.

Grow This Verse Through the Week

Day	Simple Practice
Day 1	Read Philippians 4:4 once and sing the song.
Day 2	Repeat only the Words to Remember and do the movement.
Day 3	Use one real-life example from this chapter.
Day 4	Ask one discussion question and listen without rushing.
Day 5	Do one activity or car game.
Day 6	Let a grandparent or another trusted adult review the verse with the child.
Day 7	Read the complete KJV verse again, pray, and celebrate what the child remembers.

What I Noticed This Week

Give Thanks Unto the Lord

Psalm 107:1 KJV

THE SCRIPTURE

"O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever."

BIG TRUTH

We give thanks because the LORD is good and His mercy endures.

WORDS TO REMEMBER

O give thanks unto the LORD.

Sing and Move

Open hands as if offering thanks, then point upward on "the LORD."

One Sentence for the Child

I thank the LORD because He is good and merciful.

Parent and Grandparent Aim

Ground thanksgiving in God's goodness and enduring mercy.

Give Thanks Unto the Lord: What the Verse Means

Biblical thanksgiving is grounded in God's character. Psalm 107:1 gives two reasons: He is good, and His mercy endureth for ever. Gratitude is more than listing possessions. It is recognizing the goodness and mercy of the LORD.

KJV Words Worth Keeping

KJV Word or Phrase	Child-Friendly Help
give thanks	Deliberately express gratitude.
for he is good	God's goodness is the foundation for thanksgiving.
mercy	God's compassionate, covenant faithfulness toward the undeserving.
endureth for ever	His mercy does not expire.

Read a Little More

FAMILY READING

Read Psalm 107:1-9. Thanksgiving is tied to the LORD's goodness, mercy, and deliverance.

A Helpful Question for Adults

Is our family gratitude rooted in God's character, or only in getting things we like?

Bring the Verse Into Everyday Life

Young children learn Scripture best when the verse becomes part of ordinary life. Look for natural moments instead of creating a lecture.

- At meals, thank God for Himself before thanking Him for the food.
- When something good happens, ask, "What does this make us want to thank God for?"
- At Thanksgiving, keep the verse central instead of making gratitude a once-a-year character lesson.

TEACHING GUARDRAIL

Avoid teaching gratitude as a way to deny disappointment. A child can be sad about one thing and genuinely thankful to God at the same time.

Try These Words in the Moment

At a meal: "Before we thank God for the food, let us thank Him because He is good."

After receiving something: "We can enjoy the gift and remember the Giver."

Grandparent Connection

Practice gratitude across generations. Ask each person for one reason to thank the LORD for who He is.

Talk It Through With a Little Heart

Keep questions short. Ask one, wait, listen, and accept a child-sized answer. The goal is not to make the child perform a lesson. The goal is to help truth become familiar.

- Why do we give thanks to the LORD?
- What does the verse say about His goodness?
- What is mercy?
- What can we thank God for besides things we own?

A Simple Grandpa Joe Conversation

Grandpa Joe: Why do we thank the LORD?

Child: Because He is good.

Grandpa Joe: And what lasts forever?

Child: His mercy.

Grandpa Joe: That gives us a lot to thank Him for.

KEEP IT SAFE AND TRUE

Never use a Bible verse to force a child to hide fear, pain, confusion, unsafe touch, or wrongdoing. Scripture should lead children toward truth, safety, trust, and obedience to God.

If the Child Asks "Why?"

Because the LORD is good and His mercy endures, not merely because we received something pleasant.

Five-Minute Family Devotion

46. Read Psalm 107:1 aloud from the KJV. Let the child hear the whole verse exactly as written.
47. Sing the song once. Do the simple movement that goes with the memory phrase.
48. Ask: "Why does the verse tell us to thank the LORD?"
49. Give one real-life example from today. Keep it concrete and short.
50. Pray together. Let the child repeat one short sentence if they want to.

PRAYER TO SAY TOGETHER

O LORD, we give You thanks because You are good. Thank You for Your mercy that endureth for ever.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

One-Minute Memory Practice

Say the reference first: Psalm 107:1. Then say the memory phrase slowly: "O give thanks unto the LORD.". Let the child echo only a few words at a time. Finish by reading the complete KJV verse once, without requiring a perfect recitation.

Bedtime Version

Thank God for who He is before thanking Him for what He gave.

Activities That Make the Verse Stick

Thank God for Who He Is

Make two columns: "God is" and "God gives." Fill both, but begin with the first.

Mercy Chain

Link paper strips with words such as mercy, goodness, patience, forgiveness, care.

Thank-You Prayer Circle

Each person says one short sentence of thanks. Keep it to God, not merely about possessions.

Car or Waiting-Room Version

Thank the LORD for one thing visible outside and one truth about His character.

No Supplies Needed

Hold up ten fingers and name ten reasons to thank God, beginning with who He is.

Grow This Verse Through the Week

Day	Simple Practice
Day 1	Read Psalm 107:1 once and sing the song.
Day 2	Repeat only the Words to Remember and do the movement.
Day 3	Use one real-life example from this chapter.
Day 4	Ask one discussion question and listen without rushing.
Day 5	Do one activity or car game.
Day 6	Let a grandparent or another trusted adult review the verse with the child.
Day 7	Read the complete KJV verse again, pray, and celebrate what the child remembers.

What I Noticed This Week

SONG 11

I Can Do All Things Through Christ

Philippians 4:13 KJV

THE SCRIPTURE

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

BIG TRUTH

Christ strengthens His people to be faithful in the circumstances He gives them.

WORDS TO REMEMBER

I can do all things through Christ.

Sing and Move

Make gentle strong arms, then point to Christ rather than to self.

One Sentence for the Child

Christ gives me strength to be faithful in what He gives me to do.

Parent and Grandparent Aim

Teach Philippians 4:13 in context: Christ strengthens faithful living in every circumstance.

I Can Do All Things Through Christ: What the Verse Means

Philippians 4:13 is often pulled away from its context. In verses 11-12, Paul speaks of being abased and abounding, being full and hungry, and having plenty and suffering need. "All things" means Christ gives strength for faithful living in every circumstance, not unlimited power to accomplish any dream.

KJV Words Worth Keeping

KJV Word or Phrase	Child-Friendly Help
all things	In context, the varied circumstances Paul has just described.
through Christ	Christ is the source, not self-confidence.
strengtheneth me	Christ supplies strength for faithful endurance and obedience.

Read a Little More

FAMILY READING

Read Philippians 4:10-13. Paul explains what "all things" means by describing contentment in plenty and need.

A Helpful Question for Adults

Have I taught Philippians 4:13 as perseverance in Christ or as unlimited achievement?

Bring the Verse Into Everyday Life

Young children learn Scripture best when the verse becomes part of ordinary life. Look for natural moments instead of creating a lecture.

- When a child says, "This is too hard," help them identify the next faithful step rather than promising guaranteed success.
- Use the verse when waiting, apologizing, obeying, trying again, or enduring disappointment.
- Grandparents can tell stories of times Christ supplied strength to remain faithful.

TEACHING GUARDRAIL

Do not teach this verse as "I can achieve anything I imagine." Keep the context of contentment, hardship, plenty, and need.

Try These Words in the Moment

When something is hard: "We do not have to pretend it is easy. What faithful step can we ask Christ to strengthen us to take?"

After success: "Christ's strength is not about bragging. Let us thank Him for helping us be faithful."

Grandparent Connection

Tell a story of endurance, not just achievement. Children need examples of Christ strengthening faithfulness in hardship.

Talk It Through With a Little Heart

Keep questions short. Ask one, wait, listen, and accept a child-sized answer. The goal is not to make the child perform a lesson. The goal is to help truth become familiar.

- Who gives strength?
- Does this verse mean we can do anything we imagine?
- What hard but right thing might Christ strengthen us to do?
- How can we ask Him for help?

A Simple Grandpa Joe Conversation

Grandpa Joe: Who strengthens us?

Child: Christ.

Grandpa Joe: Does that mean we can do any silly thing we imagine?

Child: No.

Grandpa Joe: It means Christ strengthens us to be faithful in what He gives us.

KEEP IT SAFE AND TRUE

Never use a Bible verse to force a child to hide fear, pain, confusion, unsafe touch, or wrongdoing. Scripture should lead children toward truth, safety, trust, and obedience to God.

If the Child Asks "Why?"

Because Christ is sufficient in plenty and in need. He strengthens faithful living.

Five-Minute Family Devotion

51. Read Philippians 4:13 aloud from the KJV. Let the child hear the whole verse exactly as written.
52. Sing the song once. Do the simple movement that goes with the memory phrase.
53. Ask: "What hard but right thing might we need Christ's strength to do?"
54. Give one real-life example from today. Keep it concrete and short.
55. Pray together. Let the child repeat one short sentence if they want to.

PRAYER TO SAY TOGETHER

Lord Jesus, thank You for giving strength. Help us trust You and be faithful in whatever today brings.
Amen.

One-Minute Memory Practice

Say the reference first: Philippians 4:13. Then say the memory phrase slowly: "I can do all things through Christ.". Let the child echo only a few words at a time. Finish by reading the complete KJV verse once, without requiring a perfect recitation.

Bedtime Version

Name one hard thing from the day and thank Christ for strength to take the next faithful step.

Activities That Make the Verse Stick

Hard but Right Cards

Make cards with simple tasks: apologize, wait, tell the truth, finish cleanup, try again. Say the memory phrase before choosing one.

Strength Source

Point to self, then to Christ. Ask, "Where does the verse say strength comes from?"

Plenty and Need

Use two bowls, one full and one nearly empty, to explain that Paul learned contentment in different circumstances.

Car or Waiting-Room Version

Name a hard task coming today and ask Christ for strength to be faithful.

No Supplies Needed

Make strong arms, then point away from self toward Christ as the source of strength.

Grow This Verse Through the Week

Day	Simple Practice
Day 1	Read Philippians 4:13 once and sing the song.
Day 2	Repeat only the Words to Remember and do the movement.
Day 3	Use one real-life example from this chapter.
Day 4	Ask one discussion question and listen without rushing.
Day 5	Do one activity or car game.
Day 6	Let a grandparent or another trusted adult review the verse with the child.
Day 7	Read the complete KJV verse again, pray, and celebrate what the child remembers.

What I Noticed This Week

Seek Ye First

Matthew 6:33 KJV

THE SCRIPTURE

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

BIG TRUTH

God and His righteousness come first, and His children can trust the Father with their needs.

WORDS TO REMEMBER

Seek ye first the kingdom of God.

Sing and Move

Hold up one finger on "first," point upward on "God," and open hands on "trust."

One Sentence for the Child

God comes first, and I can trust my Father with what I need.

Parent and Grandparent Aim

Teach priority and trust: seek God first and trust the Father with needs.

Seek Ye First: What the Verse Means

Matthew 6:33 sits inside Jesus' teaching about worry over food, drink, and clothing. The Father knows what His children need. Jesus directs them to seek first God's kingdom and righteousness. The verse is not a formula for getting whatever we want. It is a call to right priority and trust.

KJV Words Worth Keeping

KJV Word or Phrase	Child-Friendly Help
seek	Pursue, look for, give attention to.
first	God's kingdom is not an afterthought.
kingdom of God	God's rule and purposes.
his righteousness	What is right according to God.
all these things	In context, the necessities Jesus has just discussed.

Read a Little More

FAMILY READING

Read Matthew 6:25-34. Jesus speaks about worry, the Father's knowledge, and seeking His kingdom first.

A Helpful Question for Adults

Does our daily life actually show that God comes first?

Bring the Verse Into Everyday Life

Young children learn Scripture best when the verse becomes part of ordinary life. Look for natural moments instead of creating a lecture.

- Before a busy family day, ask what it looks like to put God first in attitude and choices.
- When worry appears, remind the child that the Father knows what is needed.
- Use the song before Bible reading or prayer as a simple transition to giving God attention.

TEACHING GUARDRAIL

Do not teach "seek first" as a bargain: "If I pray first, God must give me what I want." Jesus is teaching priority and trust in the Father.

Try These Words in the Moment

When worry grows: "The Father knows what we need. What does Jesus tell us to seek first?"

Before a busy day: "Let us give God first attention before everything starts pulling at us."

Grandparent Connection

Let grandchildren see you choose Scripture, prayer, worship, and righteousness as real priorities rather than merely talking about them.

Talk It Through With a Little Heart

Keep questions short. Ask one, wait, listen, and accept a child-sized answer. The goal is not to make the child perform a lesson. The goal is to help truth become familiar.

- What does "first" mean?
- What are we told to seek?
- Does the Father know what we need?
- What can putting God first look like today?

A Simple Grandpa Joe Conversation

Grandpa Joe: What do we seek first?

Child: The kingdom of God.

Grandpa Joe: Does our Father know what we need?

Child: Yes.

Grandpa Joe: So we can put Him first and trust Him.

KEEP IT SAFE AND TRUE

Never use a Bible verse to force a child to hide fear, pain, confusion, unsafe touch, or wrongdoing. Scripture should lead children toward truth, safety, trust, and obedience to God.

If the Child Asks "Why?"

Because the Father knows what His children need, so they can seek His kingdom without living under constant worry.

Five-Minute Family Devotion

56. Read Matthew 6:33 aloud from the KJV. Let the child hear the whole verse exactly as written.
57. Sing the song once. Do the simple movement that goes with the memory phrase.
58. Ask: "What could it look like to seek God first today?"
59. Give one real-life example from today. Keep it concrete and short.
60. Pray together. Let the child repeat one short sentence if they want to.

PRAYER TO SAY TOGETHER

Father, help us seek Your kingdom and what is right in Your eyes. Teach us to trust You with what we need. In Jesus' name, Amen.

One-Minute Memory Practice

Say the reference first: Matthew 6:33. Then say the memory phrase slowly: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God.". Let the child echo only a few words at a time. Finish by reading the complete KJV verse once, without requiring a perfect recitation.

Bedtime Version

Ask, "What came first today?" Then choose one small way to put God first tomorrow.

Activities That Make the Verse Stick

First Place Card

Make a large number 1 card labeled "God first." Put it near the breakfast table or Bible-reading spot.

Worry and Seek

Name one worry, then name one way to seek God: pray, read Scripture, obey what is right.

Kingdom Choices

Offer two simple choices and ask which better reflects God's ways, such as grabbing vs sharing or lying vs telling truth.

Car or Waiting-Room Version

Ask, "What comes first?" Child answers, "God." Then name one way to seek Him today.

No Supplies Needed

Hold up one finger for "first" each time the phrase is spoken.

Grow This Verse Through the Week

Day	Simple Practice
Day 1	Read Matthew 6:33 once and sing the song.
Day 2	Repeat only the Words to Remember and do the movement.
Day 3	Use one real-life example from this chapter.
Day 4	Ask one discussion question and listen without rushing.
Day 5	Do one activity or car game.
Day 6	Let a grandparent or another trusted adult review the verse with the child.
Day 7	Read the complete KJV verse again, pray, and celebrate what the child remembers.

What I Noticed This Week

A 30-Day Scripture Memory Path

Use this plan after completing the album once. It keeps the verses alive without turning the home into a classroom.

Day 1: Song 1: Play the song, read the full KJV verse, and say the Words to Remember.

Day 2: Song 2: Play the song, read the full KJV verse, and say the Words to Remember.

Day 3: Song 3: Play the song, read the full KJV verse, and say the Words to Remember.

Day 4: Song 4: Play the song, read the full KJV verse, and say the Words to Remember.

Day 5: Song 5: Play the song, read the full KJV verse, and say the Words to Remember.

Day 6: Song 6: Play the song, read the full KJV verse, and say the Words to Remember.

Day 7: Song 7: Play the song, read the full KJV verse, and say the Words to Remember.

Day 8: Song 8: Play the song, read the full KJV verse, and say the Words to Remember.

Day 9: Song 9: Play the song, read the full KJV verse, and say the Words to Remember.

Day 10: Song 10: Play the song, read the full KJV verse, and say the Words to Remember.

Day 11: Song 11: Play the song, read the full KJV verse, and say the Words to Remember.

Day 12: Song 12: Play the song, read the full KJV verse, and say the Words to Remember.

Day 13: Review Song 1: ask one discussion question and do one movement or activity.

Day 14: Review Song 2: ask one discussion question and do one movement or activity.

Day 15: Review Song 3: ask one discussion question and do one movement or activity.

Day 16: Review Song 4: ask one discussion question and do one movement or activity.

Day 17: Review Song 5: ask one discussion question and do one movement or activity.

Day 18: Review Song 6: ask one discussion question and do one movement or activity.

Day 19: Review Song 7: ask one discussion question and do one movement or activity.

Day 20: Review Song 8: ask one discussion question and do one movement or activity.

Day 21: Review Song 9: ask one discussion question and do one movement or activity.

Day 22: Review Song 10: ask one discussion question and do one movement or activity.

Day 23: Review Song 11: ask one discussion question and do one movement or activity.

Day 24: Review Song 12: ask one discussion question and do one movement or activity.

Day 25: Choose the four verses your child remembers most easily and celebrate them.

Day 26: Choose two verses that need more repetition. Keep the practice gentle.

Day 27: Grandparent day: review three favorite verses by phone, in person, or by video.

Day 28: Family prayer day: use three memory phrases as the starting points for prayer.

Day 29: Real-life day: notice one moment when a verse helps with fear, kindness, obedience, gratitude, or trust.

Day 30: Celebration day: listen to the album, read favorite verses, and thank God for His Word.

Parent and Grandparent Quick Reference

Moment	Verse	Parent/Grandparent Response
Fear	Psalms 56:3	Name the fear, pray, and trust God without promising instant relief.
Kindness	Ephesians 4:32	Kindness includes tenderheartedness and forgiveness, with truthful boundaries.
Obedience	Ephesians 6:1	Teach prompt listening "in the Lord" and never use obedience to hide harm.
Worry	Matthew 6:33	Seek God first and remember the Father knows what is needed.
Hard tasks	Philippians 4:13	Ask Christ for strength to be faithful, not for unlimited achievement.
Gratitude	Psalms 107:1	Thank God first for who He is: good and merciful.
Joy	Philippians 4:4	Rejoice in the Lord without demanding fake happiness.
Love	1 John 4:8, 19	God defines love and His love comes first.
Scripture memory	Psalms 119:11	Treasure God's Word in the heart so it is ready when choices come.
Daily outlook	Psalms 118:24	Receive the day as the LORD's and rejoice in Him.
Trusting care	Psalms 23:1	Trust the Shepherd without turning wants into promises.

KJV Word Help at a Glance

HATH

has

THEE

you

THY

your

MINE

my

ALWAY

always

LOVETH

loves

KNOWETH

knows

ENDURETH

endures

STRENGTHENETH

strengthens

SEEK YE

you should seek / seek

TENDERHEARTED

compassionate and soft-hearted rather than hard or cruel

RIGHTEOUSNESS

what is right according to God

Do not be embarrassed by these words. Children learn unfamiliar vocabulary all the time. Explain the word, repeat it naturally, and let understanding deepen with age.

When a Child Misunderstands a Verse

"I shall not want means God gives me every toy."

Clarify that the Shepherd provides and cares. The verse is about trust, not unlimited wishes.

"If I trust God, nothing scary will happen."

Psalms 56:3 tells us what to do when afraid. It does not promise the frightening situation disappears.

"Obey means I must do anything an adult tells me."

No. Ephesians 6:1 says "in the Lord." Teach safe boundaries and truth-telling.

"God is love, so He never says no."

Biblical love is holy and truthful. Loving correction is still love.

"I can do all things means I can do anything."

Read Philippians 4:11-13. Paul is speaking about Christ's strength in very different circumstances.

"If I seek God first, He has to give me what I want."

Matthew 6 speaks about trusting the Father with needs, not bargaining for desires.

"Rejoice means I cannot be sad."

Rejoicing in the Lord and honest sadness can exist together.

Family Prayer and Blessing Page

Use this page for names, prayer needs, and verses you want to keep before the family this season.

People We Are Praying For

Verses We Want to Remember

A Blessing to Speak Over a Child

BLESSING

May you grow to love the Word of God, trust the Lord when you are afraid, obey what is right, rejoice in Christ, give thanks, and seek God first. May the Scriptures you sing as a child remain familiar friends throughout your life.

Scripture Index

Psalm 23:1 The Lord Is My Shepherd

Psalm 118:24 This Is the Day

Psalm 119:11 Thy Word Have I Hid

Psalm 56:3 What Time I Am Afraid

Ephesians 4:32 Be Ye Kind

Ephesians 6:1 Children, Obey Your Parents

1 John 4:8 God Is Love

1 John 4:19 We Love Him

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord

Psalm 107:1 Give Thanks Unto the Lord

Philippians 4:13 I Can Do All Things Through Christ

Matthew 6:33 Seek Ye First

Quick Topic Finder

Fear and trust: What Time I Am Afraid - Psalm 56:3

Kindness and forgiveness: Be Ye Kind - Ephesians 4:32

Obedience: Children, Obey Your Parents - Ephesians 6:1

God's love: God Is Love - 1 John 4:8; We Love Him - 1 John 4:19

Joy: This Is the Day - Psalm 118:24; Rejoice in the Lord - Philippians 4:4

Thanksgiving: Give Thanks Unto the Lord - Psalm 107:1

Scripture memory: Thy Word Have I Hid - Psalm 119:11

God's care: The Lord Is My Shepherd - Psalm 23:1

Strength in Christ: I Can Do All Things Through Christ - Philippians 4:13

Priorities and worry: Seek Ye First - Matthew 6:33

Complete Album Song List

1. **The Lord Is My Shepherd** Psalm 23:1
2. **This Is the Day** Psalm 118:24
3. **Thy Word Have I Hid** Psalm 119:11
4. **What Time I Am Afraid** Psalm 56:3
5. **Be Ye Kind** Ephesians 4:32
6. **Children, Obey Your Parents** Ephesians 6:1
7. **God Is Love** 1 John 4:8
8. **We Love Him** 1 John 4:19
9. **Rejoice in the Lord** Philippians 4:4
10. **Give Thanks Unto the Lord** Psalm 107:1
11. **I Can Do All Things Through Christ** Philippians 4:13
12. **Seek Ye First** Matthew 6:33

THE ALBUM GOAL

Twelve songs. Twelve passages. One simple purpose: help little hearts know the sound of God's Word and carry it with them.

A Note From Joe

One of the beautiful things about teaching very young children is that they often remember a song before they understand how much truth the song is carrying. Years later, a phrase can return at exactly the moment it is needed. That is why I wanted this album to keep recognizable KJV wording at the center while giving parents and grandparents a place to read the complete verse and explain it carefully.

My hope is not that children merely memorize twelve lines. My hope is that these verses become doorways: a doorway to trusting the Shepherd, rejoicing in the Lord, hiding Scripture in the heart, turning to God in fear, learning kindness and obedience, understanding love, giving thanks, relying on Christ, and seeking God first.

Use this guidebook gently. Repeat what helps. Skip what does not fit today. Come back later. Let Scripture be familiar before it is fully understood. And most of all, keep opening the Bible so the child learns that the song points to something greater than itself: the Word of God.

Joe Soares

The Shepherd's Meadow

Certificate of Completion

This certifies that

has listened, learned, moved, talked, prayed, and grown through

SCRIPTURE SONGS IN THE SHEPHERD'S MEADOW

12 KJV Scripture songs for little hearts

Favorite verse: _____

Date: _____ Parent/Grandparent: _____

KEEP GOING

The best completion is not finishing a book. It is carrying God's Word forward into ordinary life.