

Memory Madness Seminar



What happened...

A simple system

1. Pick up a "Mission" (set of 10 verses) to learn.
2. Pick up an audio CD of the verses for review.
3. Memorize one new verse each week.
4. Get quizzed each week to earn points and a sticker.
5. Say a bonus verse for extra points.
6. After 10 weeks trade in points for Madness Bucks to use in the toy store (kids only).
7. Quote all 10 verses at once to "Mad Smash" and double your points!
8. Get cool stuff at the toy store. (Kids only)
9. Mad Smash 10, 20, 30, etc... verses for a certificate and a ribbon.
10. Mad Smash 50 verses for an awesome t-shirt.

Made memorization exciting by:

- **Altoids cans**
- **Stickers**
- **Terms**
 - Memory Madness
 - Special agent "I, Paul, am under God's plan as an apostle, a special agent of Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 1:1 MSG)
 - Mission
 - Mad smash
- **Point system and toy store**

Made memorization effective by:

- Choosing meaningful verses
- Encouraging and rewarding review
- Exciting the parents
- Going slow enough to make it easy
- Going fast enough to make it meaningful and challenging
- Making it easy for parents (Review bookmarks, memorization tips, flash cards, audio CDs)

Made memorization expand by:

- Keeping it visible
- Making it hard enough that parental involvement was necessary
- Continuing promotion
- T-shirts for 50 verses
- The quiz show
- The power of a sticker

Why you may want to consider a similar program:

Ephesians 4:11-12 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,¹² to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up NIV

How are you preparing God's children for works of service?

- You: a parent, a pastor
- God's children: Your kids, kids in the church, parents in the church, adults in the church.

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

How does this differ from other memorization programs?

- More repetition leads to better memorization.
- It is more intensive than most Sunday school programs.
- It incorporates child, parent, and church involvement.
- It is far less time and resource intensive than many other good church memory programs.

Final considerations:

2 Timothy 2:2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. NIV

2 Timothy 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. NIV

2 Timothy 3:14-17 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it,¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. NIV

Resources:

- Memory Madness: DVD and Data files (Look for a file called "How to get started with Memory Madness"), Altoids can of verses, Overview booklet
- Contact me (Steve Nelson) through www.premeditatedparenting.net
- *Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions* DVD by George Barna which also includes *Developing a Biblical Worldview*. Order from CBD (www.christianbook.com) for \$22. (A book of the same title is also available) or from barna.org for \$26 ☺.

