

Back in the early 80's when we felt our first child was old enough to begin memorizing complete Bible verses (about five years old) there were not the Scripture memory programs available for children as there are today. AWANA's had not burst on the scene (with its resulting trickle down effect on the mainstream denominations) and the conservative churches primarily reserved Scripture memory for Jr. High and High School children. True, most Sunday School classes had their weekly verses but the recitations were not strictly enforced (so as not to alienate children), there was no real systematic approach (basically a verse to go with the Sunday school lesson and there was not expectation for the child to remember the verse beyond the immediate opportunity to get their sticker or piece of candy. (In many instances the verses were truncated to a few words or paraphrase to make the process even simpler.) Eleanor and I had both experienced the life changing impact of Scripture memory during our college years and had kept up the practice during our careers and marriage. Now that we had children we wanted them to experience the blessing and life changing power of Scripture memory. In an effort though to give it more of a bite we came up with 69 verse which we felt would prepare our children for a life of devotion to the Lord.

Our method was simple. At the dinner table each evening, after the meal was finished and the table cleared (but before dessert) we would read our Bible story. (I found the book "Leading Little Ones To God" to be one of the few books for this purpose that takes the spiritual and doctrinal education of children seriously.) After this we would work on our Scripture memory. I initially made this more work than fun and have always felt bad about this. About half way through this with my first child I switched to a much more encouraging atmosphere with plenty of praise and immediate rewards. Throughout our children's spiritual development we were not above rewarding with money (by allowing them to accrue a "bank account" for a special purchase not only for Scripture memory, but Bible reading and other spiritual activities as well.) We emphasized review during this process with the child not only memorizing a new verse but reviewing past verses. Although each child is unique I found that most children can memorize two or three verses a week as well as retain that old verses. We did not maintain a review program for all 69 but rather for each group of passages. When we got to the end of the entire 69 we started over again and in this way they slowly learned all 69 without having to spend thirty minutes or so with each child reviewing 69 verses. With four children at our table this would have been far too cumbersome. When the Sunday School program introduced verses I would explain to the teacher what we were already doing. Since this was more advanced than their expectations they were happy to let our children quote their verses for the obligatory sticker or sucker instead of the one provided by the Sunday School booklet. Still later, when the Sunday school or church program introduced a serious Scripture memory program - Vacation Bible School Helpers, Evangelism Explosion or Youth Ministry, we would free our children to memorize these passages.. Listed below are the basic groupings of the 69 verses upon which we decided...

- I. Ephesians 6:1 - 4
- II. Ten Commandments
- III. Plan of Salvation
- IV. 23rd Psalm
- V. 100th Psalm
- VI. The Beatitudes
- VII. The Lord's prayer
- VIII. The Great Commandment
- IX. The Great Commission

I would like to present to you though a word of caution. Long before our children ever memorized a verse they were used to seeing daddy and mommy working on their Scripture memory. Even after they began memorizing Scripture more emphasis was placed during the week of their checking me on my verses than vice versa. I would as a rule have them check me on my verses when driving them to school as this was a fun way to get them exposed to the Word before the world had its shot. It is important that your children memorize Scripture but it is far more important that they grow up seeing you memorize and review your Scriptures. I say this by word of personal experience. As a Youth Minister, College Minister and Adult Education Minister I have seen the impact of a rigorous Scripture memory program in a child's life that was not duplicated or exceeded in the life of the father. Basically the child matures viewing Scripture memory as a childish activity, to be laid aside once adulthood is reached. The hardest task I ever faced as a college minister was to get Christian students to memorize Scripture who had done this during their childhood and youth without it being modeled by their father. As a result, they were laying aside childish things just like dad. Scripture memory should not be viewed as the magic spell that is going to make up for the father's spiritual laziness and carnal approach to the Word of God.

Rev. John S. Mahon

Director - Grace Community International
10.15.10 - Houston, Texas

THEME: 69 Verses To Shape The Lives Of Your Children

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Ephesians 6:1

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Ephesians 6:2

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Ephesians 6:3

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

THEME: 69 Verses To Shape The Lives Of Your Children

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Ephesians 6:4

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Exodus 20:1

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Exodus 20:2

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

THEME: 69 Verses To Shape The Lives Of Your Children

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Exodus 20:3

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Exodus 20:4

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Exodus 20:5

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

THEME: 69 Verses To Shape The Lives Of Your Children

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Exodus 20:6

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Exodus 20:7

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Exodus 20:8

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

THEME: 69 Verses To Shape The Lives Of Your Children

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Exodus 20:9

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Exodus 20:10

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Exodus 20:11

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

THEME: 69 Verses To Shape The Lives Of Your Children

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Exodus 20:12

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Exodus 20:13

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Exodus 20:14

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

THEME: 69 Verses To Shape The Lives Of Your Children

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Exodus 20:15

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Exodus 20:16

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Exodus 20:17

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

THEME: 69 Verses To Shape The Lives Of Your Children

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Romans 3:23

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Isaiah 53:6

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Romans 6:23

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

THEME: 69 Verses To Shape The Lives Of Your Children

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Hebrews 9:27

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: John 3:16

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: John 10:10

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

THEME: 69 Verses To Shape The Lives Of Your Children

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: John 5:24

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: John 1:12

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Peter 2:24

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

THEME: 69 Verses To Shape The Lives Of Your Children

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: II Corinthians 5:17

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Corinthians 3:16

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Luke 9:23

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

THEME: 69 Verses To Shape The Lives Of Your Children

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Ephesians 2:8

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Ephesians 2:9 Ephesians 2:9

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Titus 3:5

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

THEME: 69 Verses To Shape The Lives Of Your Children

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 23:1

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 23:2

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 23:3

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

THEME: 69 Verses To Shape The Lives Of Your Children

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 23:4

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 23:5

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 23:6

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

THEME: 69 Verses To Shape The Lives Of Your Children

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 100:1

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 100:2

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 100:3

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

THEME: 69 Verses To Shape The Lives Of Your Children

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 100:4

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 100:5

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 5:3

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

THEME: 69 Verses To Shape The Lives Of Your Children

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 5:4

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 5:5

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 5:6

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

THEME: 69 Verses To Shape The Lives Of Your Children

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 5:7

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 5:8

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 5:9

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

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THEME: 69 Verses To Shape The Lives Of Your Children

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 5:10

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 5:11

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 5:12

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

THEME: 69 Verses To Shape The Lives Of Your Children

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 6:9

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 6:10

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 6:11

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

THEME: 69 Verses To Shape The Lives Of Your Children

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 6:12

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 6:13

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 22:37

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

THEME: 69 Verses To Shape The Lives Of Your Children

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 22:38

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 22:39

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 22:40

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

THEME: 69 Verses To Shape The Lives Of Your Children

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 28:18

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 28:19

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Matthew 28:20

Why is it important for my child to memorize this verse?

How can I use this passage to convict, encourage or challenge my child?

How will I model this passage to my child in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life, that my child might see it in action?