

Sharpening the Sword



By Tobi L. Pawson

One of the ways to help your child not forget the scripture that he or she learned in the past is to review, review, and review. But how do we as parents do that without it feeling like a chore or becoming dry and boring? Here's a fun way to keep the memory verses in their mind and heart and a visual aide to help them understand that God's Word is our daily Bread of life.

Materials Needed:

- Brown or white construction paper
- Scissors
- Clear contact paper (optional)
- Pen or marker
- Shoe box
- Shiny wrapping paper (brown grocery bag would work as well)

Preparation: Using the construction paper, cut out shapes of slices of bread and write the chapter and verse number on it. Clear contact paper would aid in the longevity of the paper, however it is not necessary. Wrap the shoe box with shiny wrapping paper, or use a plain brown grocery bag and let your child have fun decorating it. Cut a hole in the top of the box big enough for your child's hand to fit in. Add your own creative style to your box –the goal being to make it eye-catching for your child. On the top or the side label the box, Our Daily Bread.

Introducing your Daily Bread box: As your child learns a verse, write it on a "bread slice" and put it in the box. During family worship explain that when we read God's Word, it's our daily bread for us to chew on all day so we are filled with Him. This would be a good opportunity to teach the Lord's Prayer or introduce verses that explain this concept such as:

John 6:35 – "And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."

Jeremiah 15:16 – "Your words were found and I ate them,
And your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart."

A fun idea for younger children is to have them pick up the slice and pretend to eat it before they recite it. Tell them they are "filling their hearts with God's Word."

Suggestion: Pray about whether using it daily with a review of the weekly scripture and the week prior and then perhaps once a week or on a monthly basis going through the entire box for review. Use it as many times and in the capacity that you feel the Lord leading. Have fun!