

BIBLE GEMS -TO- REMEMBER

Parent and Educator Guide



The Bible Gems to Remember books are a great way for parents and educators to teach children what the Bible says, help them commit it to memory, and show them how to put it into practice. And have so much fun in the process! For busy parents whose kids have limited attention spans and too many distractions—you can accomplish a lot in a very short time. For educators wishing more children would try to learn Scripture memory verses—you can get everyone involved. These super-short quotes from the Bible are so easy to remember and so full of wisdom.

Gemstones are a practical, effective way for parents and educators to fulfill two biblical mandates: teach kids God’s Word and train them to obey it. Scripture memory is essential for this, and that’s the primary objective of the Bible Gems to Remember books. God deeply desires to write his words on the minds and hearts of his children.

Take a look at the table of contents in the Bible Gems illustrated Bible or devotional. This is the goal! These few words straight out of Scripture—each quote small enough to fit in a child’s hand—contain fifty-two powerful, life-changing truths. As a parent or educator, you can help children grasp them and hold on to them forever.

There is a wonderful image where the book of Revelation describes the city of heaven. Revelation 21:19 says, “The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone.” By encouraging children to memorize Bible Gems, you are laying a beautiful, rock-solid foundation for their faith. The words they are learning will comfort them, guide them, protect them, and inspire them all the days of their lives.



Five Areas to Focus On

There are so many fun ways to introduce the Bible Gems in these books and then do activities, play games, and make reminders to help children memorize them and apply them to their lives. Be creative! This guide is meant to stimulate your imagination and help you come up with ideas to keep things lively and keep kids engaged.

Here are five areas to focus on, with suggestions for using Gemstones to teach children God's Word and train them to do what it says.



Memorize Them

Use these games and activities to introduce the new Gem of the week before you read the related Bible story or devotion. You can also use them over time as fun ways to remind children of Gemstones they've already learned. Make up games and activities of your own, and invite kids to invent some too!

- Use a spinner from a board game (or buy an inexpensive one online) and play Wheel of Fortune.
- Write the Gem of the week on a piece of white paper, using a white crayon. Then invite the child to paint the paper with watercolors as you read the Bible story or devotion. The Gemstone will magically appear!
- Use a blackboard, whiteboard, or large pad of paper to play hangman.
- Write the words of the Gem of the week on notecards, scramble them up, and challenge children to unscramble them. As kids learn more Gemstones, add those words to the stack to unscramble each week.
- Scramble the letters of one or more Gemstones and have children unscramble them, to introduce the Bible Gem of the week or review Gems already learned.
- Write the Bible Gem in a secret code, and then give children the key to unlocking the code—perhaps a cardboard wheel they can turn to line up numbers with letters.
- Play bucket bonanza! Each time the child throws a ball into a bucket, he or she gets to guess a letter in the Gemstone of the week.
- Using an online tool, make a Bible Gem word search puzzle to print out for children to solve. To make it more challenging, don't include a list of the Gems to find.
- Write pairs of matching Gemstone quotes on notecards and use them to play concentration.
- Make Bible Gem flashcards, each with a word missing for the child to say.
- Make a graffiti wall of Gemstones! Hang large sheets of paper or poster boards on the wall, and each week let kids write the new Bible Gem on the wall. Encourage them to use different colors, fancy letters, symbols, and decorations.

- Active kids need to use their bodies to engage in learning. Toss a ball back and forth or play games (such as H-O-R-S-E) with a basketball hoop, cornhole board, badminton net, or disc golf target as you introduce or review Gemstones.
- Use a blackboard, a whiteboard, or an easel with a large pad of paper to play Pictionary with Gemstones.
- Play a game of Bible Gem charades.
- Try the telephone game and see if the last person in line can say the Gemstone correctly. How many times does it take to get it right?
- Find rocks outdoors and help children stack them. Start with one rock for each word of the Bible Gem they're learning. Then see how high you can go!
- Write the Gemstone of the week on the driveway or sidewalk with colored chalk. After discussing that one, challenge kids to write as many Bible Gems as they can remember.
- Show kids how to skip stones on a pond or lake. See if they can make a stone skip once for each word in the week's Bible Gem—as they say the words!
- For older children, set up tin cans with the words of the Gemstone written on them. Let them shoot at the cans with a slingshot and some stones until they knock over all the cans. Before each shot, have them say the entire Bible Gem, including the missing words. (Younger children can throw beanbags.)
- Tie-dye T-shirts and write Bible Gems on them with permanent markers. Or decorate a baseball cap and write a Gemstone on it.
- Help kids design their own Gemstone buttons that they can pin on their shirts or backpacks. You can find button kits at craft stores or online.
- Make some “gemstones”! Help kids paint ordinary stones in different colors and patterns. When the stones dry, write a Bible Gem on each one.

A good way to motivate kids to memorize Gems is to set up a reward system as an incentive to collect them.

- Kids love candy! Google “chocolate rocks” to find some colorful, yummy candy stones you can use as game prizes and rewards. Or look for them at your favorite candy store.
- Each time a child memorizes a Bible Gem, give them a gemstone to add to their collection—a jar or bag of gemstones or a necklace or bracelet made of stones. Both gemstones and beaded gemstones are available online, and they're surprisingly inexpensive.
- Reward children who memorize a set number of Gemstones with a stone paperweight engraved with their favorite Bible Gem. You can order these online as well, and they don't cost much.
- Make a Gemstones keepsake! Go to a trophy store and buy a wooden plaque to which you can add brass plates engraved with Bible Gems as children memorize them.



Think about Them

Create reminders of the Gemstone of the week, as well as other Bible Gems that children know.

- Write the Gem of the week on the bathroom mirror with a dry-erase marker, a bar of soap, or shaving cream.
- Put Bible Gem sticky notes and/or notecards in creative places for kids to discover throughout the week.
- Spell out the Gemstone of the week with wooden ABC blocks on a dresser or shelf (you may need a couple sets of blocks to have enough letters).
- Help kids make wall art spelling out or illustrating the Bible Gem they are learning. You can hang one frame and change the artwork as you focus on different Gemstones.
- Get a nice countertop chalkboard and use it to keep the weekly Bible Gem in view each day.
- Buy a Lite-Brite toy and use it to display the Gemstone of the week.

As you read the Gem of the week and the accompanying Bible story or devotion, ask questions to help children ponder what the Gemstone means. Throughout the week, encourage kids to think about the new Bible Gem, and other Gems they've learned, as they go through each day. Tell them to be on the lookout for ways these truths from God's Word relate to their lives. Let them know you'll be talking with them about these things later, because you want to hear about what God is teaching them!

- Try to imagine situations children will face, and prompt them to consider how the Gem of the week relates to those. For example, you could challenge a child to count how many times the Gem "Walk with the wise" (Prov. 13:20) can be good advice during their day at school. Encourage them to think about how it can help them make good choices.
- It can be difficult for young children to hear a story from the Bible and apply it to themselves, because most young kids think literally. When reading the Bible Gem "Trust in the Lord" (Prov. 3:5) in the story about Adam and Eve, children may hear the lesson that disobeying God is sinful and leads to misery, but perhaps as long as they stay away from talking snakes and don't eat fruit, they'll be fine. So it's important to help them relate Bible Gems to their everyday lives. For example, if you tell a child you have only twenty dollars to spend at the mall, invite them to think about how the more expensive things are like the forbidden fruit in the garden.
- Help children think in abstract terms by asking fun questions like, "How are ideas like Legos?" (they can connect together, can be big or small, can come in many shapes and sizes) or "How is knowledge like a seat belt?" (it protects you if you use it, different seat belts fit different ages, it "clicks"). With the Bible Gem "Remember the miracles" (Neh. 9:17) in the story about the Israelites using rocks to remember how God helped them cross the Jordan River, you could ask a child, "How is a stone like

a thought?” With the Gem “The Lord gives strength” (Ps. 29:11) in the story about Samson, you could ask, “How is power like a muscle?”



Talk about Them

The Bible says we should not only teach children God’s words but also talk about them a lot! Look for opportunities to discuss Bible Gems anytime—at breakfast, after school, while doing yardwork, during dinner, at bedtime. Ask kids what they’re discovering about these truths, listen to their answers, and offer insights you’ve gained through your experiences.

- It can be difficult to get more than one-word answers from children. Questions like, “How was your day?” often elicit responses like, “Fine.” To get children to open up, ask open-ended questions. For the Gemstone, “The Lord is powerful” (Josh. 4:24) in the story of how God rescued his people from the Egyptian army, instead of asking, “Wouldn’t it be scary to face an army?” you could ask, “What would be the scariest part about facing an army, the part no one really thinks about?” One fun way to open up discussion is to ask either-or questions. With this Gem, you could say, “Would you rather face an army with a thousand of your own soldiers and no weapons or by yourself with one really powerful weapon—and why?”
- Challenge children to point out Bible stories in which people lived out the Gem “Overcome evil with good” (Rom. 12:21). How did those people find the courage and strength to do that? What risks did they take? How did God help them? What was the outcome?
- Discuss the many ways that the truths in Bible Gems are reflected—or not—in books, in TV shows, in movies, in music, in art, in the news. How many examples can children think of?
- Ask kids to share ways in which the Gemstones they’ve learned have made a difference at home, at school, with their friends, on the sports field, and in any other part of their lives.
- Invite children to tell you how they think God is using the Gem of the week to help them grow in their faith and walk more closely with him.
- Ask kids, “Out of all the Bible Gems you’ve learned so far, which is your favorite and why?”



Pray about Them

Prayer is such a critical part of learning, understanding, and applying God’s Word. Be sure to pray with and for children as you teach them the truths in the Bible Gems books.

- Turn to the table of contents in the illustrated Bible or the devotional and pray over all the Scripture quotes there, collectively, asking God to write these truths on the minds and hearts of the children you are leading.
- Each time you introduce a new Bible Gem to children, pray with them about it. Encourage children to ask God to help them understand it, remember it, and put it into practice.
- Pray regularly for the children you are teaching, asking God to use the Gem of the week—and all the Gems learned so far—to mold them into his image. Pray for specific issues you are aware of in each child’s life.
- Teach kids how to turn Gemstones into short, powerful prayers. These can be prayers of praise, such as “Lord, you are good” (Ps. 100:5), “God, you are faithful” (1 Cor. 10:13), and “God, your love never fails” (Ps. 52:8). Or they can be requests, such as “Jesus, help me live like you” (1 John 2:6), “God, help me put my hope in you” (Ps. 42:5), and “Lord, help me value others above myself” (Phil. 2:3).
- It is helpful before prayers for children to review the lesson from the story or devotion. Help children brainstorm a circumstance that relates to the Bible Gem. That way, when they begin praying, they will already have an idea in mind. “Dear God, thank you for helping me to remember, ‘Don’t be afraid; just believe.’ God, I was afraid today that I wouldn’t be able to find a friend to sit with at lunch, but I remembered to believe in you and that you tell us to be kind to others. And it worked! Sarah sat next to me at lunch because I helped her pick up her markers. Thank you for friends and for helping me remember to trust in you.”
- Encourage children to pray for their family members, friends, neighbors, and classmates regarding the truths in Bible Gems.



Live Them Out

As you help kids to memorize Bible Gems and apply these powerful truths to their lives—through thinking about them, talking about them, and praying about them—you are fulfilling your calling as a Christian parent or educator to teach children God’s Word and train them to do what it says. Here are some ways to set goals that will inspire kids to put Gemstones into action.

- “Honor your father and mother” (Eph. 6:2). Let children give themselves a sticker on a sticker chart to track how many times they are respectful and obedient to their mom and dad during the week. Encourage kids to write a note to one of their parents, letting them know how much they appreciate them.
- “Let your light shine” (Matt. 5:16). Tell kids they can signal you with a secret hand-code of “sunshine hands” (fingers spread like sun rays) every time they think they have shared joy with someone else by making them smile. Challenge children to find someone who needs a little light in their lives and

visit them or call them.

- “Go and make disciples” (Matt. 28:19). Help kids keep a tally to track how many times they share a Bible Gem with someone outside of their home. Have children draw a picture of a Bible Gem story, and then encourage them to pick a neighbor or friend to whom they can show the picture and explain the story.
- “God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor. 9:7). Get children a box of fun, colorful pencils and sharpen them together. Throughout the week, encourage kids to give them to others who may need one at school. Have children select some toys to donate to a local shelter, or use some of their own money to buy a new toy. Be sure they go with you to the drop-off so they can experience the joy of seeing someone receive their gift!

Acknowledgement

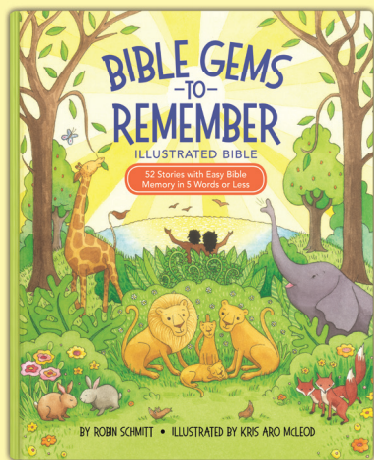
I want to thank my sister, Ashley Schmitt Rolader, a teacher in Atlanta, for cowriting this guide.

-- Author, Robin S. Schmitt

Bible Gems to Remember Illustrated Bible

Bible Gems to Remember Devotions for Kids

About the Books



Bible Gems to Remember Illustrated Bible

9780310746881

\$18.99

Scripture is filled with “gemstones”—concise statements of five words or less that hold great value, meaning, and power. *Bible Gems to Remember Illustrated Bible*, written by Robin Schmitt and illustrated by Kris Aro McLeod, takes children through 52 stories from the Bible, each featuring a powerful gem from Scripture to memorize.

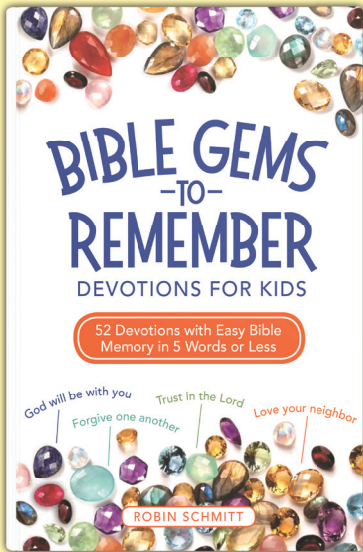
God can accomplish amazing things with just a few words. Imagine what he could do in the heart of a child who memorizes and meditates on these short “gems” of wisdom from the Bible.

Bible Gems to Remember Illustrated Bible:

- Offers 52 stories from the Bible, one for each week of the year, enhanced with beautiful gemstone photos that encourage children to memorize Scripture
- Includes more related gems to ponder at the end of each Bible story above and beyond the featured

gemstone verse

- Is creatively based on Scripture “gemstones” that are concise statements of five words or less that hold great value, meaning, and power
- Features a gorgeous cover that sparkles and shines



Bible Gems to Remember Devotions for Kids

9780310746256

\$14.99

Bible Gems to Remember Devotions for Kids, written by Robin Schmitt, shows how God can accomplish amazing things with just a few words. Scripture is filled with “gemstones”—concise statements of five words or less that hold great value, meaning, and power. This photo-driven devotional includes 52 of these special Bible gems to memorize as well as additional gems to ponder at the end of the devotion.

Bible Gems to Remember Devotions for Kids:

- Includes 52 devotions, one for each week of the year, enhanced with beautiful gemstone photos that encourage children to memorize Scripture
- Is creatively based on Scripture “gemstones” that are concise statements of five words or less that hold great value, meaning, and power
- Features a gorgeous cover that sparkles and shines

About the Author



Robin Schmitt has written several books for children and adults, including *The Adventure Bible Handbook*, *The NIV Adventure Bible Book of Devotions*, *Married for Life*, *101 Amazing Things About Heaven*, and *The 100 Most Important Bible Verses for Men*. Robin has a passion for inspiring readers of all ages toward spiritual maturity and childlike faith. He lives in Michigan with his wife and three children.