

Fighter Verse Testimonies

How many times have you given your child something and, after waiting for the expected response and not getting it, urged with “What do you say?” The answer you have taught them is “Thank you,” of course. Amy asked her 3-year-old, Kezia, who had just received something from her mom, “What do you say?” Kezia’s unexpected response was “Children obey your parents in the Lord.” Another Fighter Verse applied!

From Noël—How much good is it for our young children to memorize? Aren’t they just mouthing words that mean nothing to them? The truth is that we don’t know just how much a small child understands. His comprehension is leaping ahead every day. It’s a wonderful thing to have a little mind filled with good words that are there to fill up with meaning as the child begins to understand more. Actually, our children usually are ahead of our expectations in what they understand. A couple of days ago, I started singing with Talitha, “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus.” After a couple of times, she stopped in the middle and said, “Wheh Jesus is going?” In other words, she wasn’t just mouthing words; she was thinking about them.

Kurt and Wendy are planning to minister with Campus Crusade for Christ in East Asia. Following a recent 10-day ministry trip, Wendy wrote: “We really need prayer coverage. I was impressed with the reality that Satan is alive and well. The oppression is tangible. Just being there for 10 days was enough to convince me that I needed to really put the Word in my mind and in the minds of my children so we could dwell in truth, and not the lies the enemy would want to plant. I am so thankful for the Scripture memory Bethlehem is promoting. By the time we go over we should have a good warehouse of verses stored up.”

A mother of young children shared with me that she never thought her family could take part in this program. But they took the plunge and are not only doing it, but enjoying it. It takes work, but oh how valuable in the end to arm our children with, “The Sword of the Spirit”! If you haven’t yet begun, consider buying a Fighter Verse packet. You don’t have to try to catch up—begin with the verse for the current week. But start today to work as a family in hiding God’s Word in your hearts.

Some thoughts from David Livingston: “Our technique for memorizing Fighter Verses is to read them at the breakfast table each school morning with the girls. We do it line-by-line (I read...they repeat). And then we have a prayer. At night I try to rehearse the passage in the bedtime prayer with the younger girls. By Thursday or Friday we usually have it in our minds. Needless to say, there are many mornings and evenings when we need the truths contained in those passages to fight the good fight and stop fighting the bad one over our cereal and juice...”

Having trouble learning the Bible verse references? Let this story from Judy—ministering in Jos, Nigeria—encourage you: “Back in February, Mike had a patient who was Yoruba. None of the nurses could communicate with her. She was very frightened and couldn’t sleep. They had put a patient in with her who had had a severe stroke. She had a Yoruba Bible, so Mike told her he would give her a prescription. The daughter was there to translate. He gave her Psalm 56:3-4. She was skeptical but the next day she asked for another “prescription.” He gave her Psalm 62:5-6 and the next day Psalm 62:7-8. When she was discharged she said she thought the verses were as helpful as the medicine she got. It hit us how important it was to know the reference, since Mike, of course, would not otherwise have been able to find it in the Yoruba Bible.”

From Jonathan in Japan: “Recently, when I couldn’t sleep, I reviewed some Scripture. It was meaningful to tie together a truth within one verse with a truth in another. For example, through Isaiah 40:28-31 I remembered that the Lord never grows tired or weary. Then I considered this in relation to Psalm 121: ‘He will watch over your life. The Lord will watch over your coming and your going both now and forevermore.’ Putting these together, I meditated on the fact that the Lord will never grow tired of watching over us! This was a wonderful encouragement at this time for us.”

A pastor from Wisconsin recently called to ask how to start a Fighter Verse program in his church. He had purchased a set of Fighter Verses at the Pastors’ Conference and has been memorizing the Fighter Verses along with us. “It really works,” he said as he expressed his excitement and desire to see his church memorize the Word of God. About a week later, a former Bethlehem Baptist Church member, who has moved away from the Twin Cities, called to report that she has been memorizing the Fighter Verses from the church newsletter. She is so excited about the benefit it has brought into her life that she talked to her pastor about learning Fighter Verses church-wide. He and his board have heartily agreed to encourage the congregation to memorize Fighter Verses.

From a Fighter Verse User: “The Fighter Verses have been a great help to me. Recently, I was struggling with getting courage to bring up the topic of spiritual things to a co-worker. I’ve always had a great fear of doing that, but then I remembered the verse we learned from Psalm 27:3: ‘The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?...’ Trusting in this promise gave me the courage to share with this co-worker. Also, my wife and I are greatly helped in reviewing and learning the verses by taping them to our NordicTrak. We tape verses from the past five weeks, in addition to the current verse. This not only helps our exercise time go faster, but it also helps us in memorizing the Word.”

Imagine yourself in a hospital bed for nine days after a serious accident resulting in six hours of surgery. Where do you turn? This was the situation for Marsha. Where did she turn? She turned to the Fighter Verses she had committed to memory, and found great comfort in Psalm 62:5-8 (one of her favorite passages): “Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken. My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge. Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.” Psalm 91, recently learned and fresh in her mind, was another Scripture she turned to, with the new understanding that “...no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent” means that “no harm will befall me without God’s permission and design, and God’s design for those ever in his care is always good.” Where will you turn?

A new Bethlehem attender is not only learning the Fighter Verses, but is teaching the Foundation Verses to her 2-year-old. Their pattern is to have mom say her Fighter Verse to the 2-year-old, and he in turn recites his Foundation Verse to her. Recently as mom was reciting Numbers 23:19, and got to the questions: “Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?” her 2-year-old responded with a very emphatic, “NOOOOOO!” The mother’s heart was blessed as she realized that her 2-year-old was learning about God’s character even though he can’t explain it in words.

I am using the Word in my heart literally daily now to battle Satan and it’s working!

My office at work is wall-papered with the Fighter Verses. Psalm 62:5-8 is probably my favorite and has encouraged me many times.

Memorizing these verses has been extremely helpful in my walk with Christ. It has enhanced my prayer life and has also guided me when I talk to people who don’t know Christ. Knowing these verses has been so encouraging to me and comforting.

One time last week, when I was learning Romans 12:1-2 while I was driving the car to work, I said, “Therefore, I urge you brothers, in view of God’s mercy” and then I had to pause for several minutes—

I was totally overwhelmed with emotion and tears welling up—and just meditated on the joy of God’s mercy on me, a sinner! It reaffirmed the power of God’s word to me personally.

From a Woman in Quentin, South Africa—”When Char first wrote and asked me if we could/would sign up, I felt totally overwhelmed and explained to her in great detail that our family is so chaotic...that we can’t even get Christmas to be celebrated on the right day, never mind sticking to anything long-term. So I tentatively agreed to attempt the preschool program, ONLY, and ordered two more tote bags to encourage my older two to earn stars, and took a very deep breath. Last night I sewed five stars onto Joshua’s newly-arrived bag, listened to Josi, who is now four, recite three stars worth (15 verses), and delighted in Joy’s 25 verses and then...the real reason I am writing...Joseph, who will be three in May, rattled off the first two verses of Psalm 121, and did it again a while later...About the third time, he got as far as, ‘I will lift up my eyes to the hills...’ and suddenly asked, ‘But how do we take our eyes off?!’”

Life at our house is much different than it was just a couple weeks ago. I hear questions like, “Oh Mom, can I please learn two verses today, not just one?” I see things like paper-clipped stacks of verses cut up into words lying on the kitchen table. I hear laughter as father and son take turns rearranging verse words on slips of paper for the other to put back into the correct sequence.

From Phaitoon, Thailand: “Those verses (the Warfare Fighter’s memory verses) are crucial to our work. We are to promote this Scripture memorization in the church. My second daughter, Joy, just had her second baby boy. I named Him ‘Yuthakorn’ meaning ‘He who has his hands trained for war!’ And we gave the nickname ‘Michael’ to him because Michael is the archangel of God for war in the heavenly. These names are prophetic for the baby’s life. We expect some great things to happen in the spirit world as we continue to fight for the advancement of Christ’s Kingdom in Thailand. ‘Thy kingdom come, O God, we pray!’”

In a Focus on the Family broadcast, well-known Christian psychiatrist, Dr. Paul Meier, said that he spends three to four a day memorizing or reviewing Scripture verses. Three or four hours! His reason? “The answers to 99% of people’s problems are found in the Bible.” You may not spend three to four hours, but do set aside some time each day to memorize and meditate on the book with all the answers.

Martha died 26 hours before her 87th birthday. Up until the time she was taken to the hospital, she was learning the Fighter Verses right along with us. When she was too weak to commit the verse of the week to memory, her daughter Judi, at her side in the hospital room, read the passage to her. What would you like to hear right before you pass into eternity? This is what Martha heard: “Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.” Psalm 73:25-26

From Sam Crabtree: “I recently spoke with the father of two boys. Part of their going to bed routine includes the oldest, the 4-year-old, reciting all 20 of the verses he knows—all the verses, every night. Now, here’s the payoff. The Dad has also learned 20 verses, just from listening, and he wasn’t even trying! It just happened. I, too, have found that a parent engrafts Scripture by engaging with children in their efforts to learn the Bible. So, reap the benefits of helping children!” 