

CROSSWALK PASSAGES

BLESSINGS FROM GOD

**Grades 2 & 3
1st Quarter**



Welcome to the CrossWalk!

In street traffic, you walk safely and have the 'right of way' only by walking in the crosswalk. In our spiritual lives we also need to "do the CrossWalk" ...



STOP going our own way, the way of sin, and turn to God's way, the Right Way!

LOOK to Jesus, who died on a cross to pay for our sin and offer us forgiveness and eternal life with Him as our Friend. Take His offer!

LISTEN to the Holy Spirit and walk with the Lord, in His Way, sticking close to Him—as close as His shadow!

"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust!"

Because he has loved Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him securely on high, because he has known My name. He will call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. With a long life I will satisfy him And let him see My salvation."

Psalms 91:1-2, 14-16 (NASB)

We begin with Blessings...

This CrossWalk book starts with THE beginning of creation and is full of Bible passages on God's blessings and how YOU can receive them! Memorize these passages to help you stay in the CrossWalk and close to our Lord and see how exciting life with Jesus can be!



"Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

*But one who looks intently at the **perfect law**, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be **blessed** in what he does."*

James 1:17-18, 25 (NASB)

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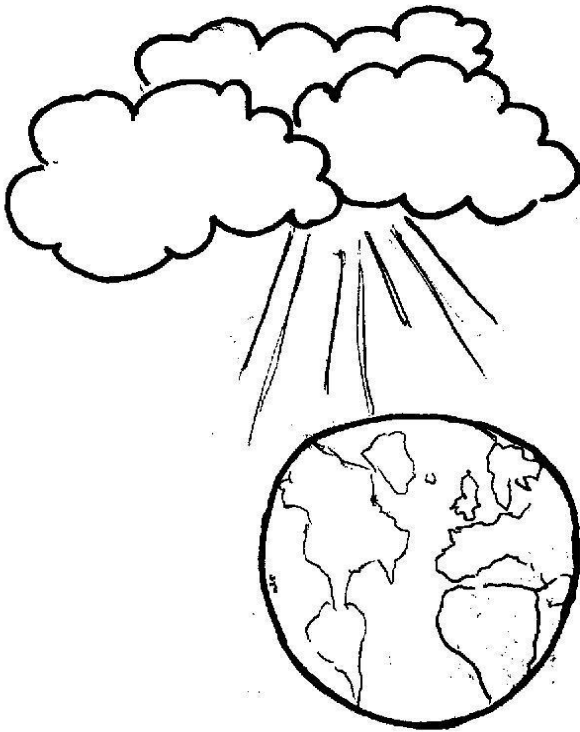
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BLESSINGS FROM GOD

God is the good Creator

Genesis 1:1-5, 25, 27, 31a

- ___ 1 In the beginning God
created the heavens and the earth.
- ___ 2 The earth was formless and void,
and darkness was over the surface of the deep,
and the Spirit of God was moving
over the surface of the waters.



BLESSINGS FROM GOD

God is the good Creator

Genesis 1:1-5, 25, 27, 31a

- ___ 3 Then God said, "Let there be light";
and there was light.
- ___ 4 God saw that the light was good;
and God separated the light from the darkness.
- ___ 5 God called the light day,
and the darkness He called night.
And there was evening
and there was morning, one day.



BLESSINGS FROM GOD

God is the good Creator

Genesis 1:1-5, 25, 27, 31a

_____ 25 God made the beasts of the earth after their kind,
and the cattle after their kind,
and everything that creeps on the ground
after its kind;
and God saw that it was good.

_____ 27 God created man in His own image,
in the image of God He created him;
male and female He created them.

_____ 31a God saw all that He had made,
and behold, it was very good.



BLESSINGS FROM GOD

Delight in God's Word

Psalms 1: 1-3

- ___ 1 How blessed is the man
who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,
Nor stand in the path of sinners,
Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!
- ___ 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
And in His law he meditates day and night.

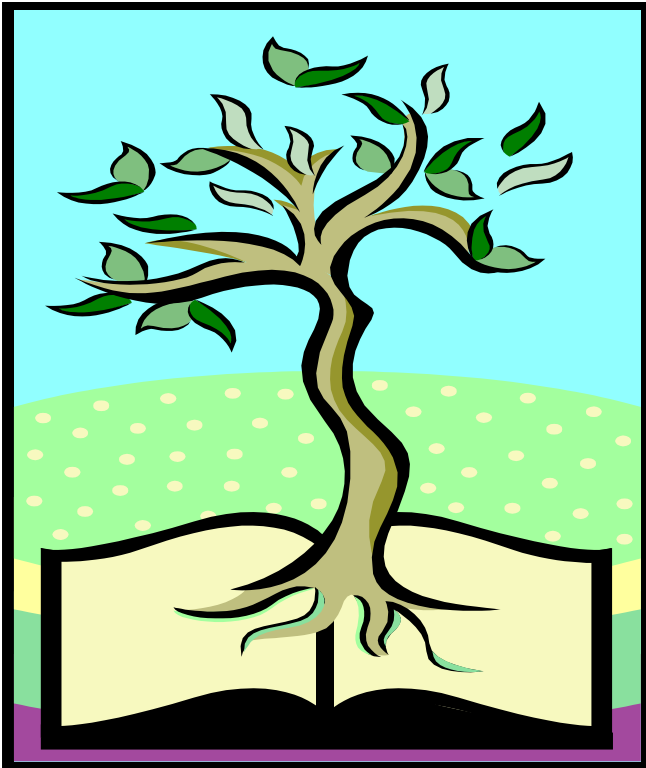


BLESSINGS FROM GOD

Delight in God's Word

Psalm 1: 1-3

___ 3 He will be like a tree *firmly* planted
by streams of water,
Which yields its fruit in its season
And its leaf does not wither;
And in whatever he does, he prospers.



BLESSINGS FROM GOD

God Cares for Me

Psalm 23

- _____ 1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
- _____ 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside quiet waters.
- _____ 3 He restores my soul;
He guides me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.

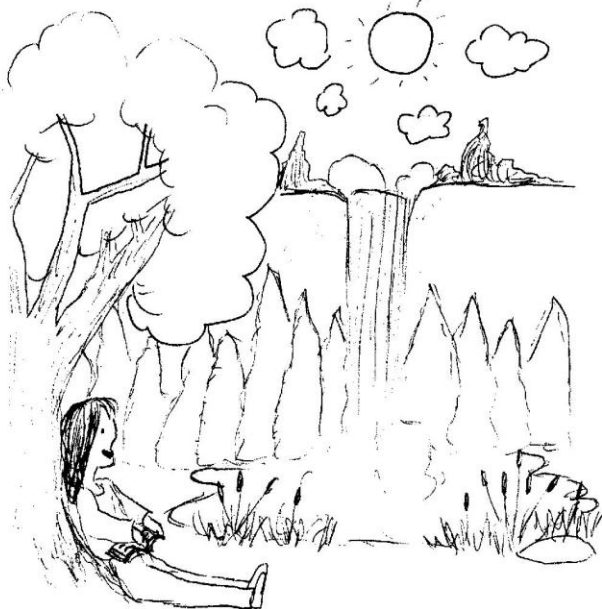


BLESSINGS FROM GOD

God Cares for Me

Psalm 23

- ___ 4 Even though I walk
through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil, for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
- ___ 5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows.
- ___ 6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness
will follow me all the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.



BLESSINGS FROM GOD

Bless the Lord

Psalm 103: 1-4, 8, 12-13

- ___ 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul,
And all that is within me, *bless* His holy name.
- ___ 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul,
And forget none of His benefits;



BLESSINGS FROM GOD

Bless the Lord

Psalm 103: 1-4, 8, 12-13

- ___ 3 Who pardons all your iniquities,
Who heals all your diseases;
- ___ 4 Who redeems your life from the pit,
Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion;
- ___ 8 The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.



BLESSINGS FROM GOD

Bless the Lord

Psalm 103: 1-4, 8, 12-13

- _____ 12 As far as the east is from the west,
So far has He removed our transgressions from us.
- _____ 13 Just as a father has compassion on *his* children,
So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him.



HBC CROSSWALK MEMORY VERSE PROGRAM

“My son, if you will receive my words
And treasure my commandments within you,
Make your ear attentive to wisdom,
Incline your heart to understanding;
For if you cry for discernment,
Lift your voice for understanding;
If you seek her as silver
And search for her as for hidden treasures;
Then you will discern the fear of the LORD
And discover the knowledge of God.
For the LORD gives wisdom;
From His mouth come knowledge and understanding.”
- Proverbs 2:1-6

THE GOAL

Excite kids about God’s Word--Hidden Treasure!

This Proverb describes a child who is excited about God’s Word—attentive with inclined heart, crying for discernment, seeking treasure and discovering knowledge and understanding. That’s the GOAL! Yes, we plan to provide games and prizes to motivate our kids to memorize Bible passages that are fundamental to the Christian life. But more importantly, we aim to challenge them with longer passages of the Bible. We believe that greater chunks of Scripture provide greater context and therefore greater meaning, as well as a bigger impression on them because they CAN memorize so much. We have faith that whatever they memorize can have a powerful influence on them. We pray that we will instill in each participant, a love for the Word and success in memorizing it.

THE PLAN

Two-year cycle of Bible passages

We have organized a selected number of passages into a program that lasts two years. Each passage is divided into age appropriate sections, the older the child, the longer the passages are. As a child progresses through the grade levels, he/she will repeat the same passages every two years, reviewing the section from the previous level and adding a bit more of the same passage in the new level. Typically, we work on a passage for 2-4 weeks, at the following pace for each grade level:

Grades K-1: about 1 verse per week

Grades 2-3: about 2 verses per week

Grades 4-5: about 3 verses per week

A two-year cycle fits reasonably well with budding reading abilities and will allow time enough before the cycle starts over, so that reviewing and adding to previous knowledge will encourage the kids but avoid boring repetition.

WHY THIS APPROACH?

Better understanding and best use of children's natural ability to memorize

We focus on longer Bible passages rather than individual verses to provide more context for the verses. This allows for better understanding & application of the passage (eg. 1 Cor. 13 will become familiar to them as the "Love Chapter"). The passages may seem long, but most children's brains are developmentally at their best for memorizing. Ever notice how much data children love to acquire during their first 2-3 years of life? (1000's of new words, ideas, people, places) Only in adulthood do many of us feel burdened by memorizing facts (& long Bible

passages), perhaps because our "data bank" is approaching 'overload'.

Just a short daily review at home will be enough for most children to learn the Bible passages. Of course, it will take effort, but we have faith that such effort is good training. We hope the CrossWalk rewards and your help at home will encourage those efforts. Let's fill their "data bank" with God's Word first!

We do not want to discourage those children who do not find it naturally easy to memorize! We want to encourage everyone to do they best they can and not worry about what other people are doing. At the same time, learning alongside others and sometimes healthy peer pressure can give great motivation!

WHEN DO WE FIND TIME TO MEMORIZE?

The battle won't go away when they grow up!

The Word of God really is **the priceless treasure it claims to be**. Knowing the Word is the first step to digging up that treasure. Our children can be so busy with schoolwork, sports & entertainment (TV, video & computer games...) that it's easy for them to feel too busy to learn the Bible! But as parents and teachers, **we must help our children set high standards** and help them **make time for learning the Word**. It's a battle for their hearts and minds!

HOW DOES IT WORK?

On Sundays, we will teach the meaning of the verses and get the kids started on memorizing Bible Passages in "chewable chunks". During the week, you help your child practice. Also, please help your child keep track of the CrossWalk book and bring it each Sunday to CrossWalk.

Reciting verses for prizes

When? Sunday is a big day!

Sundays - children can recite their verses and collect points for prizes at the prize table.

To whom? Your leader is your friend!

CrossWalk leaders, parents, Club leaders, designated "CrossWalk Verse Listeners."

What? Points and more points!

Let's say our passage is Psalm 1. All grades will learn Psalm 1, but the youngest kids will learn only verses 1 & 2, while the oldest kids will learn all 6 verses.

- 1 POINT per verse for ANY portion of the CrossWalk passage.
 - any part of a CrossWalk passage, eg. Saying any one verse in their Psalm 1 passage =1 point.
 - an entire passage after the due date*, eg. Saying Psalm 1:1-2 = 2 pts, Psalm1:1-6 = 6 pts

AND.....LOOK WHAT *MORE* YOU CAN EARN!

- DOUBLE POINTS per verse for reciting an entire CrossWalk passage by the due date*.
 - Recite entire passage at one sitting with no more than about 3 prompts. eg. Recite all of Psalm 1:1-3 by the due date for 6 points!
 - Receive double points *each* time you recite a whole passage by the due date! You could earn up to 18 points if you say Psalm 1 each Sunday it's taught & until the due date!

*We give 2-4 weeks for learning most passages - the due date is usually one week after each 2-4 week learning period.

How? Start at the CrossWalk, follow-up at home

Once passages are introduced and reviewed in CrossWalk on Sundays, the most meaningful work should be done at home. You can get extra copies of the verses from your child's Crosswalk leader or download them from

http://www.hillviewbiblechapel.net/home2/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=94:crosswalk-memory-verses&catid=56:resources&Itemid=91

Print out the verses and put them places the kids will likely see them throughout the day – at the table (under a clear plastic placemat?), in the car, taped next to the bathroom mirror (they need to spend a good two to four minutes in there brushing and flossing anyway!). Of course, you could add your own rewards to the system we have. And if you have any ideas for things that would motivate your child that we might want to incorporate into our reward program, let us know!!

If memorizing Bible verses is a new skill, or simply a major challenge, we encourage you to start your child off by setting a personal goal with him/her. Encourage your child to earn points for at least parts of the CrossWalk Passage. Eventually build up to learning the entire passages. Learn the verses along with your child—the competition will be good for you! **Studying at home is the key to success.**

Periodically, we offer extra rewards to give further incentive--a special prize for saying all of a particularly difficult passage, or maybe a reward for learning all the passages for a quarter! We may also award kids with certificates to commend them for their efforts and provide a concrete record of their achievement.

Pray together about this endeavor and teach your child to look for the Lord's hand in your child's life!

Why? God's Word in need is a Blessing indeed!

Hopefully the true reward for each child will be when he/she can apply the Word in a time of spiritual victory or struggle. We'll work with the students to try to help them put the Words in their heads, but more importantly help them learn to apply God's Word to their hearts and lives.

Ultimately the Holy Spirit will be the One doing this work!

NASB BIBLE TRANSLATION

Although there are pros and cons to various versions, we have chosen to use the NASB(New American Standard Bible 1995) version. NASB is considered the most literally accurate modern translation, and is the version used by a majority of the preachers and teachers at Hillview. NASB is the version our University of Acts uses, and may ease the transition if (hopefully) our children want to be part of this course when they become adults.

We recognize that NASB is written to a higher reading level than NIV(New International Version). However, when it comes to memorizing something word for word, this should not be a major issue. If you want your child to use a different version, that's fine, but please realize that it might make things more difficult for him/her to practice the verses in CrossWalk since we'll be using the NASB when we work on the verses as a group.

Guidelines to get you Movin'!

1. Memorize the heading with each assignment.
2. Memorize the Bible references.
3. Memorize the verses exactly as they appear in the Bible (we recommend NASB). Do not add, do not change and do not leave out any words.
4. Recite an entire assignment at one time to get it signed off by a leader or verse listener.
5. Recite an entire passage for double points!

Be diligent and aim for excellence!

M.O.V.E. – Meditate On a Verse Everyday!



1. Ask God to help you! You have begun a great treasure hunt with guaranteed treasure from God! (Ps. 19:7-11, Proverbs 2:1,4-5)
2. Start memorizing early in the week. (Ps. 119:97) Don't save it all for the last minute! The goal is to learn the verses so well that you will remember them for a long time, hopefully even for the rest of your life!! (Ps. 119:11,16)
3. Let God speak to you through His Word. Pray that He will help you to understand the importance of His Word. Listen for Him! (Ps. 119:34)
4. Read over the passage every day, even when you don't have time to practice memorizing. Put the passage where you will see it--bathroom mirror, car, refrigerator, night stand, ...you name it!
5. Get a friend or family member to quiz you through the week!

*"Let us not lose heart in doing good,
for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary."
Galatians 6:9*

Where do I find these important topics in my Bible?	Book and Chapter
Creation	Genesis 1
Choose right company Who is Blessed? Value God's Word!	Psalm 1
God is the Shepherd (don't worry or fear)	Psalm 23
Wisdom	Proverbs 2
"The Love Chapter"	I Corinthians 13
Christian behavior- speak truth, control anger, work--don't steal, use words for good, be kind and forgiving...	Ephesians 4
Family and work relationships	Ephesians 6
Jesus says to be born again	John 3
Instructions about how to pray--"The Lord's prayer"	Matthew 6
You can only have one master...Why Christians shouldn't worry...Seek God's kingdom	Matthew 6
God's glory in creation God's Word is better than honey or gold!	Psalm 19
Who is like God? (No one!)	Isaiah 40
God is faithful!	Lamentations 3
Before salvation, we were dead...Salvation is by grace through faith...God has great plans for you...	Ephesians 2



*“He who gives attention to
the word will find good, And
blessed is he who trusts in the
LORD.”*

Proverbs 16:20