

WHY SHOULD WE TEACH CHILDREN?

- Most people who come to the Lord as adults have received a Christian testimony as a child.
- We retain longer the things we learn as a child.

Most CHALLENGING of all ministries
Most REWARDING

More "planting seeds" + "watering"
than seeing fruit —
until they grow up.



(fingertips on temples,
small forward and
outward circle)



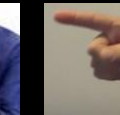
Teach a child how to

(2 out-in circles)



(outward)

follow the right way;



(pull on
"beard")

even when he is old,



(outward)



(2x)

he will stay on course.

Proverbs 22:6 (The Voice)

Role/Goal in working with children:

- **TEACH** children biblical principles
- **INSPIRE** children to believe in and trust God
 - through Bible stories + scripture
 - through testimony + example
- **HELP** them to apply principles + beliefs to daily life
- **EMPOWER** them to resist temptation
- **LEAD** them to salvation, eternal life
 - so they will live for JESUS
 - baptism in water
 - baptism in Holy Spirit
 - active in "ministry" (using talents, helping)

GET THE WORD IN THEIR HEARTS
so they can LIVE IT —
FOREVER



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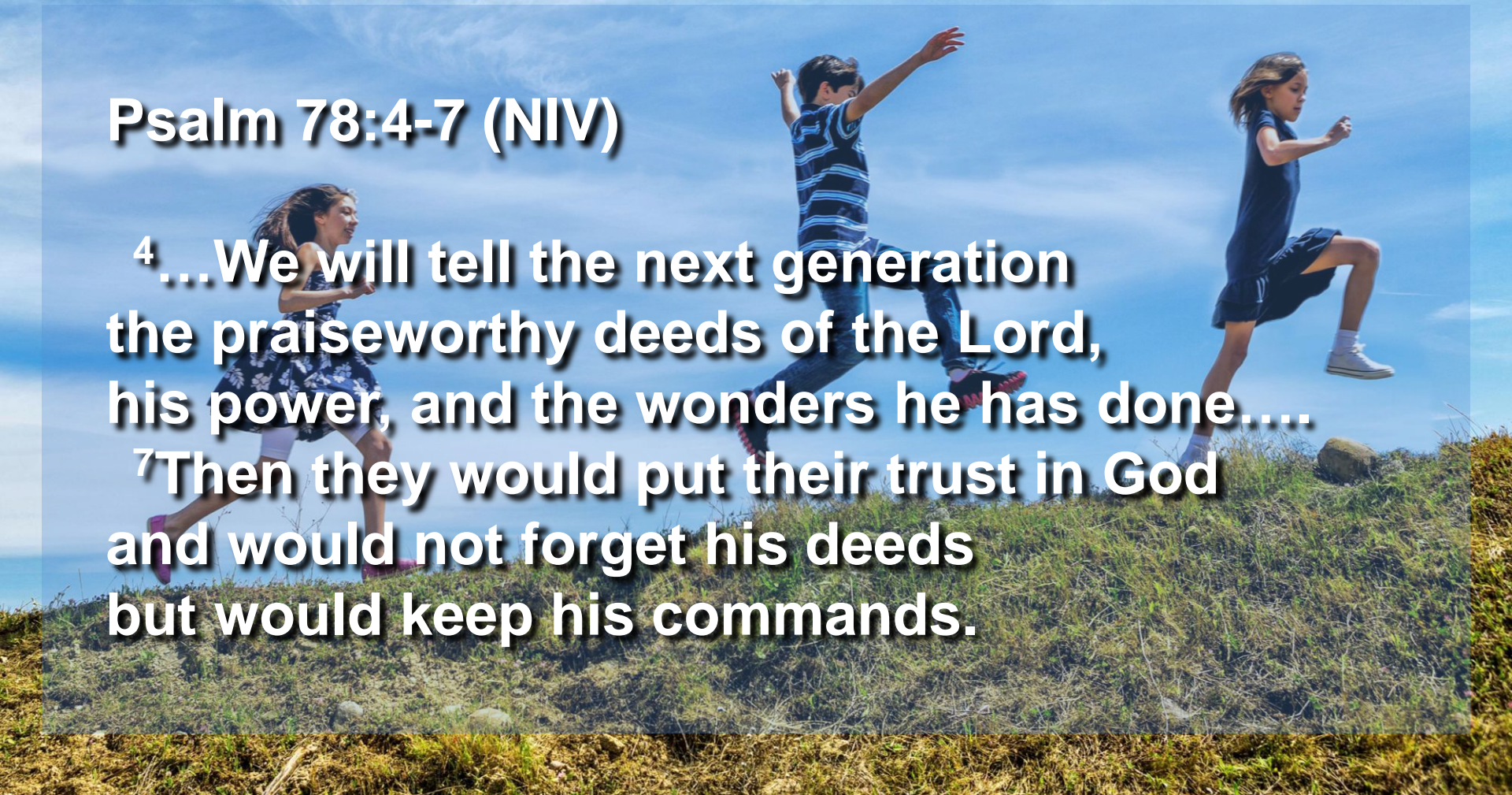
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Psalm 78:4-7 (NIV)

**⁴...We will tell the next generation
the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord,
his power, and the wonders he has done....**

**⁷Then they would put their trust in God
and would not forget his deeds
but would keep his commands.**



GET THE WORD IN THEIR HEARTS so they can LIVE IT — FOREVER

To get it in their hearts,
it has to get into long-term memory

Students retain up to...

10% of what they READ



20% of what they HEAR



30% of what they SEE

50% of what they SEE + HEAR



70% of what they SEE, HEAR + SAY



90% of what they SEE, HEAR, SAY + DO



Attention Span in minutes = age in years

**5 years of age = 5 minutes
10 years of age = 10 minutes
20 years of age = 20 minutes
30 years of age = 30 minutes
40 years of age = 30 minutes**

30 minutes = maximum

IF they are attentive.





HEY BEANS, YOU EVER WONDER IF THE INTERNET IS RUINING OUR ATTENTION SPAN? AS A SOCIETY WE'VE NEVER HAD GREATER ACCESS TO INFORMATION, YET I WORRY THAT WE'RE GRADUALLY LOSING OUR PATIENCE OR EVEN WILLINGNESS TO COMPREHEND COMPLEX IDEAS. OR DO YOU THINK MAYBE IT'S ALWAYS BEEN THIS WAY AND THE INTERNET IS JUST THE LATEST SCAPEGOAT FOR LAZY THINKERS?



WELL....?

SORRY.
TOO LONG.
DIDN'T LISTEN.



-brian.

Savage Chickens

by Doug Savage



©2007 BY DONG SAVAGE



GET THE WORD IN THEIR ~~HE~~ARTS so they can LIVE IT — FOREVER

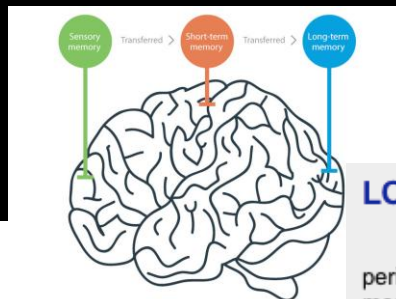
To get it in their hearts:

- we need to keep their attention
- and it has to get into long-term memory

Immediate memory=
Sensory memory=
Ultra-short-term memory

Memory:

- Ability of the brain to store and retrieve information.
 - Explicit memory: conscious, intentional recollection of an event or item of information.
 - Includes – immediate, short term and long term memories.
 - Implicit memory: Unconscious retention in memory, as evidenced by the effect of a previous experience or previously encountered information on current thoughts or actions.
 - Includes – motor memory.



LONG-TERM MEMORY

Long-term memory is, obviously enough, intended for storage of information over a long period of time. Despite our everyday impressions of **forgetting**, it seems likely that long-term memory actually decays very little over time, and can store a seemingly **unlimited** amount of information **almost indefinitely**. Indeed, there is some debate as to whether we actually ever forget anything at all, or whether it just becomes increasingly difficult to access or retrieve certain items from memory.

Short-term memories can become long-term memory through the process of consolidation, involving **rehearsal** and **meaningful association**. Unlike short-term memory (which relies mostly on an **acoustic**, and to a lesser extent a **visual**, code for storing information), long-term memory encodes information for storage **semantically** (i.e. based on meaning and association). However, there is also some evidence that long-term memory does also encode to some extent by **sound**. For example, when we cannot quite remember a word but it is on the **tip of the tongue**, this is usually based on the sound of a word, not its meaning.



**I praise You,
for I am fearfully
and wonderfully made.**

**Marvelous
are Thy works.**

Psalms 139.14

GET THE WORD IN THEIR HEARTS so they can LIVE IT — FOREVER

To get it in their hearts:

- we need to keep their attention



Attention Links Perception and Memory

James (1890)



“Every one knows what attention is. It is the taking possession by the mind, in clear and vivid form, of one out of what seem several simultaneously possible objects or trains of thought. Focalization, concentration, of consciousness are of its essence. It implies withdrawal from some things in order to deal effectively with others....”

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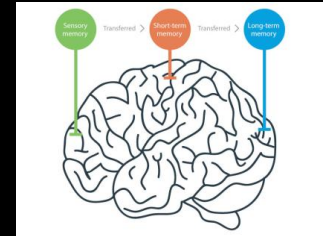
To keep their attention:

- consider their age (1 minute per year of age)
 - short segments – vary activities
- consider their cognitive + motor skills
 - what they can/can't understand (cognitive skills)
 - vocabulary
 - doctrine
 - concepts (ideas, opinion, plan)
 - what they can do (motor skills)



GET THE WORD IN THEIR ~~HEARTS~~ so they can LIVE IT — FOREVER

To get it into long-term memory:



- **Repetition**

- repeat verse several times — before, during and after Bible lesson (with game first time or signs each time)

- **present biblical principle in 3 ways**

- **Bible lesson** with images (FreeBibleImages.com)

- **song** (esp. verses put to music)

- **life application story**

- **skit** (puppets / clowns / actors)

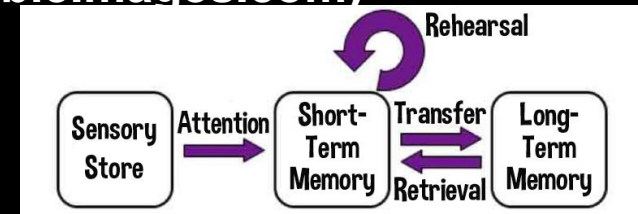
- **movie / video** (YouTube)

- **testimony**

- **object lesson / experiment** (YouTube / make film)

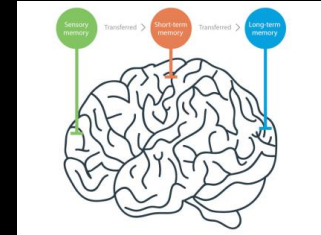
- **teaching game / review game**

- **craft / sensory activity / activity sheet**



GET THE WORD IN THEIR HEARTS

so they can LIVE IT —
FOREVER



To get it into long-term memory :

- Repetition

- repeat verse several times before, during and after Bible lesson

- present information in 3 forms

- Review

- take-home work sheet / verse card

- coloring sheet w/verse for younger children

- review lesson (after 5-7 lessons)

- lesson content (Bible stories)

- memory verses

- games / contests

- rewards



GET THE WORD IN THEIR HEARTS so they can LIVE IT — FOREVER

Writing your own material OR Adapting written material

Parts / Segments / Components of a good lesson:

- Opening Prayer (let them hear YOU pray for them)
- Worship (songs, praise – complementary to the lesson)
- Offering (giving to God)
- Attendance Sheet
 - know your students by name, try to meet their parents
- Review last week's lesson + verse
- New Memory Verse
- Bible Lesson (using memory verse during story)
 - visual aids (PowerPoint / photos / drawings / diagrams / flannelgraph)
- Complementary Presentation of biblical principle
 - Skit – Movie/Video - Object Lesson / Experiment
- Review questions + Verse
- Closing Prayer (including requests, repentance, application of biblical principle)

Review Questions

True - False

- 1. Our main goal is to GET THE WORD IN THEIR HEARTS.**
- 2. Teach a child how to follow the right way, but when he is old he will forget.**
- 3. Our main goal is to get the Word in their hearts.**
- 4. To get the Word in their hearts, it has to stay in short-term memory.**
- 5. Students retain up to 90% of what they SEE, HEAR, SAY + DO.**
- 6. A person 40 years of age has an attention span of 90 minutes.**
- 7. To keep their attention we must consider their age to use vocabulary they can understand.**
- 8. To get the Word into their long0term memory we need to Repeat the verset several times during the lesson.**
- 9. To insure understanding and help keep their attention, it is important to present the biblical principle in 3 different ways.**
- 10. We should always have the children pray rather than pray ourselves.**
- 11. If you run short on time, skip the memory verse.**

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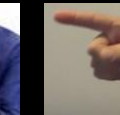
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Helpful Suggestions

- **Speak from your heart – don't "bluff" or "fake it"**
- **Put yourself in their place/mindset**
- **Use vocabulary they can understand – explain new words**
- **1 worker for every 10 children**
 - Large groups need more workers/aides
 - Rotation - at least one teacher 2 weeks in a row
- **Repeat main themes regularly**
 - God loves you – God is able to help you in any situation – God heals
 - God forgives – God's rules are for our protection – God hears + answers prayer – Jesus died for our sins + wants us to live with Him Forever
- **Use older children as helpers in tasks or presentations**
- **Challenge + reward for extra Bible memorization (chapters)**
- **Internet research for ideas**
 - first try in your language, then in English
 - Pinterest – YouTube + much more