

Articles of Faith Memory Tips

Memorization is an important part of learning, but I've always felt it was most important that the words being memorized were understood. Speaking for myself, I memorized the Articles of Faith several times in my life but still couldn't tell you on demand which one was about revelation. Because all our beliefs are touched on in these simple verses I felt it important that we know what each one talks about and not just memorized words. So I came up with a way to help teach my children what each of the 13 Articles of Faith mean.

The system generally uses their fingers or number associations to help them remember which number goes with which topic:

- 1) The topic of the first is the **Godhead**. So we use our thumb like a "thumbs up" for #1 to remind us that God comes first.



- 2) The topic of the second is men being punished for the **own sins** and not Adam's transgression. We use two fingers to represent the first parents, Adam and Eve which triggers the memory of Adam as a key player.



- 3) The topic of the third is the **Atonement**. We use three fingers to remind us of the 3 days before Christ was resurrected.



- 4) The topic of the fourth is the first **Principles & Ordinances** of the Gospel. Lucky for us there are 4 mentioned in the verse which matches perfectly so we use our 4 fingers to trigger the memory that there are 4 principles and ordinances discussed.



- 5) The topic of the fifth is Priesthood **Authority**. We use the five as a “high five” motion for the authority of the Priesthood.



- 6) The topic of the sixth is **Organization**. We point out that we’ve run out of fingers and now have to add the thumb of our next hand to help us organize, which triggers the memory of the key word organization.



- 7) The topic of the seventh is **Spiritual Gifts**. We connect the number 7 with the days of the week saying there’s a gift for every day.



8) The topic of the eighth is the **Scriptures**. You hold up four fingers on each hand showing equality and think of one hand as the Bible and the other hand as the Book of Mormon.



9) The topic of the ninth is **Revelation**. By holding up nine fingers we show how the complete hand of 5 fingers represents all that God has revealed, the 4 on the right hand represent all that he does now reveal and then you move your thumb which is tucked under to represent all that he will yet reveal.



10) The topic of the tenth is the **Gathering & Millennium**. We use all ten fingers to represent the ten tribes of Israel being gathered.



11) The topic of the eleventh is the **Right to Worship**. We now use both pointer fingers in a parallel position to represent the number 11, you use these two side by side to point out that what's good for one is good for the other.



12) The topic of the twelfth is **Obey the Laws**. For this I used the numbers of the clock to represent the hours of the day. The trigger is we have to obey the laws every hour of the day.



13) The topic of the thirteenth is **Good Stuff**. Because it the largest verse as well as the largest number we simply associate it with all the good stuff!

