

Christian Library International

GUIDE TO MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE

In our Christian Leadership Bible Study, you will be asked to memorize scripture. Memorizing scripture is a way of filling our minds with what it needs, so that we can be ready to use it at any moment of trial or temptation. We memorize because the Bible tells us to do so. Proverbs 7:1, 3 *“keep my words and treasure my commandments within you...write them on the tablet of your heart.”* The only way to put God's Word on our heart is to have it committed to memory.

Chuck Swindoll wrote, “I know of no other single practice in the Christian life more rewarding, practically speaking, than memorizing Scripture. . . . No other single exercise pays greater spiritual dividends! Your prayer life will be strengthened. Your witnessing will be sharper and much more effective. Your attitudes and outlook will begin to change. Your mind will become alert and observant. Your confidence and assurance will be enhanced. Your faith will be solidified” (Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life [Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994], p. 61).

Scripture tells us why it is important to fill our mind and heart with the word.

Psalm 119:9-11 *“How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”* This young man's experience was not only hearing God's Word, but to also keep it inside of him, storing it for use in the future, becoming a powerful influence for pure, holy righteous living.

The word of God is our weapon to fight against sin. We are told how to battle against sin in Ephesians 6:10-11, 17 *“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”.*

When Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness, he recited Scripture from memory and to fight off Satan. (Matthew 4:1–11).

TIPS ON HOW TO MEMORIZE A BIBLE VERSE

Everyone memorizes all the time. You've learned to speak by memorizing thousands of words. The problem is not that people can't memorize. It's that they won't memorize. Memorization is like exercise. The more you do it, the easier it gets. The less you do it, the harder it gets. So do it.

1. Pray for God's help in memorizing and in letting His word change you.
2. Read the verse through several times thoughtfully, aloud or in a whisper. This will help you grasp the verse as a whole.
3. Writing the verse out can be helpful. This deepens the impression in your mind.

- Give the verse a topic name, for example: salvation, witnessing, personal growth, Jesus' supremacy.
 - Each time you read it, say the topic name, the reference (i.e. Ephesians 6:17), verse, and then the reference again. Example: "salvation (the topic name I chose), John 3:16, For God so loved the world., John 3:16." Repeat this several times in a row. When you can say it well, add the next phrase and repeat, going back to the beginning, saying the topic, reference, verse and reference.
 - Apply the verse's meaning to you personally and to your daily life.
 - Study the verse to get a clear understanding of the meaning. Read other translations and the context (the verses before and after the one you are learning).
4. Find a friend to check you for accuracy as you say the verse from memory. Better yet, memorize together!
5. Review! Review! Review! Repetition is the best way to engrave the verses on your memory.