

SCRIPTURE MEMORY TIPS

Memorizing God's Word successfully takes commitment, persistence, and work. However, it is a discipline that will reap many rewards in a Christian's life. When you hide the truth of God's Word in your heart it is then available for His use. God will use it to guide you, comfort you, and transform you to be more like Jesus. Additionally, you will always be ready to give an answer to everyone for the hope you have in Christ. (See 1 Peter 3:15.)

1. Have a plan

- Decide on a time table for memorization. Will you memorize one verse a week or one a month. Don't overwhelm yourself. Start simple and plan for success. If you are fairly new to Scripture memory, start with shorter, uncomplicated verses.
- Use a list of Scriptures someone else has compiled.
- Make your own list based on what God is doing in your life right now. For example: Is God calling you to witness? To live a holy life? To foster humility? Make a list of applicable verses.
- Memorize sections of Scripture one verse at a time.

2. Write out the verses

- Use sheets of paper or index cards to write out each verse to memorize. Use one sheet per verse.

3. Have a storage system

- Use a binder or an index card box to file and store your verses for review.

4. Know the context

- Before you start to memorize read the entire section of Scripture surrounding your chosen verse. Know the setting and occasion for this verse of Scripture. Be a good steward of God's Word by using it properly.

5. Use various methods to memorize

- Write the verse. Write down the verse and the reference everyday during the initial memorization process.
- Verbalize the verse. Say the verse silently to yourself and out loud. Start phrase by phrase, working up to the entire verse with the reference.
- Hear the verse. Record the verse in some way and play it back.
- See the verse. Use additional index cards or Post-it-notes to put your verse in prominent places where you will encounter it during the day. For example: bathroom mirror, refrigerator door, the laundry room wall.
- Create visual reminders. Draw pictures that symbolize your verse. For instance, for Psalm 119:11 you could draw a Bible inside a heart to depict the idea of hiding God's Word in your heart.

6. Word perfect

- Memorize the verse word for word, along with the reference. Don't settle for low standards.

7. Review, review, review

-The one week or one month you spend memorizing a verse will never be sufficient to retain it forever. You must have a system for review. Determine to review so many verses each week. Review new verses every week for a time and then review them less and less frequently. Use dead time to review verses. For example: stuck in traffic, waiting in lines, holding on the phone.