

# **Scripture Memorization Program**

Scripture memorization works best when it is done on a regular weekly basis with intervals for review. A good goal would be two scriptures a week. More can be added, but it depends on how much you can handle. By memorizing two scriptures a week for a year the total would be 112. Do that for five years and it totals 560 scriptures. These are scriptures which that become a part of your life, which you can draw upon at any time.

## **Which scriptures to choose?**

Choose the scriptures which are assigned to you in discipleship bible studies, those that are necessary for personal victory, or those that you have discovered which are meaningful and applicable to you. These scriptures may be promises, exhortations, conditions or rebukes. It helpful for memory to make a list according to topic. When you are ready for a different challenge go for a whole chapter or book.

## **Which translation do I use?**

Use the version you are most comfortable with and use most frequently. I started off with the King James version for years, then switched to the New International Version, and now use the New King James version. I use the Amplified version for special emphasis and insight. I avoid the Living bible because it is too paraphrased. Usually I stick to one version, but pick another when it sheds a different light I am looking for.

## **Knowing the context**

When memorizing a scripture it is important to know the context, which assures it will be properly used and applied. It is easy to take a scripture out of the context of the book it is found and twist it to mean what you want. There are some practical methods to knowing what the scripture means:

- 1) Know the immediate context. Read the chapter it is in to get the gist of meaning. If it is a promise I like to know the conditions. For example Proverbs 3:4 gives a great promise for divine favor, but the conditions for receiving this favor is in verses 1-3:

1 My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands; 2 For length of days and long life And peace they will add to you. 3 Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart, 4 [And] so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man.

- 2) Read the book, and know who wrote the book, who it was written to and why. A tool that always helped me was Haley's Bible Handbook.

- 3) Look up words you feel you need to know. A good tool is a Strong's concordance, or Young's Analytical concordance.

- 4) If the scripture is controversial or vague then you have to compare it to other scriptures on the subject, and or go to good teaching to clear up the meaning.

When you are studying a book and find a scripture you want to memorize this whole process is easier. Ultimately you need to know what you want from a scripture to determine how much study should go into it. If you memorize an obvious promise for victory over temptation to help you in facing a weakness, then you probably would not need to do much out side study. When you later study the book it is in you will fill in the gaps of historical background, etc.

### **How to memorize**

Once you decide what you will memorize here are some practical ways of how to do it:

1. Say it out loud. This makes a distinct impression on the mind through hearing. Read the verse several times thoughtfully, aloud or in a whisper. This will help you grasp the verse as a whole. Say the verse aloud as much as possible.

2. Repeat the reference before the scripture is quoted and after. This solidifies the association of the reference with the verse. Learn the reference first.

3) Learn one sentence at a time, and add them to others until you can repeat the whole verse at a time. When memorizing a chapter master one verse at a time and add them together as you progress.

Some have found it helpful to use an acrostic to learn the whole verse. They rely on the initial letter of the word to remind them until they can quote it on their own:

2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone [is] in Christ, [he] [is] a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

2 Corinthians 5:17 “T, i a i i C h i a n c ; o t h p a, b, a t h b n.”

4. Write it down. Use 3 X 5” cards and carry them around to review while driving, etc. These can also be numbered and put in a file box which makes reviewing easier.

5. Focus on one scripture at a time, not a 1000. This will take away the feeling of being overwhelmed. The best way to eat an elephant is one bite at a time.

There are times I like to meditate on a list of scriptures before I memorize officially. I may quote, read, muse for a season. This makes the scripture familiar to me. This makes some scriptures easier to learn because they are in my heart already. Memorizing is then a formality.

6. Personalize. Think about how this verse applies you and your daily circumstances. If scripture memorization begins to seem lifeless try going over your verses in prayer and meditation. New freshness can also come by Sharing them with others.

### **Reviewing what you memorized**

Reviewing is the best way to engrave the verses on your memory. Scripture memorization is like muscles. If you don’t use them you lose them. Keep it before you. Don’t let it depart from your mouth. Start

with my method. If you find a better way later use it. It helps to start with someone else's program.

The day I memorize a scripture I do it in one sitting and write it on a 3 X 5" card. The rest of the week is spent reviewing and implanting the scripture on my heart & mind. After one week I know it, and then put it on a review chart.

It helps some people to pick one day to memorize & review. For example, when Saturday comes I memorize a new round of scriptures, and place the one's learned the previous days on a review chart. I number the cards in the corner (#1, #2, #3, etc.), and place them in order to facilitate retrieval. If I want to look up # 14 I flip through until I find it. This automatic enhances consistency.

I have designed a scripture review chart along with some

When 5/18 Saturday rolls around you will review scripture cards #1, #2 #3.

After scripture is memorized during week, place date on review chart for next review.

Scripture	1 Week	1 Week	1 Week
# 1	<del>5/4 Sat.</del>	<del>5/11 Sat.</del>	5/18 Sat.
# 2	<del>5/11 Sat.</del>	5/18 Sat.	
#3	5/18 Sat.		

1)
<b>John 3:16</b>
Context: Jesus was dialoging with Nicodemus on how to be born again

rd Exa

<p>“For God so love the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.</p>
---

## **Review Session**

During review session go down the chart and pick out the card number which is dated for review. Pull the card out, look at reference and see if you can quote the scripture without looking at it (or you could look at the scripture and see if you remember the reference and context). If you have trouble recalling either one, repeat the scripture and reference a few more times and place back in file for next review. If at the completion of the review chart you don't feel to your satisfaction you mastered a scripture send it through the review process again if you desire.

Scripture memorization and review can be accomplished in numerous ways. Two vital things are needed in order to be successful in it: Discipline & consistency. Discipline is the price you pay for freedom and victory. Find a system that works best for you and use it.