

SCRIPTURE

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WHY MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE?

1. TO KNOW THE TRUTH

If we don't memorize God's Word, we're often left feeling like we sort of know what it says, but we aren't sure. Taking the time to commit The Bible to memory causes its truths to sink deeply into the fabric of who we are. Then we're not assuming what it says; we KNOW it!

2. TO READILY APPLY THAT TRUTH

If we commit to an application from a Bible or book study, we can easily forget about it once we close our journals. But if we memorize and meditate on a verse, it becomes a part of who we are and how we think. God's Word then becomes relevant to our everyday lives. His thoughts become readily available to us anytime, anywhere.

HOW TO BEGIN:

1. FIND YOUR SYSTEM

It's easy to memorize one verse ... to still know that verse a year later is the challenge! Our best advice is to find an organizational system that works for YOU (there's no "right way") and find a friend who will memorize Scripture with you. Take the time to research and be creative so that your system fits who God uniquely created you to be. (We like The Navigators' Topical Memory System and memverse.com.)

2. DON'T GIVE UP!

We can't "start over" too many times. The Lord doesn't look at our lagging attempts as failure, and we shouldn't either! Rely on His faithfulness to give you a deep hunger and thirst for His Word. With this mindset, it's possible to move beyond thinking about Scripture memory as a rote discipline and to instead find real joy in memorizing and meditating on His Word.

WHAT HAPPENS?

1. My mind and heart are transformed.
(Romans 12:2)
2. My attitude and actions are checked quickly.
(Philippians 2:5)
3. My heart is in constant fellowship with His Spirit.
(John 15:5)
4. My identity in Christ defines me and drives my actions.
(Ephesians 2:8-10)
5. My confidence in Him is not shaken in a confusing world.
(Psalm 73:25-26)
6. My perspective in counseling and encouraging others comes from God's wisdom instead of my own. **(Proverbs 2:1-5)**

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HOW TO EQUIP OTHERS:

PHILOSOPHICALLY:

1. Ultimately, our goal for ourselves and for those we disciple should be that we would all grow toward maturity in Christ (Hebrews 5:12-14). We move beyond elementary understanding of Scripture as we're challenged to constantly use God's Word to view ourselves and the world around us.
2. Memorizing Scripture as a rote discipline will not grow us in our faith. Understanding, and helping those we disciple understand, that we memorize Scripture to embrace, apply, and meditate on its truths is an important piece of training ourselves to be mature in our faith.
3. If we struggle with being disciplined in this area, we may not feel comfortable with challenging others to memorize Scripture either. This is how the enemy gets us to give up on the disciplines! (See "Don't Give Up!" on opposite side.)

PRACTICALLY:

1. First, do a Bible Study together on how Jesus knew and applied Scripture during His ministry on earth. It is encouraging to know He also memorized Scripture!
2. Find an organizational system that works for you and for the person you are discipling. They don't have to be the same! (See "Find Your System" on the opposite side.)
3. Set realistic goals. The key is to review the verses until they are committed to long-term memory, so trying to learn too many in the beginning or at the same time will cause you to eventually be overwhelmed and give up.
4. Set a goal that you will go over some of your verses every time you meet. Pray through your verses and share how they are changing your life and helping you grow to maturity. This will protect you both from viewing Scripture memory as a dry and boring discipline. This will also help you both be accountable and inspire you to continue memorizing new verses as you see how God uses them to work in your life!