

How to Memorize Scripture

Scripture memory is an important spiritual discipline. It can help us fight sin and temptation from within and without by increasing our awareness of God's truths, which can then impact our choices. It's also a discipline that prepares us for the ministry God gives us in the daily rhythm of life with people.

The following are some tried and true how-to's for memorizing Scripture:

Day 1: Write out your verse on an index card and read it aloud several times for 30-60 seconds. It *really* helps if you follow this pattern for memorizing: say the reference, give the verse a title or topic category, say the verse and repeat the reference again.

Example: James 1:20 – Anger

“Human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.” – James 1:20

Day 2: Repeat the reference, topic/title, and the first phrase of the verse several times. Do this for about 30-60 seconds.

Day 3: Add another phrase from the verse, always starting with the reference, then the topic/title, etc. Do this for 30-60 seconds.

Day 4: Continue adding more phrases from the verse after you can quote correctly what you've already learned. Continue this pattern of repeating and adding until you've memorized the whole verse.

Review! Review! Review! As you memorize new verses, review other verses you've already learned – saying them out loud and following the pattern. Repetition is how we learn and how we keep what we've learned, and Scripture memory is no different!

IMPORTANT: Apply the truth of the verse to your life and daily circumstances. Don't just *learn* a verse, when the goal is to *live* it.