

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 truth, which can then impact our choices. It's also a discipline that prepares us for the ministry opportunities God gives us in our daily rhythms of life with people.

There are effective and less effective ways of memorizing Scripture. The following is one tried and true method:

Day 1: Write it out. Choose a title or topic category for your verse. On an index card, write the reference, topic, the whole verse, and the reference again.

Example: James 1:20 – Anger

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

Follow this pattern for memorizing: say the reference, the topic, the verse, and the reference again. Read it out loud several times for 30-60 seconds.

Day 2: Break it up. Divide your verses into phrases. Repeat the reference, topic, and the first phrase of the verse several times. Say this out loud for about 30-60 seconds.

Day 3: Add to it. Memorize another phrase from the verse, always starting with the reference, then the topic/title, etc. Say this out loud for 30-60 seconds.

Day 4+: Wrap it up. After you can correctly recite what you've learned, add more phrases from the verse. Continue until you've memorized the whole verse. Don't forget to say the reference at the end!

Review! Review! Review! As you memorize new verses/passages don't neglect to review verses you've already memorized. ALWAYS say them out loud and follow the pattern. Repetition is how we learn and how we retain what we've learned.

IMPORTANT: Apply the truth of the verse to your daily life and let it impact your relationships. Don't just *learn* a verse when the goal is to actually *live* it!