

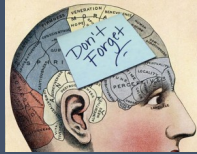
Dwelling Richly

A Devotional Approach to Scripture Memory

Training Day Watermark Community Church July 23, 2016

Our goal for today

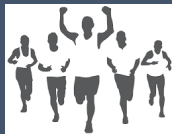
To give you a new way of thinking about
and having success with scripture memory



The end game

Life change
"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and
with all your mind." Matthew 22:37

And obedience
"I have hidden your Word in my heart that I might not sin against
you." Psalm 119:11



Where we are going today

- Who – The men and women of God who desire to be thoroughly equipped
- Why - The biblical case for scripture memory
- What - A personalized, devotional-based approach to scripture memory
- How - Tools, tips and technology

Scripture memory is not just for....



Scripture memory is not just for....



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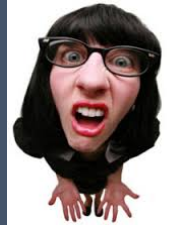
Who should memorize the Word?

All who want a closer walk with God....to be like Christ.
The value is in the journey, in transformation through the
renewing of our mind (Rom 12:2)



Obstacles to overcome

- I'm not good at it
- It's too late (or too early) to start
- I tried and failed
- I did it but then forgot everything
- I don't know where to start
- I don't know how
- I don't have time
- I read it every day. Why memorize it?
- Other reasons?



The missing link in spiritual growth



Progressive stages of interacting with the Word

1. Hear it (warning!)
 "Do not merely listen to the Word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." James 1:22

"The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the Word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time." Matthew 13:21,22a



Progressive stages of interacting with the Word

2. Read it

"It (the law) is to be with him (the king) and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the LORD his God and follow carefully all the word of this law and these decrees." Deut 17:19



Progressive stages of interacting with the Word

3. Study it

"But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it – he will be blessed in what he does. James 1:25



Progressive stages of interacting with the Word

4. Meditate on it

"But his delight is in the law of the LORD and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers." Psalm 1: 2,3

"Do not let this book of the law depart from your mouth. Meditate on it day and night so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful." Joshua 1:8



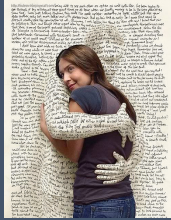
Progressive stages of interacting with the Word

5. Memorize it

"I have hidden your Word in my heart that I might not sin against you." Psalm 119:11

"Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom" Col 3:16a

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish and it will be given to you." John 15:7



Progressive stages of interacting with the Word

6. Live it

"How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your Word." Psalm 119:9

"I run in the paths of your commands for you have set my heart free." Psalm 119:32



Progressive stages of interacting with the Word

7. Share it

"Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom" Col 3:16a

"Preach the Word. Be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction." 2 Timothy 4:2



Progressive stages of interacting with the Word

1. Hear it
2. Read it
3. Study it
- 4.
- 5.
6. Live it
7. Share it



Too many Christians skip steps 4 and 5.....thus are not fully experiencing 6 and 7!

Meditation...without a mantra

The goal of meditation

- In eastern religions – detachment from the world
- For Christ followers – attachment to God and his Word



Meditation

- Internalizing and personalizing the passage
- Have a time, a place and a plan (consider Join the Journey)
- Commit to a schedule
- Go slow. Stop. Pray. What is God saying to you?
- Journal

Why memorize the Word?

So that you will...

- Be fruitful, strong, productive (Psalm 1)
- Be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Tim 3:16,17)
- Be prepared for spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:7)
- Not sin (Psalm 119:11)
- Walk in wisdom (Psalm 119:105)
- Be prosperous and successful (Joshua 1:8)

Why memorize the Word?

So that you will...

- Be able to teach and admonish others (Col 3:16,17)
- Be prepared at all times (2 Tim 4:2)
- Not focus your heart on selfish gain and your eyes will turn away from worthless things (Psalm 119:36,37)
- Will have comfort in suffering (Psalm 119:49-52)
- And so that your prayers will be answered and you will bear much fruit (John 15:7-8)

The benefits of memorization

- It changes you as it is on your mind, as you chew on it
- Memorization facilitates meditation throughout the day
- You own it
- You don't always have the Bible with you
- You are prepared...you have it in the moment
 - (Ephesians 4:29 and Prov 19:11 are personal examples)

John Piper on the value of scripture memorization

- Makes meditation possible at times when you can't be reading the Bible
- Strengthens my faith. I hear the Word in my head.
- Conforms my mind to God's viewpoint
- Makes the Word more accessible in overcoming temptation
- Guards my mind, making it easier for me to detect error
- Enables me to hit the Devil in the face with a force he cannot resist
- Provides the strongest and sweetest words for ministering to others in need
- Provides the matrix for fellowship with Jesus because he talks to me in the Word and no where else

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILQHP8vtWt4>

What should you memorize?

"All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Tim 3:16,17



Approaches to scripture memory

- Top 100 verses
- Roman Road
- Well known passages (the Lord's prayer, Psalm 23)
- Assigned memory verses in a Bible study
- Navigators memory system
- Equipped Disciple @ Watermark
- Entire books, chapters or long passages
 "His Word in my Heart" by Janet Pope

A devotional approach to scripture memory

Personalize scripture memory by connecting it with what is going on with your life

- What is occupying your thoughts?
- In what area are you struggling?
- Where do you need encouragement?
- Where are you disobedient?
- Where do you need inspiration?



Show video

<https://www.gnintermedia.com/products/3221-leave-a-legacy>

A devotional approach to scripture memory

- Often we know exactly where we need to focus
- We gain insight and conviction through
 - Time spent studying and meditating on the Word
 - Prayer
 - “Search me, O God, and know my heart. Test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting”. Psalm 139:23,24
 - Community
 - Your spouse



How about you? Topics for consideration

- Anger
- Anxiety, worry
- Selfishness
- An uncontrolled tongue
- Lust
- Fear of man
- Money, greed
- Lack of self control
- Judgmental, critical spirit
- Discontentment
- Lack of trust
- Impatience
- Pride
- Unforgiving
- Handling conflict
- Worldliness
- Perseverance
- People pleasing

Search the Scriptures

- With an area of personal growth in mind, find 2 or 3 verses on the topic that speak to you
 - Bible Gateway app
 - Cross references in your Bible...one verse leads to another
 - Concordance in your Bible
 - Got Questions app
- Read and understand each verse in context
 - SonicLight.com – study notes

Get the Big Picture – What is it saying?

- Understand the context
- Who is speaking?
- Who is the audience?
- What was the setting/occasion/timing?
- Where does the book fit in the Bible?
- What is the theme/message of the book?
- Read the chapter, and the surrounding verses.

What is it saying to me?

- Is there an example for me to follow?
- Is there a sin for me to avoid?
- Is there a promise for me to claim?
- Is there a prayer to repeat?
- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a condition to meet?
- Is there a doctrine I need to better understand?
- Is there a challenge to face?
- Is there a verse to memorize?

Hide it in your heart

- Memorize one verse at a time
- Pray the verses
- Share them with others
- When facing your struggle/challenge, speak truth to yourself

How to memorize the Word

- Learn the version from the translation of the Bible you read/study
- Write it in your journal
- Diagram it
- Say it out loud 5 to 10 times....think about each word
- Say the verse reference before and after
- Learn it word perfect
- Associate the verse with topic

How to memorize the Word

- Tools
 - 3x5 card system
 - Scripture Typer
- Review it throughout the day as you are in the process of mastering the verse
- Use the empty spaces in your day....turn your eyes from worthless things! (Psalm 119:37)

Scripture Typer

- Why it works
- Demo
- Workshop
