

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION | WEEK 1

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We are praying that, by the end of this Ordinary Challenge in the discipline of Scripture memory, you increasingly come to appreciate the opportunity of “hiding God’s Word in your heart.” Through practical, weekly exercises, we trust you will be encouraged to develop an ongoing lifestyle committed to Scripture memory and thus allow God’s Word to become a vital component of the fabric of your soul. The benefits and blessings will surprise you. Be encouraged: It is not as difficult as you may have imagined. Remember, it was our God who said “Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly” (Col. 3:16), and He Himself always enables us to comply with His commands. So, let’s get started.

Each week we will provide a simple assignment which will include a 1) Benefit—“Blessing,” 2) Tip—“Practical how to,” 3) Caution—“Beware/Warning,” and 4) Action—“Go for it!”

Begin by picking a passage that you desire to memorize. We suggest no less than four verses, but no more than a chapter (12-16 verses). The passage you pick might be a familiar favorite or a challenging segment with a message that could be helpful in meeting a current need in your life. The “supply” is unlimited! It is often helpful to do this with a partner (perhaps a spouse, a child, or a friend). You will want someone with whom to share your joys and frustrations in this new journey but who will also hold you accountable and help you recite accurately.

Here are some familiar passages we suggest to launch your effort:

Col. 3:1-4

Eph. 3:14-21

Prov. 3:1-8

1 Cor. 13: 4-7

Eph. 6:10-18

Ps. 23

Ps. 103:1-5

Gal. 6:7-10

Jas. 1

Ps. 1

Rom. 12

Phil. 3:7-14

Josh. 1:8, 2

Tim. 3:16-17,

Ps. 119:9-11, 97, 105

Choose one of the passages above or find another section you’d like to memorize.

Benefit | You will come to know God better and, thus, love Him more.

Tip | Read the passage over and over, always beginning and ending with the “address” (book, chapter and verse) while focusing on committing the passage to memory. (Note: the “Topical Memory System” from the Navigators is a very helpful tool.)

Caution | You will encounter immediate, significant “opposition” as you begin this initiative. Our common enemy understands the value of Scripture memory in our ongoing spiritual growth and health. He will use all his diverse tactics and resources to interfere with our progress.

Action | Devote five to ten minutes at the beginning of every day (preferably in your daily devotional time) to developing the daily discipline of Scripture memory. Begin one verse at a time, with a goal of memorizing one verse (or more if you’re able) per week.