

Memorize What Matters

We are seeking to sharpen our minds and soften our hearts in 2023 by Memorizing What Matters. We will memorize one important verse from God's Word every two weeks this year beginning the second week of January.

Believe it or not, you can memorize scripture. Taking as little as 5 minutes a day memorizing scripture will help you overcome worry, experience victory in your life and give you confidence in sharing your faith. Meet once a month on a zoom call for mutual encouragement. By the end of 2023, we will memorize at least 26 verses of scripture.

What Scripture Memory Will Do for You

- 1) Overcome Worry - You can experience God's perfect peace by knowing His promises.
- 2) Victory Over Sin - Psalm 119:11 says "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." God can bring to mind scripture to help you in the battle.
- 3) Confidence in Witnessing - You will learn verses to share your faith.

When is the best time to memorize?

The best time is when you are most alert and can concentrate without distraction. Often people find that early in the morning after your devotion time, at lunch or before you go to bed at night are good times. You can use spare moments in your day to review your verses.

How to Memorize

- 1) Memorize the References - The surest way to remember where a verse is located in the Bible is to say it before and after the verse each time you review it. It will connect the reference and the verse.
- 2) Choose a Bible Version - The NIV is the easiest to memorize as well as get the meaning and accuracy of the text.
- 3) Learn it Word-Perfect - Have as you aim to always quote a verse word perfectly. Knowing them this way will give you greater confidence in using your verses.

Overview of 2023

January 8-21:	2 Corinthians 5:17	July 9-22:	Acts 1:8
Jan. 22 - Feb. 4:	Romans 12:1	July 23 - August 5:	John 13:34-35
February 5-18:	2 Timothy 3:16	August 6-19:	Phil 2:3-4
Feb. 19 - March 4:	Matthew 4:19	August 20 - Sep. 2:	Isaiah 53:6
March 5 -18:	Romans 6:23	September 3-16:	Matt 5:16
March 19 - April 1:	Ephesians 2:8-9	September 17-30:	John 15:7
April 2-15:	John 1:12	October 1-14	Luke 9:23
April 16-29:	Matthew 18:20	October 15-28:	Proverbs 3:9-10
April 30 - May 13:	Isaiah 26:3	Oct. 29 - Nov. 11:	1 Peter 5:7
May 14-27	1 Corinthians 10:13	November 12-25:	Psalm 126:3
May 28 - June 10	Matthew 6:33	Nov. 26 - Dec. 9:	John 14:21
June 11-24:	Mark 10:45	December 10-23:	Hebrews 13:8
June 25 - July 8:	1 Corinthians 3:16	BONUS Dec. 24-31:	Matthew 1:23

How to Memorize - Week 1

** Say the reference at the beginning and end of the verse .*

2 Corinthians 5:17

**Therefore, If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.
The old has gone, the new has come.**

2 Corinthians 5:17

4 Steps to Memorizing Scripture

Step 1: Choose a Plan

- We will be using this plan that emphasizes passages from the Old and New testament that are key to living a life in Christ.

Step 2: Dig into the context

- Find the verse in your Bible and read the paragraph before and after it. Use this context to gain a clear understanding of what the verse means. You may want to read the verse in other Bible translations or consult a commentary.
- Read the verse through several times thoughtfully, aloud or in a whisper. This will help you grasp the verse as a whole. Each time you read it say the topic, reference, verse and then the reference again out loud.
- Discuss the verse with God in prayer and ask for His help memorizing Scripture.

Step 3: Memorize in bite-sized pieces

- Memorize the reference first.
- Memorize only the first phrase of the verse. Once you can recite the reference and first phrase from memory several times, continue to add each additional phrase, one by one. End by repeating the reference.
- Consider why each word was selected as you memorize it.
- Think about ways the verse applies to you and your daily circumstances.
- Writing the verse out can be helpful. This deepens its impression in your mind.

Step 4: Review with friends

- Review the verse immediately after learning it, incorporate it into your prayers and repeat it frequently over subsequent days to others. This step is crucial for fixing the verse firmly in your mind because we tend to forget things recently learned.
- Invite a friend to memorize with you. Set a time each week to check in and review verses. In just ten minutes you can give each other enough accountability to grow by leaps and bounds in your love for God and knowledge of His Word.
- Review! Review! Review! Repetition is the best way to engrave the verses on your memory.

Scriptures From NIV

As you meditate and memorize these texts, remember to ask yourself these questions:

- 1) What is the context of this verse? (Read what comes before and after it.)
- 2) What key word or phrase stands out to you?
- 3) How can you put this verse into action in your life this week?

It is also helpful to regularly review the verses you have already memorized.

January 8-21: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

Jan. 22 - Feb. 4: Romans 12:1

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

February 5-18: 2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

Feb. 19 - March 4: Matthew 4:19

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."

March 5-18:

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

March 19 - April 1:

Ephesians 2:8-9

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

April 2-15:

John 1:12

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

April 16-29:

Matthew 18:20

For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.

April 30 - May 13:

Isaiah 26:3

You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.

May 14-27:

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

May 28 - June 10: Matthew 6:33

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

June 11-24: Mark 10:45

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

June 25 - July 8: 1 Corinthians 3:16

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?

July 9-22: Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

July 23 - August 5: John 13:34-35

34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

August 6-19: Philippians 2:3-4

3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

August 20 - Sep. 2: Isaiah 53:6

**We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;
and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
"God with us").**

September 3-16: Matthew 5:16

**In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see
your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.**

September 17-30: John 15:7

**If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you
wish, and it will be done for you.**

October 1 - 14: Luke 9:23

**Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny
themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me**

October 15 - 28: Proverbs 3:9-10

**9 Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your
crops; 10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing,
and your vats will brim over with new wine.**

Oct. 29 - Nov. 11: 1 Peter 5:7

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

November 12-25: Psalm 126:3

**The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy.**

Nov. 26 - Dec. 9: John 14:21

**Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me.
The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love
them and show myself to them.**

December 10-23: Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

BONUS December 24-31: Matthew 1:23

**“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him
Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).**