

3 Reasons to Memorize Scripture

Memorizing Scripture is something we all should do, but few of us actually do on a regular basis. It can be pretty difficult to memorize, and besides, someone is going to have to read this copy of *The Lord of the Rings* again, and it might as well be me.

What I am saying is that, yes, there are distractions. A lot of them. But let's take a look at why, despite the distractions, it is a valuable thing to do.

1. Psalm 119 lays out an important reason to have the Word memorized when the psalmist says, "How can a young man keep his way pure? **By keeping your word.** I have sought you with all my heart; do not let me wander from your commands. **I have treasured your word in my heart so that I may not sin against you.**" It does not get much clearer than that: having the words of the Lord memorized help keep us pure and steadfast in the Lord.
2. Perhaps the most famous example of the importance of knowing Scripture is found in Matthew 4, when Jesus continuously rebukes and refuses Satan's temptations by quoting and using Scripture as his only weapon.
3. You will not always have your Bible handy, and you may need to use Scripture in any number of ways. Maybe you need to defend or explain your faith. Maybe you are sharing the gospel with someone, or maybe you are trying to give good counsel. Regardless of the situation, it will be helpful to have the Word memorized.

Scripture memorization is one way to plant God's Word deeper into your heart. So where do you begin?

Start with a short verse and give yourself a reasonable time frame to memorize it (consider beginning with one week). Here are some tips we have found helpful when memorizing Scripture:

- **Choose it:** Choose a verse from the book of the Bible you're reading right now or one that resonates with the season of life you are in. Then read the chapter it is in to dig deeper into its context and further understand the verse's meaning.
- **Say it:** Read the verse out loud several times. Read it slowly and try to focus on each word.
- **Write it:** Write down your verse in a journal for further memorization. Or write it on post-its and notecards and put them in places that you will see frequently throughout the week—your bathroom mirror, at your desk, in your kitchen, or even make it your phone background.
- **Pray it:** Pray through the verse during your prayer time and ask the Lord to use your verse memorization to plant his word deeper in your heart.