

# A Ten Step Bible Memory Method for Life

The problem many people have with Bible memorization is they don't have a plan. Some people try what might be called the "*Open a Trap Door on the Back of the Head and Stuff it in Approach.*" For short-term results, this sometimes works, but it is not very satisfying in the long run. It is important to take time to treasure God's Word in my heart so as to keep it for life.

A good Bible memory plan should not only help us memorize, but should lead beyond rote memory to deeper practical meaning. God tells us to "treasure" His Word in our heart like pieces of fine gold that no one can ever take away from us.

Some of the reasons He says this are so that we can: **1.** be equipped for life (2 Timothy 3:16-17), **2.** understand the thoughts and intentions of the heart (Hebrews 4:12), **3.** avoid sin (Psalm 119:11), **4.** become successful and prosperous in God's kingdom (Joshua 1:8), and **5.** enjoy life that is deeply rooted and always fruitful (Psalm 1:2-3).

The first five steps below give you an effective way to memorize a verse of scripture in about 15 minutes. The last five steps show you how to go beyond memorization to deeper meaning and own the verse for a lifetime. I'm sure there are other steps that can help, but these are the ones that work for me, and that I have used for years. The goal of scripture memorization is not just to be fast and efficient, but to also be systematic and methodical. It is not just so you can recite the passage, but so you can learn to live with it and grow with it for years to come.

## **CAPTURING A VERSE BY MEMORY**

Steps One to Five (All five steps take about 15 minutes)

### **Step One: Read the Entire Passage Out Loud 10 Times.**

Find a place where you can concentrate (no TV, radio, stereo or iPod). Look up the passage in the Bible version you want to memorize. Have the printed passage in front of you with the reference. Saying the reference first, in a slow, normal voice, read the passage out loud ten times. Read slowly enough to see it, say it, hear it and think it. This will get the sound of the verse in your ear and on your tongue. And it will help you begin to see the passage in your mind. Believe it or not, every time you read a passage in this way, your brain is automatically starting to memorize it. If you do this step well, you will avoid other mistakes later in the process.

### **Step Two: Say the Reference 3 Times.**

Next, read the reference once more while looking at it. Then close your eyes and try to say it three times slowly. If you have trouble, look at the reference again, read it out loud, and then try saying it again three times with your eyes closed.

### **Step Three: Say the Reference and First Phrase 3 Times.**

Now read the reference and the first shortest phrase of the passage. Remember to read it slowly enough to see it, say it, hear it and think it. Then close your eyes and try saying the reference and the first phrase three times.

### **Step Four: Add Each Phrase and Say it 3 Times.**

Continue adding one phrase at a time until you complete the passage. Remember to look at the printed passage each time you add a phrase, reading everything slowly from the

beginning. Then say everything from the reference to the new phrase three times. If you have trouble at any point, back up and repeat the previous step, and then try adding the new phrase again.

### **Step Five: Say the Entire Passage Perfectly 3 Times.**

Read the entire passage one more time saying the reference first. Then try to say all of it perfectly three times. Again, if you have trouble at any point, back up and repeat the previous step, and then try adding the final phrase again until you can say everything.

## **KEEPING WHAT YOU'VE MEMORIZED**

Steps Six to Eight (Each step takes about 30 minutes.)

### **Step Six: Write Out the Passage by Hand and Give it a Title.**

Look at the printed passage again. Notice sentences, phrases, capital letters, and punctuation. Then try to write out the entire passage by hand. Compare your written copy to the printed one and correct any mistakes. Try it again until you can write the entire passage perfectly by memory. Then give it a title that will help you remember what the verse is about, for example, "Praising God" or "Confessing Sin."

### **Step Seven: Type the Passage on a Computer and Save It.**

With the printed passage in front of you, type it on a computer exactly the way you see it in print. Or download it from an electronic Bible. Be sure to type the reference first on the top line. Check it carefully with the printed original and make it look the way you want to remember it, exactly like the printed original. Add your title in bold letters above the reference line. Now save it to a folder called "My Favorite Bible Verses." Print it out and put it in your pocket.

**Step Eight: Compare the Passage in Three Different Translations.** Read the passage in three different translations such as the King James Version, the New American Standard Bible, The New International Version, the Amplified Bible, the New Century Version, or the New Living Translation. Compare the different ways each translation presents the passage. Then try writing out the passage in your own words.

## **TREASURING IT IN YOUR HEART**

Steps Nine and Ten (These steps never end, but continue for a lifetime.)

### **Step Nine: Pray the Passage as a Conversation with God.**

Turn the passage into a conversation with God by asking four questions. How does this passage lead me to: 1. Praise God for who He is, 2. Confess my shortcomings and failures, 3. Thank God for what He has done, and 4. Ask God for His help? As God speaks to you through His Word, respond to Him in prayer.

### **Step Ten: Live the Passage and Teach It to Someone Else.**

Live with the passage for a while. Keep a printed copy in your pocket and review it regularly for at least a month. Let it continue to be a source for more conversations with God. Share what you have learned with someone else.

# 52 Bible Verses to Memorize Weekly

## *Inspirational Bible Verses to Start the Week.*

**Week 1** – “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” – *Psalms 119:105, NIV*

**Week 2** – “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.” – *Proverbs 3:5, NIV*

**Week 3** – “Pray without ceasing.” – *1 Thessalonians 5:17, KJV*

**Week 4** – “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” – *2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV*

**Week 5** – “Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.” – *1 Corinthians 16:13, NIV*

**Week 6** – “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.” – *Colossians 3:23, NKJV*

**Week 7** – “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” – *Luke 12:34, KJV*

**Week 8** – “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” – *Philippians 4:13, NKJV*

**Week 9** – “My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” – *Philippians 4:19, KJV*

**Week 10** – “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” – *Jeremiah 29:11, NIV*

**Week 11** – “You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.” – *Isaiah 26:3, ESV*

**Week 12** – “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.” – *James 1:5, ESV*

**Week 13** – “Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!” – *Psalms 107:8, KJV*

**Week 14** – “For he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.” – *Psalms 107:9, NIV*

**Week 15** – “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.” – *Galatians 6:7, NIV*

**Week 16** – “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.” – *Psalms 23:1, ESV*

**Week 17** – “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.” – *Psalms 23:6, ESV*

**Week 18** – “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” – *Romans 8:28, KJV*

**Week 19** – “What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?” – *Romans 8:31, KJV*

**Week 20** – “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” – *1 Thessalonians 5:18, KJV*

**Week 21** – “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” – *2 Timothy 1:7, KJV*

**Week 22** – “Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’” – *John 14:6, ESV*

**Week 23** – “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” – *Romans 3:23, NIV*

**Week 24** – “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.” – *Ephesians 2:8, ESV*

**Week 25** – “I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.” – *Psalms 139:14, NIV*

**Week 26** – “Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.” – *Deuteronomy 6:5, NIV*

**Week 27** – “Love your neighbor as yourself.” – *Matthew 22:39, NIV*

**Week 28** – “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” – *Philippians 4:6, NIV*

**Week 29** – “And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” – *Philippians 4:7, NIV*

**Week 30** – “Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.” – *Proverbs 30:5, ESV*

**Week 31** – “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” – *1 Corinthians 10:31, NIV*

**Week 32** – “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” – *Genesis 1:1, ESV*

**Week 33** – “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.” – *Psalms 19:1, NIV*

**Week 34** – “The LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.” – *Psalms 1:6, ESV*

**Week 35** – “...Thus says the LORD... Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.” – *Isaiah 43:1, ESV*

**Week 36** – “I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no savior.” – *Isaiah 43:11, ESV*

**Week 37** – “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.” – *Matthew 5:14, ESV*

**Week 38** – “Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” – *Matthew 5:16, NIV*

**Week 39** – “Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” – *Matthew 6:33, KJV*

**Week 40** – “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom...” – *Colossians 3:16, KJV*

**Week 41** – “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” – *Hebrews 13:8, KJV*

**Week 42** – “They that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.” – *Isaiah 40:31, KJV*

**Week 43** – “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” – *John 14:27, NIV*

**Week 44** – “Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn.” – *Psalms 37:4, NIV*

**Week 45** – “Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.” – *John 16:24b, ESV*

**Week 46** – “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” – *John 3:16, KJV*

**Week 47** – “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.” – *1 John 4:7, NKJV*

**Week 48** – “Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.” – *Hebrews 10:24, NLT*

**Week 49** – “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.” – *Philippians 4:8, NIV*

**Week 50** – “If they obey and serve him, They will spend the rest of their days in prosperity, and their years in contentment.” – *Job 36:11, NIV*

**Week 51** – “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! – *Isaiah 43:18-19a, NIV*

**Week 52** – “Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD.” – *Psalms 150:6, NIV*