

# Time with God: Scripture Memory

As we've discussed before, spending time with God is very important. The process of memorizing scripture helps us be ever present with God, keeping his word known to us. It is commended throughout the entire Bible, from the historical accounts of the Old Testament to the letters of discourse in the New Testament.

**Joshua 1:8** "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it."

**Psalm 1:1-2** "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night."

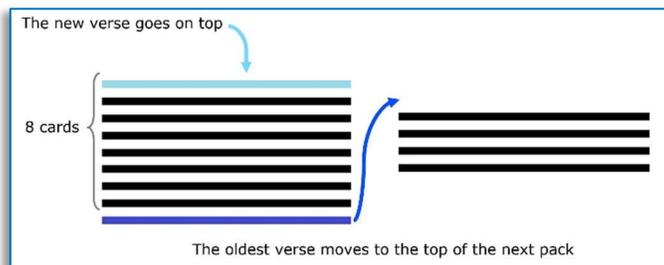
**Psalm 119:11** "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."

Here are four things memorizing scripture helps us with:

1. **It helps give us victory over sin.** When Jesus is tempted by Satan in Matthew 4, he responds by quoting Scripture. *"And the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."'"* There are many times when we are put in situations where we are tempted to sin, but if we have verses we have memorized for those specific occasions, God will use those verses to help us resist temptation.
2. **It helps us minister to others.** Throughout the course of daily life, we'll have opportunities to share the gospel, encourage others, and help people grow. God commands us to be ready for those times: *"But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect."* (1 Peter 3:15) When we have Scripture memorized, we'll have those answers already in our hearts so that we can share them.
3. **God uses it to guide us.** All of us have been in situations where we're not sure what to do. The good news is that the Bible provides answers for how to make good decisions. Psalm 119:105 says, *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."* Having God's word in our heart will help us make those decisions more easily.
4. **It helps your faith grow.** Romans 10:17 says, *"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."* When we memorize Scripture, our faith increases because we're putting the word of God inside us.

## Getting Started

1. **Find a verse to memorize.** A good way to find one is choosing a verse that stuck out to you from your daily time with God or from the latest sermon at church or Challenge. Write the verse on one side of a business card and the verse reference on the other. This is the beginning of your “daily” pack.
2. **Try to memorize one new verse every week.** Fill your daily pack by picking a verse every week. Review each verse every day so that you can quote the reference and the verse word-perfect. At the end of two months, you’ll have 8 cards in your daily pack, and you’ll know the first verse like the back of your hand.
3. **Start a weekly pack.** When you’ve reviewed your verse for two months, you can start reviewing it once a week instead of every day.



Take your first verse card from your daily pack and put it in a new pack that you’ll review every Monday. Continue adding a new verse every week to your daily pack and moving the oldest verse to the Monday pack.

4. **Start another weekly pack.** Once you’ve filled up your Monday pack (8 cards recommended), start a Tuesday pack. Again, move your oldest verses from your Monday into the Tuesday each week as you continue adding new verses to the daily pack. This pattern can continue until all of the days in the week are filled. After that, you can start a monthly pack with the same idea.
5. **Be encouraged.** This is a very effective way to work on your long-term memory. At the end of a year, you’ll have 52 verses memorized. After twenty years, that’s over 1,000 verses! You can do it all one verse at a time!

Let’s find a verse to memorize right now. You can choose one yourself or from this list:

Joshua 1:8-9  
 Psalm 119:11  
 Psalm 119:105  
 Matthew 5:16  
 Matthew 5:48  
 Matthew 6:33  
 Matthew 28:19-20  
 Mark 10:45

Luke 19:10  
 John 1:12  
 Acts 1:8  
 Romans 3:23-24  
 Romans 5:8  
 Romans 6:23  
 Romans 10:9  
 Romans 12:1-2

1 Corinthians 10:13  
 1 Corinthians 10:31  
 Galatians 2:20  
 Galatians 6:9  
 Philippians 4:6-7  
 2 Timothy 2:2  
 James 1:22  
 1 Peter 3:15