



The Art of Memorizing Scripture

Icebreaker:

What's one thing you would like to forget?

The Study:

If you grew up in the Church you probably memorized Bible verses as a kid. But somehow this essential spiritual discipline usually gets left behind as we grow up. But it's far from just a thing for children to do. In fact, you'll probably remain a spiritual child if you don't do it. Here are 4 reasons to make this a habit.



All of God's people in Bible times devoted themselves to this, and Jesus led the way.

1. What do the following verses say about memory-work?

Joshua 1:8

Deuteronomy 11:18

Jeremiah 15:16

2. We know that Jesus knew the Bible backwards and forwards. But how did he come by this knowledge? It's not what you might think (that 'because he was God he was born with it downloaded into him'). What does the Bible say?

Luke 2:52

Hebrews 5:8

What's the lesson here for us?

Memory-work sharpens our thinking and deepens our faith.

3. The ancient Greeks worshipped the goddess of Memory, who gave birth to the nine Muses, who ruled over the development of poetry, dance, history, music and science.

Though this is mythology, there is a great nugget of truth here. Discuss what you think it is. (Here's a hint: 18th century writer Samuel Johnson said, "Memory is the primary and fundamental power, without which there could be no other intellectual operation.")

4. Modern brain science shows us that the brain is not static, but grows and changes in response to the things we think about most. This is both good news and bad. How so?

5. What do the following Scriptures say about our minds?

Romans 12:2

2 Corinthians 10:5

Philippians 4:8

6. Actors who memorize Shakespeare testify that in the act of memorization, their understanding of what he is writing grows. If that's true, how can memory-work deepen our faith? (Another way to put it: Why should we never say, 'I don't need to memorize that; I can just Google it.')

Memorizing Scripture ennobles us.

7. What does it mean to "ennoble"? And what is its opposite?

8. The Bible has inspired the worldview and works of some of the greatest writers, thinkers, politicians, artists and speech-makers. If that's true, what will be the outcome of removing our Bibles from school? What will be the outcome if parents don't teach their children richly from Scripture?

Memory-work is a source of spiritual power for us.

9. Read Psalm 119:11. Say the verse (pick a version) over and over ten times.

Now write down or share reasons why this verse is true.

If you have time, continue to practice the 3-Step Bible reading method, using the following template. Use as your Scripture passage for this exercise Matthew 4:1-11.

The 3-Step Bible Study Method



Step One: Observation ~ *What do I see?*

Scripture Text:

Specific Observations (Write at least ten!):

Step Two: Interpretation ~ *What does it mean?*

Ask questions! – *What was the author saying to his original readers? Is there anything difficult to understand? What would I like to know more about? Can the passage be interpreted in different ways?*

Step Three: Application ~ *What should I do about it?*

What timeless principles does the passage teach?

What truths does this passage teach me about God?

What do I sense the Lord wants me to do in response?

The 3-Step Bible Study Method



Step One: Observation ~ *What do I see?*

Scripture Text:

Specific Observations (Write at least ten!):

Step Two: Interpretation ~ *What does it mean?*

Ask questions! – *What was the author saying to his original readers? Is there anything difficult to understand? What would I like to know more about? Can the passage be interpreted in different ways?*

Step Three: Application ~ *What should I do about it?*

What timeless principles does the passage teach?

What truths does this passage teach me about God?

What do I sense the Lord wants me to do in response?



The Art of Memorizing Scripture

Icebreaker:

What's one thing you would like to forget?

The Study:

If you grew up in the Church you probably memorized Bible verses as a kid. But somehow this essential spiritual discipline usually gets left behind as we grow up. But it's far from just a thing for children to do. In fact, you'll probably remain a spiritual child if you don't do it. Here are 4 reasons to make this a habit.



All of God's people in Bible times devoted themselves to this, and Jesus led the way.

1. What do the following verses say about memory-work?

Joshua 1:8

Deuteronomy 11:18

Jeremiah 15:16

2. We know that Jesus knew the Bible backwards and forwards. But how did he come by this knowledge? It's not what you might think (that 'because he was God he was born with it downloaded into him'). What does the Bible say?

Luke 2:52

Hebrews 5:8

What's the lesson here for us?

Memory-work sharpens our thinking and deepens our faith.

3. The ancient Greeks worshipped the goddess of Memory, who gave birth to the nine Muses, who ruled over the development of poetry, dance, history, music and science.

Though this is mythology, there is a great nugget of truth here. Discuss what you think it is. (Here's a hint: 18th century writer Samuel Johnson said, "Memory is the primary and fundamental power, without which there could be no other intellectual operation.")

4. Modern brain science shows us that the brain is not static, but grows and changes in response to the things we think about most. This is both good news and bad. How so?

5. What do the following Scriptures say about our minds?

Romans 12:2

2 Corinthians 10:5

Philippians 4:8

6. Actors who memorize Shakespeare testify that in the act of memorization, their understanding of what he is writing grows. If that's true, how can memory-work deepen our faith? (Another way to put it: Why should we never say, 'I don't need to memorize that; I can just Google it.')

Memorizing Scripture ennobles us.

7. What does it mean to "ennoble"? And what is its opposite?

8. The Bible has inspired the worldview and works of some of the greatest writers, thinkers, politicians, artists and speech-makers. If that's true, what will be the outcome of removing our Bibles from school? What will be the outcome if parents don't teach their children richly from Scripture?

Memory-work is a source of spiritual power for us.

9. Read Psalm 119:11. Say the verse (pick a version) over and over ten times.

Now write down or share reasons why this verse is true.

If you have time, continue to practice the 3-Step Bible reading method, using the following template. Use as your Scripture passage for this exercise Matthew 4:1-11.