

YOUR NAME



WEEK 2 - SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 119:1-3, 9-11 (ESV)

- 1 Blessed are those whose way is blameless,
 who walk in the law of the LORD!
- 2 Blessed are those who keep his testimonies,
 who seek him with their whole heart,
- 3 who also do no wrong,
 but walk in his ways!

- 9 How can a young man keep his way pure?
 By guarding it according to your word.
- 10 With my whole heart I seek you;
 let me not wander from your commandments!
- 11 I have stored up your word in my heart,
 that I might not sin against you.

in each of the spaces below, write the date you will do the corresponding assignment

DAY ONE

DAY TWO

DAY THREE

DAY ONE

DRILL

1. Read Psalm 119:1-3, 9-11 three times out loud
2. Write it out
3. Turn these verses into a personal prayer

DIG

Open your Bible to Psalm 119.

ABOUT THIS PSALM

This master Psalm is the longest of all the psalms. There are 176 verses and 315 lines. The psalm is an acrostic poem. In many acrostic poems, the first letters of each line spell out a word. In this poem, the Hebrew alphabet is spelled out. The poem is divided into twenty-two stanzas. The stanzas are arranged in the order of the Hebrew alphabet. Each stanza contains eight verses and the first letter of each verse in the stanza begins with the same letter of the Hebrew alphabet (Hebrew reads from right to left!):

א Aleph

אֲשֶׁרִי תַמִּימֵי־דַרְךְךָ הָהַלְכִים בְּתוֹרַת יְהוָה: 1
 אֲשֶׁרִי נֹצְרִי עֲדֹתָיו בְּכָל־לֵב יִדְרָשׁוּהוּ: 2
 אִף לֹא־פָעַלְו עוֹלָה בְּדַרְכָּיו הַלְכוּ: 3
 אַתָּה צִוִּיתָה פִקְדֹתֶיךָ לְשֹׁמֵר מֵאָדָּם: 4
 אַחֲלִי יִכְנֹו דַרְכֵי לְשֹׁמֵר חֻקֶיךָ: 5
 אִז לֹא־אֲבוֹשׁ בְּהַבִּיטִי אֶל־כָּל־מַצּוֹתֶיךָ: 6
 אוֹדְךָ בִישָׁר לֵבִי בְלִמְדֵי מִשְׁפָּטֶיךָ צִדְקֶיךָ: 7
 אֶת־חֻקֶיךָ אֲשֹׁמֵר אֶל־תִּעֲזֹבֵנִי עַד־מָאָד: 8

ב Beth

בְּמָה יִזְכֶּה־נַעֲר אֶת־אַרְחוֹ לְשֹׁמֵר כְּדַבְרֶיךָ: 9
 בְּכָל־לֵבִי דִרְשָׁתִיךָ אֶל־תִּשְׁגֵנִי מִמַּצּוֹתֶיךָ: 10
 בְּלִבִּי צַפְנֵתִי אִמְרֹתֶיךָ לִמְעַן לֹא אֶחְטֵא־לָךְ: 11
 בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה לְמִדְנֵי חֻקֶיךָ: 12
 בְּשֹׁפְתֵי סַפְרֹתַי כָּל מִשְׁפָּטֵי־פִידֶיךָ: 13
 בְּדַרְךְךָ עֲדוֹתֶיךָ שִׁשְׁתִּי כַעַל כָּל־הוֹן: 14
 בְּפִקְדֹתֶיךָ אֲשִׁיחָה וְאֶבִּיטָה אֶרְחוּתֶיךָ: 15
 בְּחֻקֹתֶיךָ אֲשִׁתַּעֲשֶׂע לֹא אֲשַׁכַּח דְּבָרֶיךָ: 16

The most striking feature of this psalm is its exaltation of God's Word. The great Reformer Martin Luther described Psalm 119 as "The Christians' Golden Alphabet Concerning Their Praise and Love of God's Word and Its Power and Blessing." America's greatest theologian Jonathan Edwards is reported to have said that there is no part of the Holy Scriptures where the nature and evidence of true and sincere godliness are so fully delineated as in this psalm. Every verse in the psalm makes a reference to God's Word except four (84, 121, 122, 132). Given the first verse of the psalm, some scholars believe it to be an exposition and expansion of Psalm 1:

*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.*



Pretty cool, huh?

Now read Psalm 1:1-64

Take five minutes to silently read through the passage and write your thoughts next to these symbols:

1. Something which stands out to you as you read this psalm.
2. Any questions the psalm raised for you.
3. Can you detect a theme in each stanza? What do you think it is? (1-8, 9-16, 17-24, 25-32, 33-40, 41-48, 49-56, 57-64)
4. Write down any applications or “take-aways” you get from this passage.









DAY TWO

DRILL

1. Read Psalm 119:1-3, 9-11 three times out loud
2. Turn these verses into a personal prayer
3. Try saying it from memory to someone else

DIG

MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE, PART 1

Why Memorize the Scripture?

In a sermon entitled "[If My Words Abide in You](#)"¹ (take time to watch it this sermon if you can!), John Piper gives us eight reasons for why we should commit ourselves to memorizing Scripture by way of personal testimony:

1. Memorizing Scripture makes MEDITATION possible at times when I can't be reading the Bible, and meditation is the pathway of deeper understanding.
2. Memorizing Scripture STRENGTHENS my faith because faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of Christ, and that happens when I am hearing the word in my head.
3. Memorizing Scripture SHAPES the way I view the world by conforming my mind to God's viewpoint.
4. Memorizing Scripture makes God's word more readily ACCESSIBLE for overcoming temptation to sin, because God's warnings and promises are the way we conquer the deceitful promises of sin.
5. Memorizing Scripture GUARDS my mind by making it easier to detect error—and the world is filled with error, since the god of this world is a liar.
6. Memorizing Scripture ENABLES me to hit the devil in the face with a force he cannot resist, and so protect myself and my family from his assaults.
7. Memorizing Scripture provides the strongest and sweetest words for MINISTERING to others in need.
8. Memorizing Scripture provides the matrix for FELLOWSHIP with Jesus because he talks to me through his word, and I talk to him in prayer.

¹ <http://www.desiringgod.org/messages/if-my-words-abide-in-you--2>

Which of these reasons listed above inspires you the most? Why?



It is good to establish this practice in your life! Dallas Willard was a professor and prolific writer and speaker on the topic of spiritual growth and personal discipleship. He wrote this about Scripture memory:

Bible memorization is absolutely fundamental to spiritual formation. If I had to choose between all the disciplines of the spiritual life, I would choose Bible memorization, because it is a fundamental way of filling our minds with what it needs. This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth. That's where you need it! How does it get in your mouth? Memorization.²

Let's go back to Psalm 119. Remember how we learned that the theme of this entire psalm is the Word of God? Check this out. There are nine terms used to describe God's Word which are used repeatedly throughout the psalm (the rabbis counted ten and said that there was one for each of the Ten Commandments!). Here are the nine terms – each one first presented to us in verses 1-11:

1. "Law" (תּוֹרָה) *tōrah*
119:1 Blessed are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the LORD!
2. "Testimonies" (עֲדוּת) *ʿaduth*
119:2 Blessed are those who keep his testimonies,
who seek him with their whole heart,
3. "Ways" (דֶּרֶךְ) *derek*
119:3 ...who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways!
4. "Precepts" (פְּקוּדֵי־דָם) *pīqqudīm*
119:4 You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently.
5. "Ordinances/Statutes" (חֻקִּים) *ḥōq*
119:5 Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!
6. "Commandments" (מִצְוֹת) *mitzwah*
119:6 Then I shall not be put to shame,
having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.

² "Spiritual Formation in Christ for the Whole Life and Whole Person" in *Vocatio*, Vol. 12, no. 2, Spring, 2001, 7

7. "Judgments" (מִשְׁפָּט) *mishpat*

119:7 I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your righteous rules.

8. "Words" (דָּבָר) *dabar*

119:9 How can a young man keep his way pure?
By guarding it according to your word.

9. "Oracles" (אִמְרָה) *imrah*

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

What do you think is the reason the psalmist had for giving us so many different words to describe God's Word? How is this helpful for the reader?



Now turn to **John 17:17**. consider this request Jesus makes here to His Father just hours before his crucifixion.

Why is this so important to Jesus? What does it mean to be "sanctified by the truth"?



How does your thinking about the Bible need to change? What have you learned in today's study?



DAY THREE

DRILL

1. Read Psalm 119:1-3, 9-11 three times out loud
2. Try saying it from memory 3x
3. Turn these verses into a personal prayer

DIG

MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE, PART 2

Let's return to Psalm 119. Below is an outline of themes for each stanza. Remember that the entire psalm has one unifying theme – the Word of God:

1. Aleph (1-8) The Blessing of Obedience
2. Beth (9-16) The Way of Cleansing
3. Gimel (17-24) The Delight of Experience
4. Daleth (25-32) The Strength of Understanding
5. He (33-40) The Need for Guidance
6. Vav (41-48) The Courage of Witnessing
7. Zayin (49-56) The Source of Comfort
8. Heth (57-64) The Resolution of Faithfulness
9. Teth (65-72) The Discipline of Affliction
10. Yodh (73-80) The Justice of Retribution
11. Kaph (81-88) The Hope of Darkness
12. Lamedh (89-96) The Triumph of Faith
13. Mem (97-104) The Rapture of Enlightenment
14. Nun (105-112) The Light of Life
15. Samekh (113-120) The Inspiration of Loyalty
16. Ayin (121-128) The Time of Intervention
17. Pe (129-136) The Wonder of Illumination
18. Tsadhe (137-144) The Challenge of Righteousness
19. Koph (145-152) The Assurance from Prayer
20. Resh (153-160) The Consciousness of Need
21. Shin/Sin (161-168) The Peace of Love
22. Tav (169-176) The Determination of Steadfastness

Pick one of these stanzas and themes to read. Read over the stanza several times and meditate on the truths presented in it.

Why did you pick this stanza? What truths about God's Word do you find here? How does this text speak to you?



By way of application, let us consider a few things...

Read verses 97-104. According to the psalmist, we are to make God's Word the focus of our thought life. Here as well as in other places in Psalm 119, our minds are called to engage the Scriptures. We are to "teach" (v. 66) and "learn" (v. 68). We are to "consider", "understand", and "instruct" (v. 95). Most of all, we are to constantly "meditate" on the words of God (vs. 15, 48, 78, 97, 148).

Regarding these verses and your own thought life, **what would you like to see change? What practical steps can you begin taking to start to change? How does memorizing Scripture achieve these steps?**



Now let's read verses 47-48. Here, the psalmist urges us to make God's Word the focus of our affections. We are to "love", "take delight in", "be in rapture of", "take pleasure in", "delight in", "long for", and "praise" the Word of God.

Think about this carefully. **Is this how you feel about the Bible? How would an increase in your love for God's Word affect the rest of your life? How can committing verses to memory help you develop a deeper love for and delight in the Word?**



Lastly, turn over to verses 9-11. These are the verses you have memorized. Look at them again and think about the truth here. The psalmist here proclaims that there is an impact to our spiritual lives when we focus on God's Word. Do you see the pleas based on devotion to God's word ("make me live", "quicken me", "revive me")?

How about this? **How strongly do you see a connection between your spiritual life and your intake and meditation on God's Word? How can memorizing Scripture help to revitalize you spiritually?**



DISCUSS

HEART-TO-HEART DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **What impacted you the most in this lesson?**
2. **How did you feel about memorizing the Bible before this lesson? How do you feel about it now?**
3. **What did you learned about the Bible or about Psalm 119 that you hadn't known before?**

Recite your memory verse: Psalm 119:1-3, 9-11!

LEADER TRIADS DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **What verses impacted you the most in this study?**
2. **How can memorizing Scripture help you to grow as a leader?**
3. **What encouragement do you need to keep memorizing Scripture?**

Recite your memory verse: Psalm 119:1-3, 9-11!

SUBMIT

After you complete this week's assignment, you can return to your Week 2 email and click the button at the bottom or go to www.saltnextgen.com/bootcamp and click the "Complete Week 2" button!

COMPLETE
WEEK 2