

A high-angle photograph of a man and a woman sitting at a light-colored wooden table, studying an open Bible. The woman, on the left, has long brown hair and is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt. She is pointing at a page in the Bible with her right hand, which has red nail polish and a ring. The man, on the right, has dark hair and a beard, wearing a blue button-down shirt. He is looking down at the Bible with his hands resting on the pages. A blue wristband is visible on his left wrist. The Bible is open to a page with the word 'ISAIAH' visible at the bottom. A cup of coffee is partially visible on the left side of the table. The background is softly blurred, showing a warm, indoor setting.

# How to Memorize Scripture



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Can you think of words you never want to forget? Now, there may be words to commercial jingles, songs on the radio, and even clichés that easily come to mind and don't seem to go away. However, what about those words from someone you love or a mentor who desired to help you follow Jesus? These words are more important than the words of the cereal commercial you still remember from childhood.

“Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful”  
Joshua 1:8 (NIV).

God desires for His Word to always be on our lips because He knows that through the Holy Spirit, His Word will transform us to be more like Jesus. It can be challenging to make Scripture memory a priority and practice in your daily life. This is why this eBook was created: to take the guesswork out of Scripture memory and give you practical tools to use today!

In this eBook you will:

- Receive a game plan to set yourself up for success when it comes to a Scripture memory habit.
- Learn practical ways to start a Scripture memory habit that will keep you from getting stuck.
- Explore different methods to begin the habit of Scripture memory that will help you hide God's Word in your heart for a lifetime.

We pray this eBook will grow your desire for Scripture memory and inspire you to share what you're learning from God with others.

Blessings,  
The Navigators



## Setting Yourself Up for Success

Did you know that habits likely account for about 40 percent of our behaviors on any given day? Think about it: we all have daily routines for when we wake up in the morning, eat meals, and spend time with friends. Research tells us great news — we can develop new habits no matter our age. Our brains — designed by God — have the ability to grow new neural connections to develop and solidify new habits!

Starting a new habit — like memorizing Scripture regularly — requires only four simple steps, which we can call:

### The 4 Ds:

- Desire
- Decision
- Determination
- Discipline

So before you begin your journey of developing a new habit of Scripture memory, use the 4 Ds to set a game plan. To have the right **desire**, start with prayer and ask God for the right motives and encouragement to stick to your new habit. **Decide** a time of day or multiple shorter times in the day and **determine** to set an alarm on your phone to remind you when to start and stop. Then, have the **discipline** to commit to memorizing Scripture during the times you have set. If you can, find a friend or two to join you to keep each other accountable. Good habits can be developed as a result of consistent discipline that trusts in the strength God gives.

Finally, set some small, reasonable rewards whenever you succeed. It can be something as simple as giving yourself a piece of your favorite chocolate whenever you successfully memorize a verse. Of course, the greatest reward is getting to know the Lord more deeply and treasuring His Word in your heart. But, small rewards can be tangible ways of making habits stick.





## How to Start

Now that you've got a game plan for a new Scripture memory habit in your life, you might be wondering, "Now, where do I start?"

Here are five tips for starting Scripture memory.

### 1 Pick an area of gospel truth you're motivated to understand more deeply.

Selecting Scripture that you resonate with will make it more likely that you'll memorize them. There are lots of Bible memory systems organized by topics, including the [Topical Memory System \(TMS\)](#) by The Navigators.

### 2 Start small.

Start with verses that are short or have short phrases that are easy to remember. It may also be helpful to choose verses that are easy to understand and in everyday language. By starting small, you'll be encouraged by having several verses memorized fairly quickly.

### 3 Dig into the context.

After you select a verse, find it in your Bible and read the paragraph before and after it. Use this context to gain a clear understanding of what the verse means. You may want to read the verse in other Bible translations or consult a commentary.

### 4 Apply the verse to your life.

You will be more likely to remember a verse if you connect it with a new attitude or action. Remember: memorizing Scripture is not just about gaining head knowledge; this is what we truly believe! We remember what we apply and put into practice.

### 5 Find a Scripture memory community.

Invite a friend or several to memorize with you! Set a time each week to check in and review verses. In just 10 minutes you can give each other enough accountability to grow by leaps and bounds in your love for God and knowledge of His Word.

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#### **Navigators Top Resources for Memorizing Scripture**

[Topical Memory System \(TMS\)](#)

[The Art of Bible Memory](#)

[How to Meditate on Scripture Day and Night](#)



# Scripture Memory Methods

Every form of art has different methods. For example, a painter may use drybrushing, washing, stippling, pouring, and splattering to make their finished art piece. In a similar way, Scripture memory can utilize various methods in order to help make verses stick for the long term.

Below, we will walk through several methods of Scripture memory using 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) as an example.

## As You Begin to Memorize

As you begin to memorize, you'll want to familiarize yourself with the verse through multiple ways. Here are four examples and you can do them in any order.

- 1. Say the verse out loud multiple times:** As you say it out loud, make sure you are not rushing through words and are stopping to pause where you are supposed to (e.g., punctuation marks). You should say it out loud at least three times.
- 2. Listen to the verse multiple times:** Using a Bible app on your phone or a Bible audiobook, listen to the verse multiple times at regular speed. You should listen to it at least three times.
- 3. Write out the verse six times using three colors:** Choose three different color pens, markers, or pencils, and write the verse and reference out two times with each color.

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:  
The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17*

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:  
The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17*

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The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17*

- 4. Put the verse where you can see it:** Write the verse on several index cards and strategically place them where you can see them throughout the day. Examples could be on your bathroom mirror, your refrigerator door, and your bedroom door.

## As You're Memorizing

Now that you're familiar with the verse, it's time to start putting it to memory. Follow these steps to help you memorize the verse bit by bit.

### 1. Memorize the reference first.

2 Corinthians 5:17

### 2. Memorize the phrases or chunks at a time.

Therefore,  
if anyone is in Christ,  
the new creation has come:  
The old has gone,  
the new is here!  
2 Corinthians 5:17

3. **Use cloze tests:** a cloze test is just a fancy name for a test where a portion of the text you're trying to memorize is left blank and you need to fill in the blank portions of the text. Write out a few variations of a cloze test for the verse. You can start with just leaving a few words blank and then progress to leaving phrases blank.

Therefore, if \_\_\_\_ is in Christ, the new \_\_\_\_ has come; The \_\_\_\_ has gone, the \_\_\_\_ is here! 2 \_\_\_\_ 5:17

Therefore, \_\_\_\_ in Christ, the new creation \_\_\_\_; The old \_\_\_\_, the new \_\_\_\_! 2 Corinthians \_\_\_\_

Therefore, \_\_\_\_\_, the new creation has come: \_\_\_\_\_, the new is here! \_\_\_\_\_

4. **First letter for each word:** Write only the first letter of each word in the verse and try to memorize what each letter stands for. You can start off with only having a few words like this and then build up to having the whole verse with only the first letter for each word.

T, i anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come; The old has gone, the new is here!  
2 Corinthians 5:17

T, i a i i C, the new creation has come; The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17

T, i a i i C, t n c h c; The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17

T, i a i i C, t n c h c; T o h g, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17

T, i a i i C, t n c h c; T o h g, t n i h! 2 Corinthians 5:17

## After You've Memorized

Once you've memorized the verse, you need to make sure that it stays in your mind long term through regular patterns of review.

Here are a few tips to help you retain the verses that you have memorized.

### 1. Keep track of the verses you've memorized.

You can use index cards to write down the verses you've memorized or even use a digital option like a flash card app. By doing this, you will be able to have your memory verses on hand for a quick review.

## 2. Set a memorization pattern.

When you finish memorizing one verse, start by reviewing it on a daily basis until it becomes very familiar. Then, you can begin reviewing it every other day, once a week, and then once a month while you memorize new verses. Once you keep this pattern for a few weeks, you'll be encouraged to see how many verses you've already memorized!

## 3. Set reminders.

One of the best ways to make sure you keep up the habit of Scripture memorization is to set reminders. That can look like scheduling it into your calendar or setting alarms on your phone. Just 10 minutes a day is all you need to keep up this habit.

## 4. Meet with your Scripture memory community.

If you have invited a friend or a community to memorize Scripture with you, schedule times to meet with them to review Scripture and hold each other accountable. This can look like in-person meetings, virtual meetings, phone calls, or even text messages. Set a meeting frequency that is sustainable for everyone.

# Conclusion:

We hope and pray that this eBook has encouraged your Scripture memory habit. As Scripture saturates your mind, heart, and life, watch to see how God changes you in the process.

Are you excited about what you're learning and how you're growing through forming a Scripture memory habit? Share this eBook with a friend and invite them to memorize Scripture *with* you.

**Want more practical tips and insights to inspire your growth as a disciplemaker?**

Continue to the next page for additional prayer resources to spark further growth.







# Continue growing in your faith with these discipleship resources:

## Praying the Names & Attributes of God: A 30-Day Prayer Guide



Are you looking to grow in prayer, thrive in your conversations with God, and help others do the same?

Introducing the new and refreshed *Praying the Names & Attributes of God: A 30-Day Prayer Guide*. We want to help you cultivate a deep relationship with God and understand how knowing Him can transform your prayer life.

In this *Praying the Names & Attributes of God* eBook we'll:

- Introduce a combination of 30 names and attributes of God with their meanings and where you can find them in Scripture.
- Inspire your conversations with God through the prayer prompts related to each name.
- Provide a practical and printable 30-day prayer calendar which includes the names and attributes of God, the Scriptures, and a prayer prompt. This calendar is something you can print and even share with friends.

Imagine what could happen as you intentionally focus 30 days on building your relationship with God and your conversations with Him. Watch to see how this simple practice changes you and impacts those you disciple.

Get access to the *Praying the Names & Attributes of God: A 30-Day Prayer Guide* here: [navlink.org/namesofGod](http://navlink.org/namesofGod)

## Digital Discipleship Journeys®

**How do I grow in my relationship with Jesus?** You're not alone in desiring a deeper relationship with Christ and not knowing how to take the next step. We want to come alongside you and offer a customized **FREE Digital Discipleship Journey**. This curated email series is designed to help you grow spiritually, based on your answers to some brief questions about your walk with God.

[navlink.org/disciplemaking](http://navlink.org/disciplemaking)

## Growing Together: A Three-Part Guide for Following Jesus and Bringing Friends on the Journey

As you grow in your love for prayer, invite a friend to join you.

*Growing Together: A Three-Part Guide for Following Jesus and Bringing Friends on the Journey* is a book grounded in research from Barna and The Navigators and includes:

- Practical advice on how to invest in others through our day-to-day lives
- Personal testimonies about what God has done through discipling others
- Questions for self-reflection and discussion with friends

Purchase your guide here: [navlink.org/growing-together](http://navlink.org/growing-together)

