

# LEADING *your local*

## SCRIPTURE MEMORY FELLOWSHIP

*For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD,  
and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel. Ezra 7:10*



Thank you for treasuring God's word and helping others do likewise! Your mission, by God's grace, is to form a local fellowship of two or more Scripture memorizers, a local "Scripture Memory Fellowship." This fellowship is basically a weekly meeting to hear Scripture recited and encourage the memorizers. The meeting may be fairly short and informal most weeks. When properly set up, your fellowship will provide structured planning, gracious accountability, and meaningful rewards to a church-, home-, school-, or work-based group of memorizers. This is not an easy journey. Certain convictions must guide you:

- **God's word will bear fruit** (Luke 8:11)
- **God's word is worth more than gold and silver**  
(Psalm 119:72)
- **God's word is very sweet to the taste** (Psa. 119:103)
- **Planting God's word is worth any price we can pay**  
(2 Tim. 2:1-10)

***"Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory . . . Be diligent to present your self approved to God, a worker . . . rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Tim. 2:10, 15***

SMF exists to help you as you plant God's word. Feel free to contact us by phone or e-mail any time during this process. The challenges and roadblocks you face are not new; we will gladly share with you the benefit of others' experience. Our website [scripturememoryfellowship.org](http://scripturememoryfellowship.org) points to a number of different digital and musical Scripture Memory tools, and our blog features encouraging discussion of Scripture memory topics. Let us encourage you to keep your Scripture Memory group on **P.A.R.!**

## **P = Plan**

## **A = Accountability**

## **R = Rewards**

Each of the green bold-print subjects below is elaborated in the following pages.

## **PLAN**

Your local Scripture Memory fellowship begins with a PLAN—a definite set of verses learned on a definite **schedule**. After you recruit a group of memorizers, you follow the schedule together, as each one makes his way through an **SMF memory book** or some other chosen set of verses.

Jesus said:  
*"If you abide in Me,  
and My words  
abide in you,  
you will ask  
what you desire,  
and it shall be done  
for you."*

John 15:7

## **ACCOUNTABILITY**

The accountability in a local Scripture Memory fellowship comes from individual **hearers** who listen to the verses, pray for the memorizers, and encourage the use of **good memorization skills**. The hearers listen to the verses once a week and ensure **accurate recitations** at the fellowship's **weekly meetings**.

## REWARD

One of the best ways to help children & young people complete memory work is to reward them! **Rewards** motivate and encourage all of us. SMF offers three free rewards for each memorizer who finishes, chosen from the **SMF Rewards List**, available on our website or by mail. We also invite all memorizers to a low- or no-cost week of **Scripture Memory Fellowship Camp** as an additional reward for completed memory work.

## SMF MEMORY BOOK

SMF offers over fifty such books on a broad variety of topics, for a wide range of memory ability. See our website or our *Memorizer* publication for a complete listing of memory books. Our memory books have been carefully prepared over the last 70 years to lay solid and deep foundations for basic Bible doctrines. For example, the first three assignments of Middle School 2, **Knowing God**, are entitled: “Knowing God as Eternal,” “Knowing God as a Person,” and “Knowing God as Father.” Each memory book, with the exception of the Preschool series, is divided into twelve to fifteen assignment headings. These assignment headings are designed as mental file folders by which the various verses are categorized. The memorizer can use these headings as a memory aid.

The memory books also contain brief but useful notes on the verses. These notes are designed to explain basic meaning and in some cases offer helpful illustration and application, including poetry and quotes from believers of earlier ages. Children’s books have color illustrations.

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# SMF MEMORY BOOK (continued)

SMF memory books are printed in the King James and New King James Versions, with one book (Knowing God, Middle School 2) available in ESV. We recommend memorizing from more literal, word-for-word translations. If you want one of our memory books in a translation we do not have, we are able to make verses-only leaflets of some books.

## SCHEDULE

We highly recommend the setting of a WEEKLY recitation schedule, such as:

Sept. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Assignment 1	
October 5 <sup>th</sup>	Assignment 2	
October 12 <sup>th</sup>	Assignment 3	
October 19 <sup>th</sup>	Assignment 4	. . . and so on.

You can use the schedule chart we provide or make your own, but be sure to provide a copy to each memorizer in your fellowship. It is advisable to take a week off for holidays if your schedule includes those dates. NOTE: SMF memory books are divided into twelve to fifteen assignments (except for the Pre-School Series).

Leaders may also wish to schedule a completion ceremony for the awarding of SMF reward books and certificates. This ceremony may be a brief portion of a church service or a banquet, depending on the local fellowship’s preference and budget.

**See Local Group Schedule insert  
or contact SMF for copies at  
888.569.2560**



## Local Group Schedule

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\*Use abbreviations, like EL-1 for Elementary Book 1, MS-1 for Middle School 1, BB-1 for Bible Book 1, BA-1 for Basic Adult Book 1, DA-1 for Doctrinal Adult Book 1, TT for Timeless Treasures, etc. Adults recite 15 assignments. All the rest recite 12 assignments.

## HEARERS

As the fellowship's leader, you may hear the recitations yourself. But if your group grows larger, delegate this task to other responsible adults in the group. Reciting to someone outside one's own family may lead to staying on the recitation schedule more faithfully since we're less likely to postpone an appointment with someone outside our immediate family.

## WEEKLY MEETINGS

Choose a consistent place and time for your fellowships. Start on time and open with prayer for God's help in the recitation. Be sure to get the recitation done early in your meeting and make sure the location is accessible to all participants.

“And let us consider one another in  
order to stir up love  
and good works.”  
Heb. 10:24

## Roles in your Local Scripture Memory Fellowship

- LEADER
- HEARER
- MEMORIZER

## GOOD MEMORIZATION SKILLS

Many books and seminars exist on how to memorize, but here are a few basic pointers:

- Ask for God's help! Treasuring God's word in memory is as much an exercise of one's spirit and soul and will as it is of one's mind. There will also be significant spiritual warfare at many stages of the memorization process (Matt. 13:19).
- Plan to study your verses during times of day when you are most mentally alert and undistracted. Though some people may find background music or bodily motion helpful in the memorization process, it is not, generally speaking, a good activity for multi-tasking.
- The simplest memorization method is to repeat, out loud if possible, one phrase at a time until you can say it without looking. Add phrase to phrase, and when you can stumble through a verse from memory, say it seven more times to "overlearn" the verse. Then recite with expression and meaningful pauses, to ensure your knowledge of the verse is complete.
- Digital and musical tools help enormously! Check out digital memory tools at **scripturetyper.com**, **memverse.com**, and others. See our booklet, *Whatever It Takes*, for a more complete listing of such tools. This book is available for free download at the bottom of this page:

<http://scripturememoryfellowship.org/memory-books-and-tools>

## ACCURATE RECITATIONS

Because “every word of God is pure” (Psa. 12:6), aim for word-perfect recitation. Hearers may consider a recitation acceptable with two prompts or less per weekly recitation. A prompt would be any time the memorizer must be corrected or helped. We advocate the maintenance of high standards, but such standards should be upheld with great grace. Also, part of reciting accurately is reciting emphatically. It will hardly do to mumble in a monotone, “Oh how I love Your law! it is my meditation all the day” (Psa. 119:97). The exclamation point in that verse ought to come through in one’s voice! Indeed, God’s word deserves to be recited with warm emotion and thoughtful inflection. This requires mastery and practice. For an opportunity to practice public recitation of Scripture, consider attending our Scriptorium Scripture recitals.

## REWARDS

God’s word in our hearts is the greatest reward; may we as leaders say from the heart that God’s word is “more to be desired than . . . much fine gold” and sweeter than honey (Psa. 19:10). But children do not taste this right away and may not for years. For this reason, we strongly recommend that you reward your memorizers in a currency you approve and which the memorizers value. C. H. Spurgeon’s grandmother paid him cash for memory work; Daniel Webster memorized to earn a pocket-knife. What will motivate your students?

“Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.”

Jer. 15:16



## SMF REWARDS LIST

When memorizers in your fellowship finish their books, congratulations are in order! And rewards! Simply e-mail or call us, and we will send each memorizer a completion certificate. We will also send the SMF rewards list (also on our website) — a listing of high quality Christian books (and a few games) — from which each finishing memorizer chooses three free items.

## COMPLETION CEREMONY

Romans 12:7 teaches us to render honor to whom honor is due, and we think it only right to recognize Scripture memorizing diligence in a distinct way. At your completion ceremony (see **Schedule** on page 4), take a moment to recognize each memorizer's accomplishments, hand out the SMF reward books and certificates, and pause to pray for God's blessing on the seed of His word that has been planted.

## Scripture Memory Fellowship CAMP

Every memorizer who completes an SMF memory book or other equivalent memory work, also qualifies to attend SMF camp. For memorizers 18 & under, camp is given for \$50.00; memorizers of any age attend camp FREE if they can recite their verses at one sitting (adults: 100 verse minimum). May the Lord reward your work!

**"Those who sow in tears, shall reap in joy.  
He who continually goes forth weeping,  
Bearing seed for sowing,  
Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing,  
Bringing his sheaves with him."**

Psalm 126:5-6