SCRIPTURE MEMORY ——FELLOWSHIP ——

Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You. Psalm 119:11

Know Scripture.

Live Scripture.

Love Scripture.

NEW! SwordGrip Old Testament Volume 1

Get a grip on the Sword of the Spirit with SwordGrip! Our latest installment in the SwordGrip series features key memory verses from Genesis through Psalms. Haven't memorized in a while? Start slowly by memorizing the red verse each week for 28 weeks. Seasoned memorizers may wish to memorize all 80 verses. Check out the inside of this newsletter for sample pages.



SwordGrip Old Testament also includes an improved Grip-It-Tighter section with thought-provoking study questions. The newly-added "Jesus in the Old Testament" exercise helps you identify specific ways each book foreshadows the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (John 5:39).

Whether you're memorizing on your own, as a family, or with a group, consider SwordGrip as a fun and effective way to strengthen your overall understanding of God's Word. Get your copy at scripturememory.com/swordgrip and use coupon code "FreeGift" for a free Teacher's Guide.



Scripture Memory Tip: Sloooow Down

In most areas of life, speed and efficiency are among our highest priorities. Multi-tasking is a highly-touted workplace skill and those who meet or beat their deadlines are often those who get the promotion — even if efficiency comes at the expense of quality. But when it comes to memorizing Scripture, David Miller offers some helpful advice: slow … way … down!

It's hard to overstate the value of undistracted, unhurried memory work. Remember: the ultimate goal of memorizing any verse is not simply to recite it perfectly, but to truly hide it in your *heart* such that it fills your thoughts and shapes your actions (Psa. 119:11; Jas. 1:22). So the next time you finish memorizing a verse, resist the urge to immediately move on to some other task or even memorize another verse. Instead, take a moment to slow down, close your eyes, and thoughtfully enjoy the Scripture you've just learned.

Memorizer Testimony: From Frustration to Satisfaction

I am a natural follower, but emulating people I respect led me to turmoil about 15 years ago when I would try to copy the ways in which my husband and close friends would strengthen their relationships with God. They are avid readers and students of the Word, but I get migraines and neck pain when I read too much. I don't enjoy their brand of reading and studying but felt like that was the most holy way to spend time with God.

I journaled my frustration one day, asking God to show me how HE wanted me to spend time with Him. I felt like He told me to take a break from striving for the perfect devotional time and just REST. We were studying Romans 8 in our small group and after about 30 days I had this undeniable urge and craving to memorize it. So I dove in and started chewing on ... feasting on ... living in Romans 8. Word by word, verse by verse, storing those rich truths in my heart. It gave me a framework in which to live my life. It stirred in me a deep hunger and thirst for God's Word like never before.

Since then I have realized that is the most intimate way that I can spend time with Him — memorizing His Words, living in them day in and day out. He has led me to soak in the Psalms, Isaiah, the gospels, and the epistles over the last 15 years. And His words have become my prayers as I walk in the mornings, as I try to fall asleep at night, as I wrestle with prayers for my husband and children, as I try to encourage a friend or interact with a searching soul.

Our relationships with God are as unique and individual as we are. And He speaks to us in unique and individual ways. My name, Emily Christine, means Faithful Follower of Christ. I am learning verse by verse to emulate Christ in the ways He spent time with His Father, remembering and clinging to the truths of His Word and pouring them back out to Him.

— Christine, Tennessee





Indonesia Report

These are great days in the Scripture memory outreach of Phil and Jacky Walker in Indonesia! Student interns are taking SwordGrip songs and other

scripture songs to the farthest reaches of the country. The second annual SwordGrip duel is planned for November. The first Indonesia Scriptorium will take place on the island of Nias, where staff and students plan to recite the whole New Testament over three days. The memorizers pictured are holding up the passages they plan to recite in the Scriptorium. To support the Indonesian Scriptorium, contact us.



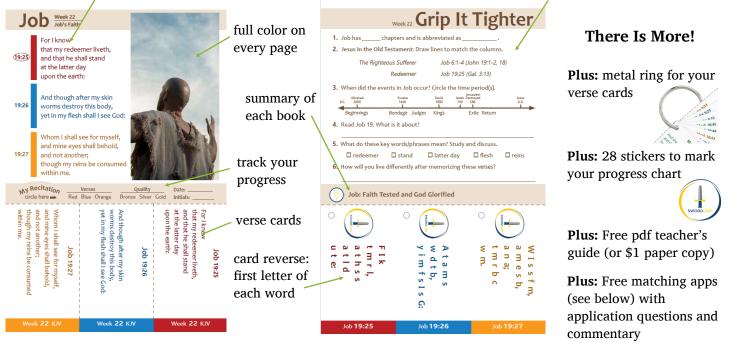


Announcing SwordGrip Old Testament Volume 1!

This first volume of SwordGrip Old Testament features key verses from Genesis to Psalms. Available in KJV, NKJV, and ESV. \$15 per flipbook. 20% off 3 or more flipbooks!

color-coded verses make it easy for families and schools to assign different levels of difficulty

questions for grasping context—now with "Jesus in the Old Testament" section



Ready to Order? Go to scripturememory.com/swordgrip. Or, call 888.569.2560 and mention this newsletter. For checks: Add \$4.75 for 1 flipbook shipping/handling or \$5.27 for 2-3 flipbooks. For 4+ flipbooks or to add other items, please call for shipping/handling to avoid delays.



Memorize the SwordGrip Verses for Free in the Apps

SMF App: Access the Old Testament Volume 1 verses plus helpful commentary and application questions.

VerseLocker (formerly AudioVerse): Download the Old Testament Volume 1 collection and practice with audio and visual tools.

Get both apps free today at scripturememory.com/mobileapps.

It's Time to Memorize and Register for SMF Camp

Camp is a wonderful week of swimming, boating, zipline, paintball, crafts, good fellowship, singing, and—most importantly—an emphasis on God's Word. Earn your way by memorizing SwordGrip New Testament! July 1-6. Ringgold, LA. Find more information or register at scripturememory.com/camps.



Ministry Update

In *100 Bible Verses Everyone Should Know by Heart*, Robert Morgan writes about what God's Word can do in the worst circumstances. For almost seven years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam, Howard Rutledge endured torture, isolation, and conditions calculated to break the strongest spirit. Chained to a metal frame, lying in his own waste, covered with ants, flies, and biting insects, he ransacked his mind for every scrap of Scripture he could recall. "One portion I did remember was, 'Thy word have I hid in my heart.' How often I wished I had really worked to hide God's Word in my heart. I put my mind to work." Morgan writes,

Those Bible verses literally kept Howard Rutledge from losing his mind. The memorized snippets of Scripture in his brain were potent. They faced down death, rallied his spirits, steeled his nerves, and tapped into the deepest strength known in the universe. They beat back the torture, stifled the despair, subdued the terrors he felt, and maintained his sanity.... Those verses, long ago learned by heart, proved more restorative than any tonic. They dispensed strength and were sufficient to the pain; and they bolstered his mind and his mood with the strongest thoughts of an omniscient God in the midst of humanity's most sadistic ravings. They were the reason he came home alive.

God's Word will hold you up, no matter how dark the night, deep the pain, sad the music in your life right now. At such moments, with the psalmist, we say, "My soul clings to the dust; Revive me according to Your word" (Psalm 119:25).

How is your memory work going? Do you have a goal? Do you have a schedule? Do you have an MVP (Memory Verse Partner) to hear you recite weekly? If your answer to all three of these questions is "yes," you'll make steady progress in internalizing God's Word. If your answer is "no" to any one of these, it may be difficult.

We thank God for continually providing the "manna" we need. For the Israelites en route to the Promised Land, the honey-flavored angel food was enough for each day and lasted all the way to Canaan's gates (Exod. 16:31; Psa. 78:25; Josh. 5:12). Scripture Memory Fellowship has known God's good gifts all along our way. Thank you for your prayers and your help. We are behind by \$5,945. As you pray, please join us in asking the Lord to help us cultivate systematic Scripture memorizers who know Jesus Christ and grow in His likeness for the glory of God. It brings God glory when people learn His Word, trust the Lord Jesus Christ, and grow in grace (2 Pet. 3:18).

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SCRIPTURE MEMORY ______FELLOWSHIP ______ Scripture Memory Fellowship exists to cultivate systematic Scripture memorizers to know Jesus Christ and grow in His likeness for the glory of God.

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