



# SCRIPTURE MEMORY — FELLOWSHIP —

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

Know Scripture.

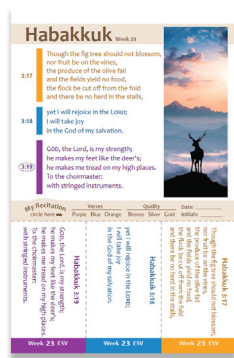
Live Scripture.

Love Scripture.

## SwordGrip Old Testament—Proverbs to Malachi

\$15 flipbook, now available in KJV • NKJV • ESV

How many Bible verses do you know from Amos? How about Joel or Nahum? If the second half of the Old Testament is mostly unfamiliar territory, we have good news: *SwordGrip Old Testament—Proverbs to Malachi* is now available!



**SwordGrip is a Bible memory plan that helps you learn about each book of the Bible.** Each week, you'll focus on a different book. Longer books (such as Isaiah) span multiple weeks.

Your flipbook comes with detachable **verse cards** and a key ring so you can practice your verses on the go. Plus, the first letter of each word is printed on the back of the verse cards to help you memorize. The **Grip-it-Tighter** section helps you consider context, application, and how each book points us to Christ. Finally, the **free mobile apps** include audio and visual practice tools that make memorizing easier.



**Available now at [swordgrip.com](http://swordgrip.com)!**

For phone orders, call 888.569.2560. Discounts available when you order three or more flipbooks.



## Scripture Memory Tip

When learning to ride a bike, you practice with training wheels first. Similarly, practicing a verse with the first letter of each word helps bridge the gap between complete dependence on the printed text and a fluent recitation. Try “reading” Psalm 23:1 from these letters: T L i m s; I s n w. For children, this looks like a fun secret code. But for all of us, it's a helpful next step after reading the verse aloud a few times.

Ready to give it a try? The back of each SwordGrip verse card (above) includes the first letter of each word. You can also use our free VerseLocker app (pg. 3) to memorize any verse using the initials feature.

## Memorizer Testimony

“I can’t begin to tell you how blessed we have been as God’s Word is rooting deeper in our hearts using both apps and the study materials. I have read my Bible through many times over many years. However, I always held the belief I could not memorize chapter and verse. In conversation with others in trials (even in my personal trials) or simply in need of encouragement in the truth, the Holy Spirit would readily bring to mind the Word. But I could never tell them where it is in the Bible. I can feel that beginning to change. Even in my daily reading, I am more able to remember chapter, verse, and articulate the impact of His Word on my heart. Please be encouraged that God is producing much fruit from your labors.”

—Nancy K. (Texas)

## God’s Word in Indonesia

“We praise God that after eight long years of challenges and setbacks, my wife Jacky has been awarded an immigration visa! Lord willing, we will be coming to the United States at the end of April with plans to stay until August or September.



“A highlight of February was touring Medan and Nias with JumpStart3, an organization dedicated to spreading God’s Word using Scripture songs. In April, we will be partnering with a U.S. family running a Scripture memory contest on the island of Nias. Thank you for your prayers and support as we bring a love of God’s Word to Indonesia, the most populous Muslim country in the world.”

—Phil Walker, Indonesia Representative



## Scripture Memory Camp 2020: Registration Now Open

Scripture Memory Camp is an opportunity to step away from the busyness of everyday life and enjoy a week of fun, fellowship, and—most importantly—Scripture. Each morning begins with a lakeside devotional and Bible study, followed by an afternoon of recreation and fun. In the evening, campers gather in the gymnasium for singing and a message from God’s Word. Young people can earn a full scholarship by memorizing *SwordGrip Old Testament—Genesis to Psalms*. Learn more and reserve your spot at [scripturememory.com/camps](http://scripturememory.com/camps).

## Traveling to You! “But I hope to see you shortly, and we shall speak face to face....” 3 John 1:14

Each spring, our staff travels to conferences and conventions across the country. Our goal is simple: help as many people as possible memorize Scripture! Come see us at one of the following events, or contact us if you’re interested in SMF speaking at your church or school.

- Nashville, TN: Feb. 27-29
- Fort Worth, TX: March 12-14
- St. Louis, MO: March 26-28
- Waco, TX: April 2-4
- Cincinnati, OH: April 16-18
- Denver, CO: May 21-23
- The Woodlands, TX: May 28-30
- Lancaster, PA: June 12-13

For more information, see [scripturememory.com/events](http://scripturememory.com/events).

# Choosing a Translation for Memory Work

From which translation should you memorize? For years, Scripture memorizers have wrestled with this important question. If you feel overwhelmed by the infinite number of choices, we recommend making your decision with these guidelines in mind:

**1. Choose a more literal, word-for-word translation.** God's Word came through verbal inspiration. Jesus said, "The *words* that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63). Paul writes, "These things we also speak, not in *words* which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches..." (1 Cor. 2:13). And again, Jesus says, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My *words* will by no means pass away" (Matt. 24:35). Though no two languages match up in 100% word-for-word correspondence, some translations are more literal than others. Choosing a more literal translation honors the doctrine of verbal inspiration and leaves interpretation to the Holy Spirit—where it belongs.

**2. Stick to one translation.** Once you've chosen a more literal, word-for-word translation, *stick with it!* In this day of 1,000 English versions available in 100,000 different editions, one might easily become a jack-of-all-translations and master-of-none. Certainly, other translations can help us in study and commentary, but we don't want our quoting of God's Word to come from the ESNIVNASBCSVNLT version! When Satan comes and asks, "Has God indeed said...?" (Gen. 3:1), we must vigorously prepare to say, like our Lord Jesus said, "It is written..." (Matt. 4:4) and then quote precisely. Jesus' corrections of the Sadducees and Pharisees often relied on a single word or even verb tense (Matt. 22:43; Mark 12:24; John 10:35). Indeed, not one jot or tittle will by any means pass from the law till all is fulfilled (Matt. 5:17-18).

**3. Remember the main point of memorizing Scripture.** Believing in Jesus Christ to save us from sin and obeying His Word matter far more than translation choice (John 20:31; 2 Tim. 3:15). To be a hearer of the word but not a doer is to build one's house on sand. Such people deceive themselves (Matt. 7:26-27; James 1:22). Let us avoid Jesus' indictment in John 5:39-40, "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life." Treasuring God's precious words brings sweetness, treasure, and light (Psa. 19:10; 119:130)!

—Jim Woychuk, Board President



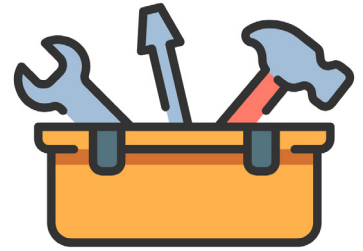
## NEW in VerseLocker: Learn 36 Verses on the Word of God

God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (Psa. 119:105). It's also a sword (Eph. 6:17), a seed (Luke 8:11), and a treasure (Psa. 119:72). As you memorize the 36 verses contained in this collection, you'll gain a fresh appreciation for Scripture and be reminded why memorizing it is so worthwhile.

 [start now at scripture.verselocker.com](http://scripture.verselocker.com)

## The Unopened Toolbox

In nearly every area of life, doing something well requires a certain amount of homework. Successfully installing a new light fixture, assembling a bookshelf, or changing the oil in your car is unlikely to go smoothly if you don't at least read the instructions. Depending on the size and significance of the job, you might even get advice from a friend or watch a tutorial video. Your goal, of course, is not to prepare endlessly—only as long as it takes to become adequately familiar with the proper tools and methods. When at last you feel qualified for the task at hand, you have every intention of putting what you've learned into practice.



Beginning to memorize Scripture is like installing a spiritual appliance—**one with immense power to completely transform your life** (Psa. 19:7). Successful installation will take some work, and you won't regret investing some time on the front end learning how to memorize Scripture effectively. How will you select verses to memorize? What system or app works best for you? What sort of review system will you follow? These are all good questions, and you'll benefit from having your toolbox filled with the best methods and resources. But the truth is, a toolbox that never gets opened isn't really worth having.

Whether you're a new memorizer or a seasoned pro, **don't fall into the trap of perpetual preparation**. Organizing your list of memory verses is good. Carefully considering what to memorize next is good. So is laminating your verse cards and reading articles about how to memorize more effectively. But preparing to memorize Scripture isn't the same as actually memorizing Scripture. Truly, a head full of the best strategies and methods isn't nearly as valuable as a heart full of Scripture.

—Dakota Lynch, Acting Director

## Ministry Update

The completion of *SwordGrip—Proverbs to Malachi* (pg. 1) represents a significant milestone and the culmination of a project that began in earnest three years ago. By God's grace, this three-volume memory course will help thousands of memorizers around the world strengthen their grip on "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Eph. 6:17). We currently lack \$6,605 in our printing fund to cover this expenditure in full. We're also embarking on a convention season full of opportunity and travel expense. Would you prayerfully consider contributing to the ministry of Scripture Memory Fellowship? As you pray for the work, please remember safe travel, wisdom for the board as they meet in March, and the ongoing challenges of helping young and old memorize God's Word!



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

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