

Developing Spiritual Habits In 2025

JUNE: SCRIPTURE MEMORY

BIG PICTURE

This month we are focusing on the gift of God's Word and the practice of memorizing Scripture. If you have done this before, then you know how fruitful this can be. If you have never done this before, don't worry. You can customize the plan to make a reasonable goal, and I will give you some helpful tips.

We will follow the same template we have been using: Read, Reflect, Pray (*see daily plan details below*).

1. Each day you will **read** a short passage that is about the Word of God. (not the passage you are memorizing). This is designed to increase your appreciation for, and confidence in, God's Word.
2. Then you will **reflect** on the passage by writing down a list of what it says about God's Word.
3. Finally, use the list to **pray**. Give thanks, ask God to teach and lead you according to his word, etc.

*** You will work on your memory passage as you go. That is in addition to this daily devotional template.*

WHY MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE?

Dallas Willard wrote multiple books about spiritual disciplines, and he said: "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."

Memorization is simply a way of getting God's Word inside of us, which the Bible itself commends:

- "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth... for then you will make your way prosperous and then you will have good success" (Josh. 1:8).
- "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you." (Ps. 119:11)
- "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom." (Col. 3:16)

Memorizing Scripture is a way of setting our mind on the things of God (Col. 3:2, Rom. 8:5), which sharpens our awareness of God and makes us more attentive to his ways. It also equips for everyday ministry. What we memorize has a way of coming out in conversation and prayer and counsel to others. I think this is one of the main ways we "speak truth in love to one another," which is how the church matures in Christ. (Eph. 4:15).

HOW DO WE DO IT?

Bottom line: It takes some focus and discipline. A little bit of work every day adds up, but you have to do the work.

1. The first step is to pick a passage that you want to memorize.

- Set a reasonable goal. Some people might be able to memorize a short book of the Bible in a month, but most of us should not take that big of a bite. Start with a passage that is 10-20 verses.
- Here are some great options:

Psalms: 1, 34, 42, 51:1-12, 103:1-19

Gospels: Matt 6:19-34, John 1:1-14, John 14:15-24, John 15:1-11

Paul's Letters: Rom 8:1-11, Rom 8:18-39, Rom 12:9-21, Gal 5:13-26, Eph 1:3-14, Phil 2:1-11, Phil 4:4-9, Col 1:13-23, Col 3:1-17

Other New Testament Letters: Hebrews 12:1-17, James 1:2-18, James 3:2-12, James 4:1-10, 1 Peter 1:3-9, 1 John 1:5-2:6, 1 John 4:7-21, Rev 21:1-8

Developing Spiritual Habits In 2025

JUNE: SCRIPTURE MEMORY

2. Make a plan. For example, if you are memorizing 10 verses, then you need to memorize a verse every three days. BUT REMEMBER: you will also have to keep reciting the verses you have already memorized. So, you will need more time as the month goes on. Map out your weekly goals so you can stay on track.
3. Do the plan. There are a variety of methods. Use whatever work for you. The main thing is repetition and consistency. Here is a list of things to try:
 - Read the verse throughout the day.
 - Say it out loud throughout the day.
 - Write it down throughout the day.
 - Study the passage to get a better understanding of its meaning.
 - Use the passage as a prayer guide, for yourself or others.
 - Use something like Quizlet to create flashcards and quizzes.
 - Use a Bible memory app on your phone.
 - Get someone to do it with you and recite what you memorized each week to each other.

DAILY READING PLAN (JUNE)

June 1 Psalm 19	June 16 Psalm 119:113-120
June 2 Psalm 119:1-8	June 17 Psalm 119:121-128
June 3 Psalm 119:9-16	June 18 Psalm 119:129-136
June 4 Psalm 119:17-24	June 19 Psalm 119:137-144
June 5 Psalm 119:25-32	June 20 Psalm 119:145-152
June 6 Psalm 119:33-40	June 21 Psalm 119:153-160
June 7 Psalm 119:41-48	June 22 Psalm 119:161-168
June 8 Psalm 119:49-56	June 23 Psalm 119:169-176
June 9 Psalm 119:57-64	June 24 James 1:21-25
June 10 Psalm 119:65-72	June 25 1 Peter 1:22-25
June 11 Psalm 119:73-80	June 26 Matthew 7:24-27
June 12 Psalm 119:81-88	June 27 Isaiah 55:6-11
June 13 Psalm 119:89-96	June 28 Mark 4:1-9
June 14 Psalm 119:97-104	June 29 Mark 4:10-20
June 15 Psalm 119:105-112	June 30 John 1:1-5; 14