



# 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.

## Too Busy to Memorize Scripture?

Does the busyness of life feel overwhelming? If so, this might come as a surprise: **Americans have more free time now than they did 50 years ago.** Modern inventions and household appliances have simplified housework, and we work less hours than our parents and grandparents did.\*

So what gives? If we're technically less busy, why does everyday life feel so chaotic? According to one study, it's partially because **being busy makes us feel important.** After all, to tell a coworker you have no weekend plans is rather embarrassing. So we fill our schedules with Facebook-worthy moments and then bemoan our lack of free time.

*"The ironic consequence of the 'busy feeling' is that we handle our to-do lists less well than if we weren't so rushed."*\* Can you relate? For most of us, it's not that we fail to add Scripture memorization to our to-do lists; we simply reach the end of the day and realize it didn't happen—again. Day after day, *"the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word,"* and we become unfruitful (Matt. 13:22).

Being busy isn't inherently wrong, but chronic busyness often results in temporary things taking precedence over eternal things. See the tips below for practical suggestions to help you make time for Scripture memorization amidst the busyness of daily life.

\* Source links at [scripturememory.com/blog/too-busy-to-memorize#sources](http://scripturememory.com/blog/too-busy-to-memorize#sources)



## Scripture Memory Tips: Ways to Redeem the Time

- Stay off social media until you've worked on your verses.
- Set a daily reminder on your phone to memorize. If you're not a morning person, consider memorizing during your lunch break or right after dinner.
- Use VerseLocker to listen to your verses while driving, mowing the lawn, or taking a shower. Get VerseLocker at [scripturememory.com/verselocker](http://scripturememory.com/verselocker).
- Tell a friend at church that you'll recite at least two new verses each Sunday.

## Memorizer Testimony: Sustained by God's Word

I had been going through an extremely dark time. But our God is so faithful, and His Word proves true. Shortly after [the homeschool convention], I began studying The Sermon on the Mount with my two children. We had spent time memorizing this before, so it was starting out to be quite easy.

But those study questions that you have provided us with gave such enriched teaching to my heart. God's Word strengthened and sustained me during my own time of extremely difficult trial. My children and I have been greatly blessed by the simplicity and beauty of this study. Your questions are posed for deep consideration. We have looked up passages and terms. And we are all being nourished....

— Christine L. from Dudley, MA

## Indonesia Report: SwordGrip Songs around the World Update

*To learn more about SMF's ministry in Indonesia, visit [scripturememory.com/indonesia](http://scripturememory.com/indonesia).*

We currently know of at least 970 people in Indonesia, 35 in the Philippines, 20 in Pakistan, and 4 in India singing SwordGrip Scripture songs. Please pray with us for the impact of God's Word in the lives of these Scripture singers and for us as we seek to spread these songs around the world. This includes active projects of perfecting our Indonesian NT songs, making OT Indonesian songs, making NT and OT songs in Tagalog, and finding or making NT and OT songs in KJV and NIV in English. We expect and pray that the numbers above will grow exponentially in years to come, especially in Indonesia.

We dream of the day that, Lord willing, we send Indonesian SwordGrip singers to other countries around the world to help people know and love God's Word.

— Phil Walker, Indonesia Representative

## Camp 2019 Report

Scripture Memory Camp took place July 1-6. We praise God for a great week that we trust will "cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God" (2 Cor. 4:15).

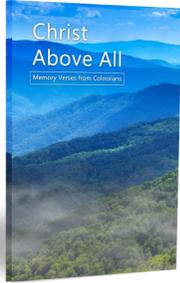
For some, like Seth (17) from Greenville, TX, camp is a yearly tradition. Others came for the first time and enjoyed a break from the busyness of everyday life. Robert (15), a first-time camper from Texas,



summed it up: *"My favorite thing about camp by far has been the fellowship with other believers and strong Christians who will challenge you in your faith and continually uplift you day by day."*

See the 2019 camp video at [scripturememory.com/camps](http://scripturememory.com/camps). Next year's SMF Camp is scheduled for July 6-10, 2020. We hope you'll make plans to join us!

# Tools to Help You Memorize God's Word



## Christ Above All: Memory Verses from Colossians

Now available in four translations: KJV, NKJV, ESV, or NASB

Colossians beautifully and powerfully describes Christ's supremacy in all things. Memorize 31 key verses in this updated edition of Bible Book Series Memory Book 1. Size: 5.5" x 8.5". \$7.00 each.

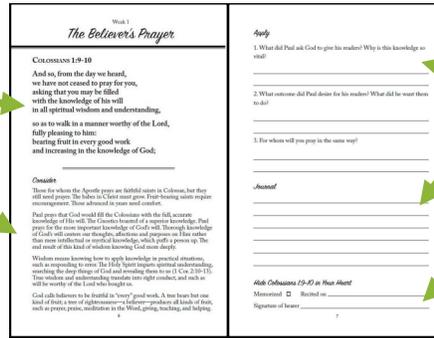
*"Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."*

Col. 3:2

### Look inside:

weekly verses for 15 weeks

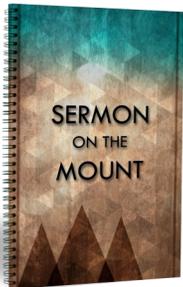
brief commentary



application questions

writing space to record what God teaches you

let a friend sign off when you recite



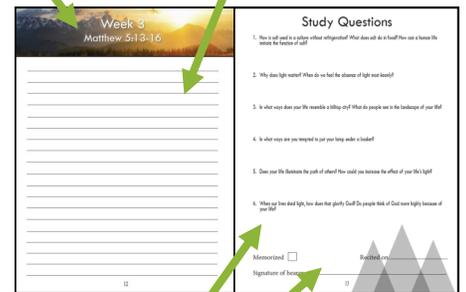
## Sermon on the Mount Memory Journal

Learn all 111 verses of the Sermon on the Mount in 23 weeks. Full-color interior. Size: 8.5" x 11". \$6.00 each.

**Slightly Imperfect Bargain!** If you don't mind a few bent corners, these journals are still fully usable. Get this bargain before we run out! \$4.00 each. **Order by phone only.**

weekly references

write out your verses



study questions

let a friend sign off when you recite

**Ready to Order?** Order by card at [scripturememory.com](http://scripturememory.com) or call 888.569.2560. If ordering by mail, please add shipping & handling to your check: \$4.75 for 1-2 books or \$5.27 for 3-5 books. To order 6+ books or to add other items, please call for shipping & handling cost.

## VerseLocker Update: Add a Friend!



Studies show that you're twice as likely to achieve your goals when you tell someone about them. That's why we've added a new Friends feature to VerseLocker, our free Bible memory app for mobile and desktop. You can now **add up to 12 friends to your account**, and every week they will receive an email digest of your progress memorizing Scripture. The email lets your friends see which verses you've recently added to your account or marked memorized. Try it out today at [scripturememory.com/verselocker/friends](http://scripturememory.com/verselocker/friends).

## Keep Your Heart

*“And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold”* (Matt. 24:12). When someone we know disavows his faith, we agonize and pray and ask why. Jesus’ words above diagnose a common heart problem. Lawlessness leads to lovelessness. The head often finds a rationale for what the heart wants, so it is in the heart where the battle must be fought and won. *“Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life”* (Prov. 4:23). What truths fill our hearts? Whatever they are, they will certainly come out in our actions and speech—*“As he thinks in his heart, so is he.”* *“Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks”* (Prov. 23:7; Matt. 12:34).

The truths we hold in our hearts shape our attitudes. Our eight-year-old recently expressed concern that if too many owls died, the disease-ridden rodent population would get out of hand. *“The whole ecosystem depends on it!”* she announced urgently. That may be true, but notice how a pithy, memorized statement became a conviction capable of shaping opinion and even future action. In fact, all of us latch on to various opinions, proverbs, rumors, statistics, and truisms—even weather reports. These memorized facts and opinions instruct and inform our words and actions. The truth-claim in the mind may be vile or valid, putrid or pointed, but if the heart harbors a thought, head and hand often follow.

So we must memorize and internalize God’s Word. When the meditations of our hearts echo with Scripture, the truth of God can become the basis of attitude and action. Something movable and unstable—our hearts—conform to something solid and true—God’s Word.

In the international system known as “Coordinated Universal Time,” the clocks of the world synchronize with 200 very precise atomic clocks, which use a very precise definition of one second. One second equals the time it takes a Cesium-133 atom at the ground state to oscillate exactly 9,192,631,770 times.\* All our computers and phones seek to conform to this precise international standard. Internalizing God’s Word synchronizes our hearts in line with the eternal.

Watches and clocks may be unsynchronized—fast or slow. Similarly, human hearts become unmoored and rudderless when they lack an internal standard. Lawless, and then lethally loveless. *“My son, keep my words .... Write them on the tablet of your heart .... My son, give me your heart....”* (Prov. 7:1, 3; 23:26).

We thank God for so many of you who have joined us in this ministry of planting God’s Word! Thank you for praying. Please continue! Thank you for giving. What are you memorizing this fall? How can we help you?

\* Source: [www.timeanddate.com/time/international-atomic-time.html](http://www.timeanddate.com/time/international-atomic-time.html)



Jim Woychuk



SCRIPTURE MEMORY  
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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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