

# Memorising Scripture

READING  
Psalm 119:11  
Deuteronomy 6  
2 Timothy 3

*I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.*

About 6 months after I became a Christian I worked in an ACE (Accelerated Christian Education) school in Australia. It was so exciting, talking about God things all day, and seeing young lives transformed. ACE was as much about building character as much as knowledge and faith.

One thing they do, because of Deuteronomy 6, they see the importance of meditating on and memorising Scripture. We always had a “chapter of the month”, and as a group we would always read it out loud together every morning. Towards the end of the month students would gradually show that they had memorised it, the whole chapter, word for word. Usually without any extra effort than reading it aloud every day. We would also have discussions throughout the month on what that chapter was about.

So of course the staff would also check each other, but for us it took more effort to memorise. But honestly, not much more. So as a young Christian I knew more than 20 chapters of the Bible off by heart.

We liked it so much we used it as home school, in two states of Australia and in the USA. School came with us. And as a family we grew up memorising Scripture together.

Can I encourage you to memorise the Bible. Even if you just do verses and not whole chapters. The Navigators has a great system, “Topical Memory System” which is exactly that. Paired verses about useful topics. They’re printed on business cards so you can carry them around and use the small opportunities during the day to practice your verses. And of course, you can buy some blank cards and make your own in your favourite translation.

I used to have an older friend whom people used to tease about how bad his memory was. He tried memorising the Bible. He said it was like pouring water into your brain every day and trying to retain some. People would laugh and say, but you have a brain like a sieve. He would answer, “Yes, but at least it’s clean”.

Memorised verses pop up into your mind at just the right time. It’s kind of like you gave the Holy Spirit some ammunition to use when you’re being attacked, by evil, or just by your own doubt or questions. It’s the whole “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you” come to life, in you!

I’m sure you recognise this verse, (although this version is my own translation), “For in this way God loved the world — he gave his only born son so that everyone who trusts in him won’t be destroyed but may have everlasting life.”

Would you try this?

Print this out, and cut out each date into a separate piece of paper. Every day, read that piece, and see if you have it memorised by the end of the month. That’s all you have to do, read it out once a day. And see what happens.

- 01 “For in this way God loved the world — he gave his only born son so that everyone who trusts in him won’t be destroyed but may have everlasting life.”
- 02 “For in this way God loved the world — he gave his only born son so that everyone who trusts in him won’t be destroyed but may have everlasting life.”
- 03 “For in this way God loved the world — he gave his only born son so that everyone who trusts in him won’t be destroyed but may have everlasting life.”
- 04 “For in this way God loved the world — he gave his only born son so that everyone who trusts in him won’t be destroyed but may have everlasting life.”
- 05 “For in this way God loved \_\_\_\_\_ — he gave his only born son so that everyone who trusts in him won’t be destroyed but may have everlasting life.”
- 06 “For in this way God loved \_\_\_\_\_ — he gave his only born son so that everyone who trusts in him won’t be destroyed but may have everlasting life.”
- 07 “For in this way God loved \_\_\_\_\_ — he \_\_\_\_\_ his only born \_\_\_\_\_ so that everyone who trusts in him won’t be destroyed but may have everlasting life.”
- 08 “For in this way God loved \_\_\_\_\_ — he \_\_\_\_\_ his only born \_\_\_\_\_ so that everyone who trusts in him won’t be \_\_\_\_\_ but may have everlasting \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 09 “For in this way God loved \_\_\_\_\_ — he \_\_\_\_\_ his only born \_\_\_\_\_ so that everyone who trusts in him won’t be \_\_\_\_\_ but may have everlasting \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 10 “For in this way God loved \_\_\_\_\_ — he \_\_\_\_\_ his only born \_\_\_\_\_ so that everyone who trusts in him won’t be \_\_\_\_\_ but may have \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 11 “For in this way God loved \_\_\_\_\_ — he \_\_\_\_\_ his only born \_\_\_\_\_ so that everyone who trusts in him won’t be \_\_\_\_\_ but may have \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 12 “For in this way \_\_\_\_\_ loved \_\_\_\_\_ — he \_\_\_\_\_ his only born \_\_\_\_\_ so that \_\_\_\_\_ who trusts in him won’t be \_\_\_\_\_ but may have \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 13 “For in this way \_\_\_\_\_ loved \_\_\_\_\_ — he \_\_\_\_\_ his only born \_\_\_\_\_ so that \_\_\_\_\_ who trusts in him won’t be \_\_\_\_\_ but may have \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 14 “For in \_\_\_\_\_ loved \_\_\_\_\_ — he \_\_\_\_\_ his only born \_\_\_\_\_ so that \_\_\_\_\_ who trusts in him won’t be \_\_\_\_\_ but may have \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 15 “For in \_\_\_\_\_ loved \_\_\_\_\_ — he \_\_\_\_\_ his only born \_\_\_\_\_ so that \_\_\_\_\_ who trusts in him won’t be \_\_\_\_\_ but may have \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 16 “For in \_\_\_\_\_ loved \_\_\_\_\_ — he \_\_\_\_\_ so that \_\_\_\_\_ who trusts in him won’t be \_\_\_\_\_ but may have \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 17 “For in \_\_\_\_\_ loved \_\_\_\_\_ — he \_\_\_\_\_ so that \_\_\_\_\_ who trusts in him won’t be \_\_\_\_\_ but may have \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 18 “For in \_\_\_\_\_ — he \_\_\_\_\_ so that \_\_\_\_\_ who trusts in him won’t be \_\_\_\_\_ but may have \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 19 “For in \_\_\_\_\_ — he \_\_\_\_\_ so that \_\_\_\_\_ who trusts in him won’t be \_\_\_\_\_ but may have \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 20 “For in \_\_\_\_\_ — he \_\_\_\_\_ so that \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_ won’t be \_\_\_\_\_ but may have \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 21 “For in \_\_\_\_\_ — he \_\_\_\_\_ so that \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_ won’t be \_\_\_\_\_ but may have \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 22 “For in \_\_\_\_\_ — he \_\_\_\_\_ so that \_\_\_\_\_ be \_\_\_\_\_ but may have \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 23 “For in \_\_\_\_\_ — he \_\_\_\_\_ so that \_\_\_\_\_ be \_\_\_\_\_ but may have \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 24 “For in \_\_\_\_\_ — he \_\_\_\_\_ so that \_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 25 “For in \_\_\_\_\_ — he \_\_\_\_\_ so that \_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 26 “\_\_\_\_\_ — he \_\_\_\_\_ so that \_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 27 “\_\_\_\_\_ — he \_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 28 “\_\_\_\_\_ — \_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 29 “\_\_\_\_\_ — \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 30 “\_\_\_\_\_”

Some people might not need a month. But for the price of a few minutes a day for a month, you can end up having memorised a Bible verse, and maybe changed the rest of your life.