

Taking The Sword

LEADER'S MANUAL

12-Week Course

**Know the joy, experience the power
of memorizing Scripture
by Chapter and by Book!**

by

May McClure

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Telephone: 503/554-7439 Email: sos@sosministries.org Web Site: www.sosministries.org

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Taking the Sword

Leader's Manual

Introduction

What an awesome privilege is yours! As you lead this class God will be using you in powerful ways to help fellow believers pursue a journey that has been life changing for many. You will, indeed, be blessed as you guide them in planting pure truth into their minds and hearts, not just a verse here and there, but building verses into chapters and chapters into books.

Many have said they had never experienced the joy and power of Scripture as they did when they began memorizing it in its full context. And such comments have come from some who have been Christians since childhood, enjoyed profound Christian teaching for many years, and/or even served as pastors and Bible teachers themselves.

It is vital for you as the leader of the class to know, first hand, the profound delight and powerful impact that memorizing God's Words can have on a life. It must be vibrant and living to you because your enthusiasm will be contagious and set the pace for your class. Keep in mind that what you are promoting is the memorization of Scripture given to us by the Creator of the universe, the King of all kings, the Lord of all Lords. Scripture is actually the only piece of eternity we have in this world. It is truth, the only pure truth available to us amidst a world of perversion and uncertainty.

But be aware that you are entering enemy territory. No one knows better than the devil himself, what will happen in the lives of God's people if they start taking Scripture seriously. He has worked hard to inflict believers with a resistance, almost aversion even to the suggestion of *memorizing* Scripture. You will be challenging his stronghold. You will be assisting part of God's army to get a firmer grip on the Spirit's mighty Sword. And you can be sure you will not go unnoticed or unopposed. Paul said in I Corinthians 16:9:

*. . . a wide door for effective service has opened to me, **and** there are many adversaries. (NAS)*

Notice he said, "**and**" *there are many adversaries*, not "**but**" *there are many adversaries*. In other words, don't be surprised at the darts that start heading your way when the Lord starts using you to promote the memorization of His Word. Just expect them. Make your class the object of much prayer and have others pray with you that God's protection will be upon you and on all those involved. It will be important for you to warn your class that they also should prepare for spiritual assaults from the enemy.

If you haven't already read our book, *The Sword! Scripture Memorization: A Must For Today* you'll find it a great resource. (You can purchase it or download it free of charge on this web site.) Someone has said, "Next to my Bible, this is my most valued book." Another: "Read this book and your life will never be the same."

Now, may the Lord guide you and give you wisdom in all things. May your love for Him and His word inspire and impact your class in wonderful ways. Blessings on you!

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Suggested Format: (Adjust and alter it to fit your situation.)

- 10 - 12 minutes - prayer and praise**
- 30 - 38 minutes - lesson and discussion**
- 15 minutes - sharing Scripture that has been memorized**

Each one in your class will need a Study Guide. You can download it from this web site to copy. You may want to charge for the cost of copying but because the material is copyrighted, it may not be sold for profit. It is best to give out each lesson a week in advance.

In preparing for your weekly lesson **you will need both a Study Guide AND a Leader's Manual.** Your Manual does not address every question proposed in the Study Guide because it is anticipated that much of the material will be adequately explored in class discussion.

The full text of Scripture references in the Study Guide is included in your Manual to save you time in looking them up, although you may want to check the context in some cases.

If you have a large class and/or some are reluctant to quote their Scripture in front of the whole class, you may want to separate into smaller groups for your time of sharing. If someone is having difficulty, suggest that they just read the Scripture. If time permits, encourage them to share how the Lord has been blessing them through the Scripture they are learning.

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First Week

Get Ready: Prepare Your Mind for Action:

1. When you prepare for a vacation or fun trip, what emotions and expectations usually surge to the surface?

2. Why? Assuming excitement and anticipation are somewhere in your list, what exactly are you excited about, and what anticipation sparks your enthusiasm?

Possibilities: new, inviting environment
new, interesting people
new, exciting experiences
relaxed surroundings
a change from the daily grind
engaging in activities you don't normally have the opportunity to enjoy
an experience you value

6. Look up Psalm 119 and note the word used repeatedly by the psalmist to describe his attitude toward Scripture.

vs. 16 - *I **delight** in your decrees*
vs. 24 - *Your statutes are my **delight***
vs. 35 - *Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find **delight**.*
vs. 47 - . . . *I **delight** in your commands because I love them*
vs. 70 - . . . *I **delight** in your law*
vs. 77 - . . . *Your law is my **delight***
vs. 174 - . . . *Your law is my **delight***

9. Read II Corinthians 3:6(b) and discuss why this is a good verse to keep in mind as you now approach this important journey.

. . . the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

It will be important for your group to reject any legalistic thinking that clouds their approach, such as "Oh, this is going to be hard work, but I *gotta* do it!" as well as the "guilt" thing if they don't. If this is their attitude they may forfeit the delight and joy that should be a normal part of their experience. The Holy Spirit is the Giver of "life and joy", not drudgery. (see I Thessalonians 1:6) Pray that He will instill His sense of joy and freedom into their thinking as they start on this new adventure. *Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom. (II Corinthians 3:17b)* See also Galatians 5:1 and John 8:32.

Other good verses that emphasize the inherent freedom of the Word:

I run in the path of your commands because you have set my heart free. (Ps 119:32)
I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts. (Psalm 119:45)

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Second Week

Get Set: Anticipate the Potential!

1. If the president of the United States or the prime dignitary of any country sent you a personal letter, what would be your reaction?

Possibilities: delight; pride; it would be kept among most prized possessions. Would you not linger on every word? Would you not flaunt it at every opportunity?

4. Write out the following Scripture verses:

Hebrews 4:12 - (the first nine words) **For the Word of God is living and active.** . . (NIV) The word translated "active" in the NIV is translated "*powerful*" in the King James Version, and "*full of living power*" in the New Living Translation. In the Greek it has the meaning: powerful, active, operative, effectual.

Other Scriptures also emphasize the great **power** of God's Word.

Psalm 33:6 - *By the **Word** of the Lord were the heavens made . . . (NIV)*
*The Lord **merely spoke** and the heavens were created. He **breathed the Word**, and all the stars were born. (NLT)*

Hebrews 11:3a . . . *the worlds were framed by the **Word of God**, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. (KJV)*

5. Read **Genesis 1:1-27** and note the cause and effect of specific words spoken by the Great Creator and what they accomplished.

In class you may want to have one person read "*And God said . . .*" and another read the impact of His Words. (The following page is included for easy reference.)

7. Look up the following Scriptures and discuss their importance as they relate to our approach of memorizing Scripture.

II Peter 1:20-21 - *No prophecy came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man; but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

II Samuel 22:31 - *the Word of the Lord is flawless (NIV)*
- the Word of God proves true (NLT)

I Kings 8:56 - *Not one word has failed of all the good promises He gave . . . (NIV)*
- Not one word has failed of all the wonderful promises He gave . . . (NLT)
- There hath not failed one word of all His good promise . . . (KJV)

II Timothy 3:16a - *All Scripture is God-breathed . . .*

8. In conclusion, why do you think we should give importance to memorizing God's Words to us? Because they are **GOD'S WORDS TO US.**

Calvin said: **The same reverence that we have for God is due also to the Scripture, because it has proceeded from Him alone . . .** (not from man's wisdom). If we believed this, how do you think it would affect our attitude toward memorizing it?

Genesis 1

vs. 1 - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

vs. 2 - Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

vs. 3a - And God said, "Let there be light"
3b - . . . and there was light.

vs. 6 - And God said, "let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water.

7 - So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so.

vs. 9a - And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear."

9b - And it was so.

vs. 11a - Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.

11b - And it was so.

vs. 14 - And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to make seasons and days and years . . .

15b - And it was so.

vs. 20 - And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky.

21a - So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind.

vs. 24a - And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind."

24b - And it was so.

vs. 26 - Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

27 - So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

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Third Week

"Go! Okay, I'm ready! Where do I start?"

1. What do you see as the difference between memorizing random verses vs. memorizing Scripture in its full context, by chapter and by book?

2. Discuss the advantages to "full context" memorizing.

As well as the obvious reasons that will come out in class discussion, you may want to bring out the fact that if we concentrate only on random verses we will always be dwelling on highly regarded topics or favorite verses and missing other powerful truths that come to light with the absorption of the full context.

It is tempting for us to just collect the gold nuggets that lie on the surface of Scripture, but God wants us to discipline our minds by learning to dig for gems. Wonderful treasures that lie just below the surface come to light when we memorize the full context.

It is good to point out that God does not speak any words in vain, and there are no wasted passages.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful (II Timothy 3:16)

Jesus said: *Man does not live on bread alone, but on **every Word** that comes from the mouth of God. (Matthew 4:4)*

When we memorize by chapter and by book, rather than by random verses and/or by topic, we are exposed equally to every aspect of the full word.

Testimonies written by some who are memorizing Scripture in its full context are available to download on this web site, or from Appendix C in *The Sword*.

3. In light of the first two lessons and in regard to your original expectations regarding this class, what specifically do you anticipate, plan, hope, expect from this study series?

Encourage your class to share their fears as well as their hopes and expectations. This will give you valuable insight regarding what to stress in subsequent lessons.

More background material for this lesson may be found in chapter 9 and Appendix A in *The Sword*.

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Fourth Week

Commitment and Discipline:

This will be a challenging lesson for you to present. It's focus is "commitment and discipline" which in our culture are usually perceived as real "downers". It will be important to counter this thinking by presenting them in a **positive** way and to emphasize the "freedom and joy" aspect which should be the catalyst propelling us on in the great privilege we have of memorizing God's Word.

No one knows better than the devil, our arch enemy, what will happen if God's children start memorizing Scripture and seeking the Lord in a more disciplined way. He will work very hard to steal the joy and inject that deadly spirit of heaviness and legalism that says, "Oh, this is hard work, but God has commanded it and I just **have** to do it."

We need to remember that the Lord has given us the *garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. (Isaiah 61:3). The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set us free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:2)*

Our Lord Jesus has, indeed, set us free, but we are not free to do just whatever we feel like doing. We aren't free to follow a spineless, easy course of whatever we find comfortable. In Christ we are freed from the heaviness and compulsion to live according to the flesh. We are free to live a righteous life in Christ Jesus. We are free to seek the things of God. Free to memorize His Word with joy and expectation because we love Him and want to learn at His feet.

How sad it would be if we pursued such a privilege merely out of a sense of obligation, because we feel compelled to do so, and not because we long to know Him better. Our Lord has given us His powerful Word to inspire us on to great things. It is our privilege and our joy to memorize it, but it takes holy discipline and commitment to fight against the old nature and the enemy's barricades in order to accomplish it.

The psalmists glimpsed this truth even before its fulfillment in Christ, as shown in such verses as:

I take joy in doing your will, my God, for your law is written in my heart. (Psalm 40:8 NLT)
I delight to do thy will, O my God, yea, Thy law is within my heart. (KJV)

I run in the path of your commands because you have set my heart free. (Psalm 119:32)

I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts. (Psalm 119:45)

Yes, the letter of the law will kill, *but the Spirit gives life and joy.*

We as disciplined believers must stand against the legalistic, deadly trend that has infiltrated the thinking of God's people regarding the memorization of His holy Word.

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Fifth Week

A Clean Heart:

3. Psalm One is the door that opens to the whole Book of Psalms, that great book of blessing. Write out the first verse of this psalm.

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

4. Ponder the first three verses of Psalm One. What does the *first* verse, the *first* concept in the *first* chapter, emphasize in regard to our overall approach to Scripture?

5. With this passage in mind, discuss a prime consideration that must be addressed in order for God to freely reveal His precious truths and lavish His blessings on one memorizing His Holy Word.

This very *first* comment in the *first* chapter of the book effectively emphasizes the danger of harboring an accepting, compromising attitude toward sin. This is stressed before the psalmist expounds on the joy and blessing inherent in the memorization, meditating and delighting in Scripture (described in subsequent verses).

Thus, before starting to ingest Pure Truth, it is important for all of us to check for any extra baggage we might have, inadvertently, (or even overtly) picked up along the way. Holy Words can only thrive in clean soil. Any known sin you may be nurturing will hinder the free flow of blessing the Lord wants to pour into your life as you start memorizing His holy, inerrant Word.

To receive God's best, we must have a heart that is sensitive to the Holy Spirit's wooing, ready to yield to His gentle persuasion, ready to follow His direction, ready to submit when He puts His finger on a point in question.

6. You may know of individuals who are living (or have lived, if they are no longer alive) very sinful lives and yet it is known that they can (or could) quote Scripture, maybe even long portions and quite freely. The Bible says the Word of God is *living and powerful*, yet in some cases it seems to have had little or no affect on the life of the one involved. How do you explain this and what is the solemn warning it bears for us?

Some of you may remember Jim Jones who led his followers to form Jonestown in Guyana. When congressman Leo Ryan and four others travelling with him went to Guyana in 1978, to investigate questionable allegations, they were all killed. Subsequently, Jim Jones and his 900+ followers died by suicide (or murder), including 200 children. It was said that Jim Jones attracted a great many people by his charismatic personality and because he could fluently quote long portions of Scripture.

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Sixth Week

Word Perfect:

1. You often hear people say, "Oh, I don't know the verse exactly, but I know the gist of it." What do you see as the difference between having "the gist" or "concept" about what Scripture says and knowing it verbatim? What dangers are inherent in the "gist/concept" approach?

Professionals say there are five aspects in communication.

What you actually say.

What you think you said.

What the other person heard.

What they think you meant.

What you think they think you meant.

So, when people become involved in the communication process there is a lot of room for misconception, misunderstanding and diluting of truth.

Pure truth comes only from one Source. And its communication can be deemed valid only as it is literally expressed from this one Source.

2. Look up the following Scriptures and see if you can find any basis for merely a "gist/concept" of Scripture. Note, instead, the emphasis on *word* or *words*.

*Deuteronomy 11:18 - Fix these **words of Mine** in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.*

*Job 22:21,22 - Submit yourself to God and be at peace with Him . . . accept instruction from His mouth and lay up **His words** in your heart.*

*Psalms 119:11 - I have hidden **Your word** in my heart, that I might not sin against you.*

*Psalms 119:105 - **Your word** is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path*

*Proverbs 2:1,5-6 - My son, if you accept **My words** and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding . . . then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom, and **from His mouth** come knowledge and understanding.*

*Jeremiah 15:16 - When **Your words** came I ate them, and they were my joy and my heart's delight for I bear your name, O Lord God Almighty.*

*Matthew 4:4 - Jesus answered, It is written: Man does not live on bread alone, but on **every Word** that comes from the mouth of God.*

*John 15:7 - If you remain in Me and **My words** remain in you, ask whatever you wish and it will be given you.*

*Romans 10:8 The **word** is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, that is the word of faith we are proclaiming.*

*Ephesians 6:17 - Take the Sword of the Spirit which is the **Word of God***

*Colossians 3:16 - Let the **Word of Christ** dwell in you richly*

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Seventh Week

Meditation/Review - Part I

4. Ponder the verses below. What aspect is common in all of them?

*Joshua 1:8 - Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; **meditate on it day and night.***

*Psalm 1:2 - (speaking about the "blessed" man) . . . on (God's) law he **meditates day and night.***

*Psalm 119:97 - Oh, how I love your law! I **meditate on it all day long.***

*Psalm 119:148 - My eyes stay open **through the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your promises***

5. Having had a little experience with meditating, what kind of a "repertoire" do you think would be needed to accommodate *all day* and/or *all night* meditation? Do you think a few random verses would be adequate? How do you see memorizing Scripture in its full context, by chapter and by book, accommodates this scenario?

"Day and night" meditation, obviously, could not mean that the psalmists sat around all day and all night reading heavy scrolls. So we have to discard this as being reference to "reading" our Bibles. They must have had Scripture stored in their minds and hearts where it could easily be brought to mind. Only the memorization of Scripture in its full context could accommodate such prolonged meditation.

One of the joys of Scripture memorization is that you have Scripture with you all the time to draw from and meditate on, any minute, day or night—no matter where you are or what you are doing. You don't have to have the open Book in hand. It is in your heart and in your mind for ready reference. The psalmist said it beautifully:

I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. (Psalm 16:7)

Perhaps you remember a fad that was popular a few years ago. It was believed that if you listened to a recording while you slept you would absorb the material in your subconscious and learn effortlessly while asleep. Many tapes were played under pillows or beside beds trying to make it work, although I never heard of anyone who actually benefitted from it. But I do know a method that does work. As we consciously feed Scripture into our thinking process it becomes part of us and subconsciously works on our behalf whether or not we are actually conscious of it.

At this writing I am 75 years old and I have a sister who is 2 years older than I. Just a couple of years ago she said to me, "You know, you're not the same person you were. You don't have some of the "sharp corners" you used to have. I think it's all that Scripture you have memorized that has been working in your life to soften your personality." (I hadn't realized I was ever really that bad!!! Ha! Ha!)

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Eighth Week

Meditation/Review - Part II

Review: Meditation and review go hand in hand. You meditate as you review and review as you meditate. This is why we do not recommend "gimmicks" that are sometimes promoted for memorizing, such as making mental picture associations or creating diagrams. These tend to divert your thinking to the process rather than the content. Using them makes review and meditation two different activities, one to recall the words and the other to focus your thinking on what you have memorized. Rote repetition, on the other hand, focuses your thinking only on the Scriptures with nothing to distract from the pure truth that you are planting in your mind and etching on your soul.

There are a lot of "gimmick" memorizing methods being promoted as "Scripture memorization made easy!" Many people look for these "quick and easy" ways because we are a "quick and easy" generation. But, as mentioned above, these methods tend to divert your thinking to the process rather than the content. The danger is in just learning the words but missing out on other important aspects. There may be little benefit in just knowing words, even words of Scripture, if this is the goal. Also quick and easy "learning" is often quick and easy "forgetting".

The rote repetition and constant review as recommended in Deuteronomy (see references below) are all part of a process. Yes, memorizing the "words" is the first step, but you are then ushered into meditation as you continue to review the powerful truths you have learned and delight in applying them to your life. As in Psalm 1:1,2

Blessed is the man . . . (whose) delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night.

It is not just getting to know the "words" that is important. It is getting to know the Author and growing strong in His ways.

That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death. (Philippians 3:10 KJV)

2. Read Deuteronomy 6:6-9 and 11:18-20. What practical pointers can you draw from these passages that will assist you in review?

These Scriptures direct our attention to frequent review. This includes involving memorized Scripture in the normal activities of our day; writing it out and tacking it up in places where we will see it and be reminded; reviewing while we are walking or lying in bed; talking about it in normal conversation.

In other words, we should soak our minds in the Word and saturate our environment with Scripture, including it in everyday activities.

As it becomes part of us, it should become just a natural part of our work-a-day world.

As in Real Estate you hear the importance of "Location! Location! Location!", in memorizing and retaining Scripture you have learned, it is "Review! Review! Review!"

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Renewing the Mind/Food For Thought

You may find the first chapter of *The Sword* helpful in preparing for this lesson. It compares our minds with a computer because in both scenarios what we feed into the data base controls the output.

In discussion of this lesson, it would be good to keep Isaiah 55:8-9 in mind

". . . My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts."

The mind of natural man does not function in the same realm as the mind of Christ. God's way of thinking differs so drastically from ours, it is impossible for us to even conceive of it apart from divine revelation and application by the Holy Spirit. In order for us to begin to have the mind of Christ there must be complete renewal of our whole attitude and thinking process. (Romans 12:2)

So, how is this accomplished? It can't happen by mere desire or act of the will because *a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; . . . they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.* (I Corinthians 2:14)

It is only as God's Holy Spirit works through the transforming power of His Word, as indicated many times in Scripture, that this miracle can take place. Below are just a few applicable references.

Psalm 19:7-8 - The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.

The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

John 17:17 - Jesus prayed for us: Sanctify them through Your truth; Your Word is truth.

Eph. 5:26 - That He might sanctify and cleanse. . . with the washing of water by the Word. (KJV)

II Timothy 3:16 - All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Yes, it is by the application of Scripture that our minds can be renewed. And memorizing it brands holy truth on our heart and mind in a more permanent way. Then the Holy Spirit of God can light the "fire in our bones" as Jeremiah said, ***His Word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones, (20:9) 0***

Jesus said, *Heaven and earth will pass away, but my Words will never pass away.*

(*Matthew 24:35*) The Bible is the only accessible part of eternity that we have on this earth. It is the only thing we can take with us into the next world. It is our umbilical cord to our Creator. It is the language of heaven. Memorizing it is the best way for us to get it into our life.

In *The Sword*, (page 82) I have compared reading our Bible to an old fashioned pump and memorizing it to an artesian well.

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Tenth Week

Enhanced Prayer Life:

You may find Chapter 4 in *The Sword*, "The Big If", helpful in preparation of this lesson. In it the author analyzes the passage in John 15 in detail. And Andrew Murray's comments at the end are most profound as he clearly emphasizes the importance of Scripture as a powerful basis for our prayers.

We have mentioned before that it is not memorizing words that is important, it is getting to know the Author. As a result, our conversations with Him take on an intimacy that is often unique to those who memorize and meditate on His very Words.

As we memorize and meditate on Scripture and as our minds are renewed by the washing of the Word, our whole Christian experience takes on new meaning and new depth. This greatly impacts our prayer life in every way.

In addition, as we memorize the Word, we will not only encounter and absorb in meditation, Scriptures pertaining to the aspects and principles **about** prayer, we will be memorizing powerful prayers recorded by God's Holy Spirit.

Jesus said:

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. (John 15:7)

This is not an open-ended promise. Jesus promises to respond to our prayers if we "remain" in Him and if His Words "remain" in us—if His Words "live" in us as translated by Phillips. That is not just our concept of what His Words are saying. It is His Words alive in us. Surely, memorizing them is the only way His Words can "remain" or "live" in us. Reading them or even studying them impacts our thinking as long as they linger in our conscious thinking, but only memorizing them brands them on our heart and mind for consistent reference.

John 15:7 is a powerful verse standing by itself. Many who memorize random verses would undoubtedly be satisfied with just this one verse. But look at verse 8.

This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Whereas memorizing verse 7 is good, does not verse 8 add another whole dimension to our prayer thinking? Those of us who memorize Scripture in its full context would not miss this added perspective.

Memorizing Scripture in its full context is like looking at it through a giant magnifying glass that reveals hidden treasures easily missed in cursory review or random memorizing.

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Eleventh Week

Spiritual Maturity

*II Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is God breathed and is **useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.***

*Psalm 19:7-8: The law of the Lord is perfect, **reviving the soul***

*The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, **making wise the simple.***

*The precepts of the Lord are right, **giving joy to the heart.***

*The commands of the Lord are radiant, **giving light to the eyes.***

*Psalm 37:31 - The law of His God is in His heart **His feet do not slip.***

*Psalm 119:11- I have hidden your word in my heart **that I might not sin against you.***

*Psalm 119:105 - Your word is a **lamp to my feet** and a **light for my path.***

*Psalm 119:130 - The entrance of Your words **gives light**, it gives **understanding to the simple.***

*Psalm 119:165 - **Great peace** have they who love your law, and **nothing can make them stumble.***

*Proverbs 3:1 - My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for **they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity.***

*Jeremiah 15:16 - When your words came, I ate them; they were **my joy and my heart's delight.***

*John 17:17 - Jesus' prayer for us, "(Father) **sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.**"*

*Romans 10:17 - . . . **faith comes** from hearing the message, and the message is heard **through the Word of Christ.***

*Romans 15:4 - For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures **we might have hope.***

*Ephesians 6:13,17 - Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that **when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground and after you have done everything, to stand.** (Each piece of armor can be identified as having its root in the Word of God, but the Sword - our weapon - is specifically identified as such.) **Take... the Sword of the Spirit** which is the Word of God.*

*Colossians 3:16 - Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly **as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom**, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.*

*Titus 1:9 - (You) must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, **so that (you) can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.***

*II Peter 1:4 - . . . He has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them **you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.***

*I John 1:4 - And these things write we unto you **that your joy may be full.** (KJV)*

*I John 5:13 - I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that **you may know that you have eternal life.***

Taking the Sword

Leader's Manual

Twelfth Week

Onward and Forward:

Pray much about this class. It will be one of your most challenging. As your last time together in this class it will be important for you to address two things:

1. You should try to cover any loose ends, questions or reservations lingering in the minds of those in your group. Encourage honest discussion on the suggestions included in the Student's Manual.

Review the Lord's commands to memorize His words and the many ways it builds in our Christian experience.

Re-enforce the reasons that make memorizing Scripture in its full context a powerful resource in the life of anyone who is serious about having an intimate relationship with the Lord and growing in His grace.

Review last week's lesson with emphasis on the many ways Scripture impacts our lives: feeding our souls, promoting spiritual growth, enhancing our prayer life, leading us into a more intimate walk with the Lord. You may want to assign last week's verses to class members and list the specifics on a blackboard. Also, they may benefit from having an actual print out of the Scriptures listed in your last week's guide for permanent reference.

2. You should emphasize that whereas this is the end of your study series, it is just the beginning of their journey in the great adventure of memorizing the living and powerful Word of our great and wonderful God.

Accountability is very important on a continuing basis. You will need to help your class to channel into a continuing support program so they will not go home and lose interest like some of the seeds in Matthew 13:19-22.

Suggestions are mentioned in the Student's Manual:

- a) Some churches have a continuing Sunday School Memorization Class.
- b) Other groups meet on another day of the week. Daytime for those who are free then. Evening or Sunday afternoon classes accommodate other schedules. (Our booklet, "A Joy To Share" is a practical resource to aid in the formation of such groups. It can be downloaded, free of charge, on this web site.)
- c) Some prefer to meet weekly one on one with a friend or family member.

And now I entrust you to God and the Word of His grace—His message that is able to build you up and give you an inheritance with all those He has set apart for Himself.

(Acts 20:32 NLV)

Always Remember:

It is not getting to know the words of Scripture that is important, it is getting to know the Author.

In Real Estate, the emphasis is always, "Location! Location! Location!" In retaining Scripture you have memorized it is, Review! Review! Review!

When you train, you don't start off running five miles the first day. You start slow and work up to it. It takes time.

*. . . precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept,
Line upon line, line upon line,
Here a little, there a little. (Isaiah 28:10)*

You can't eat an elephant at one sitting. But it can be done, one bite at a time.

*The law of the Lord is perfect, **reviving the soul**
The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, **making wise the simple.**
The precepts of the Lord are right, **giving joy to the heart.**
The commands of the Lord are radiant, **giving light to the eyes.** (Psalm 19:7-8)*

The Words of the Lord are flawless, like silver refined in a furnace of clay, purified seven times. (Psalm 12:6)

*They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold:
They are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. (Psalm 19)*

I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food. (Job 23:12)

They are not just idle words for you—they are your life. (Deuteronomy 32:47)

. . . there hath not failed one word of all his good promise.... (Kings 8:56 - KJV)

*The entrance of (His) words gives light, it gives understanding to the simple.
(Psalm 119:130)*

I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. (Psalm 16:7)

*The law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of shekels of gold and silver
(Psalm 119:72)*

I run in the path of your commands because you have set my heart free. (Ps 119:32)

I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts. (Psalm 119:45)

I take joy in doing your will, my God, for your law is written on my heart. (Psalm 40:8)

Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. (Psalm 119:105)

Food for Thought:

(Nuggets gleaned from other memorizers.)

Meditating is having an attitude of submission to God

The Words of God are written in only one place - the Bible.

The person who has trouble memorizing may be the best meditator.

The Bible is the language of heaven and will not pass away. (Matt 24:35)

Think Scripture! Apply it to everyday circumstances.

Meditation helps us think straight in a crooked world.

Memorizing is the best way to get the Bible into your life.

Make it a habit. Good habits are hard to learn but slow and steady wins the race.

Without a commitment the job will never be done.

Memorizing Scripture shows me how to live God's way.

Scripture feeds me; it helps me communicate hope; it strengthens me against the world; it helps me to get rid of my bad habits

Scripture memorization provides messages of hope at critical times in life; it purifies my thoughts; and gives direction in times of confusion.

Memorization is like exercise. The more you do it, the easier it gets; the less you do it, the harder it gets.

Memorized Scripture is of little value unless we determine to obey it.

Growth to spiritual maturity comes only by feeding upon God's Word, and memorization enhances this.

Memorized "words" may be of little value. It is the meditation and absorption into our mind and life that allows Scripture to bear fruit in our lives.

Memorizing Scripture has little value if we do not apply it in real life situations. It is only living and active inasmuch as we allow God's Spirit to use it to change our lives.

So much Scripture! So little time!