

Scripture Memorization

By Max Barnett

Pre-Session Assignments

One week before the session, participants will take the following assignments.

Assignment One

We will be studying 2 Timothy 3:16. Prepare to share your answers to the following questions: What do the two verses before verse 16 teach? When did Timothy begin to learn the Scriptures, and from whom did he learn them? See 2 Timothy 1:5.

Assignment Two

Read all the comments related to 2 Timothy 3:16 in the section **It's in the Book**. Be prepared to lead a discussion concerning the inspiration of Scripture.

Assignment Three

Read all the comments related to 2 Timothy 3:16 in the section **It's in the Book**, especially the comments related to the terms “for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.” Explain to the group these benefits the Word of God provides for us.

Scripture to Memorize

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.” 2 Timothy 3:16

Session Goal

Consistent with God's Word and in the power of the Holy Spirit—by the end of this session, disciples will understand what is essential for memorizing and retaining the Word of God.

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It's in the Book

30 minutes

Real-Life Scenario

One day a student notices that you are carrying a Bible. She asks, "What are you reading?" You answer, "It's my Bible."

She says, "My grandmother has one of those, and she is always trying to get me to read it. She really believes it's all true, but I doubt it." What would you say?

Read 2 Timothy 3:14–15 out loud.

Assignment One Feedback

The person who completed **Assignment One** during the week may now share answers to the following questions: What do the two verses before 2 Timothy 3:16 teach? When did Timothy begin to learn the Scriptures, and from whom did he learn them?

Discussion Question

According to 2 Timothy 3:15, one of the great purposes of the Scriptures is to give us the wisdom that leads to salvation. What does a person need to know or do to have that salvation?

On Your Own

In the space below, write briefly what information a person needs to know to have the salvation Paul mentions in writing to Timothy.

Studying the Passage

Verse 16. All Scripture is breathed out by God. The whole Bible is the Word of God and is "God breathed," meaning God spoke it. Not just some of the Bible is inspired, but all of it. We can totally trust what God said in His Word. **profitable.** Since the source is God and He knows everything, He certainly knows what will help us most. We can count on the Word being profitable for instructing us how to live successfully. **teaching.** The Word of God was given to teach us the things God wants us to know. It was given, as stated in verse 14, to bring us to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. After teaching us how to be saved, it instructs us how to live the Christian life. **reproof.** The Word of God shows us where we are wrong. **correction.** The Bible rebukes us and shows us what we need to do to get back on the path on which God wants us to walk.

Assignment Two Feedback

The person who completed **Assignment Two** during the week may now lead in a discussion concerning the inspiration of Scripture.

Studying the Passage

Verse 16. training in righteousness. God will use His Word in our lives to train us in godly living.

Verse 17. complete, equipped. When we let His Word do in our lives what it was designed to do, we are adequately prepared for every good work.

Assignment Three Feedback

The person who completed **Assignment Three** during the week may now lead in a discussion about all the ways the Scriptures are profitable to us.

Discussion Question

How can we help one another be successful in Scripture memory?

On Your Own

Now is the time for you to begin earnestly to learn the Scriptures through studying the Bible and memorizing verses. Will you earnestly seek to live your life by what the Word of God says? What will you do regarding memorizing verses from the Bible?

Write your thoughts and your plan.

Heart and Hands

8 minutes

Read again the **Real-Life Scenario** near the beginning of the lesson. Consider whether your answers have changed during the session.

Be silent for two or three minutes. Thank Jesus for His sacrifice and for the gospel. Adore Him for His glorious reign on the throne of heaven. Then ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you:

1. A way the Scriptures you studied today will change your heart for the glory of Christ.
2. Or a way those Scriptures will lead you to stop doing something for the glory of Christ.
3. Or a way those Scriptures will lead you to do something for the glory of Christ.

Write what the Spirit reveals to you below and then be ready to share what you have written with the group.

Since Last Week

5 minutes

Give the group this update: “In our last session I made a commitment to . . . I want to let you know how that turned out. On that same issue I think the Holy Spirit now is leading me to . . .”

Grace-Filled Accountability

5 minutes

Disciples can agree on a way to hold one another accountable. Confessing faults with other disciples allows them to offer grace, insights, and encouragement. Even more important is confession to Christ, the source of true forgiveness and cleansing.

Planning for Evangelism, Missions, and Service

5 minutes

Groups of disciples always are making preparations for evangelism, missions, and service. Use these minutes to work on the next plan.

Prayer

7 minutes

Every disciple will pray aloud, offering praise to Jesus, thanking Him specifically for His gracious acts, making heartfelt confession, committing to actions flowing from the Bible study, praying toward evangelism locally and globally, and interceding for others as prompted by the Holy Spirit.

At Home: Nail It Down

Why would someone memorize the Bible? They do so because they love and adore Jesus. They do so because they embrace Him as King over their lives. They do so because they are so grateful for His sacrifice and for the grace they have been given. They do so because the Bible is God breathed and is profitable to them in scores of ways.

Many disciples memorize verses by writing those verses on small cards. Cards that are 2.75 by 1.75 inches easily fit into a pocket and can be carried at all times. This enables disciples to use free moments to memorize and review Scriptures.

Here is a specific memorization approach that works well for many people:

1. Memorize a verse so you can say it perfectly.
2. Repeat the reference for the verse before and after you quote it.
3. After you memorize it, repeat it aloud about thirty-five times.
4. Review the new verse every day for two months.
5. After that review it once a month.
6. You then should have the verse for a lifetime.
7. Note that if you memorize one verse a week, you will only be working on eight new verses at one time.

You also can memorize or review verses by having them on your phone, tablet or computer. Some people find that physical cards are a better reminder to memorize verses, so note carefully which approach works better for you over the long term.

Memorizing one verse a week seems about right for many disciples. Find an accountability partner who will help you.

Some excellent resources are available at www.discipleshiplibrary.com. You might benefit from going there and listening to a challenge related to Scripture memory. All this makes sense for a Savior who is worthy.

Follow up Question

How can I help you memorize verses?

The Making Disciples curriculum is a gift from Southwestern Seminary to those who, for the glory of the Father and in the power of the Spirit, will spend a lifetime embracing the full supremacy of the Son, responding to His kingly reign in all of life, inviting Christ to live His life through them, and joining Him in making disciples among all peoples.