

KNOWING SCRIPTURE BY HEART

Why should I do it?

If you're like most people, then you know how it is to struggle to be consistent in memorizing Scripture. One reason could be that, unlike many other things in our lives, it doesn't feel urgent. But we need to memorize Scripture. It's biblical. It doesn't become obvious to us how valuable it is until we find ourselves in a situation where knowing God's Word is crucial.

In order for us to accurately present the gospel of Jesus Christ, it is essential that we must know the Scriptures surrounding it. Why? Because it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes (Romans 1:16). It's His Word. It's not the words we carefully studied or our persuasion, it is all about God's transformative power.

How do I do it?

Here is a guide that we put together specifically for the Personal Evangelism Workshop (PEW):

1) **Read each of the 9 ESV Scriptures from the Bible (you can use an app)**

- a. The 9 Scriptures (adapted from the ©Bridge to Life) have been prayerfully chosen by the Discipleship pastors based on their experience in gospel-sharing throughout the years.
- b. Use the [printable tract](#) as your guide.
- c. Take a photo of the tract to keep on your phone. Hard copies are available at the Info Desk or the Discipleship Desk.
- d. It is important to memorize the 9 verses in sequence.
- e. If you start a month prior to the workshop, you could aim to memorize 2-3 verses per week so that you are ready by Day 1 of the workshop.

2) **Examine the context**

- a. Read the text before and after the verse to memorize.
- b. Consider its context in order to understand the verse clearly.
- c. Try reading the same verse in a different Bible translation or refer to a commentary.

3) **Read the verse aloud**

- a. Take a few minutes to read the verse through several times aloud, to understand it fully.
- b. Each time you read it, say:
 - i. the reference,
 - ii. verse, and
 - iii. the reference again out loud
- c. Talk to God about the verse in prayer, and ask Him to help you in memorizing it.

4) **Memorize it in bite-sized pieces & write it down**

- a. Memorize the topic and reference first.
- b. Next, memorize only the first phrase of the verse.
- c. When you are able to recite this from memory several times, continue to add additional phrases, one by one.
- d. Think about why each word was selected as you memorize it.
- e. Consider the ways the verse applies to you and your daily life.
- f. Past participants to the PEW say that writing the verse out can be helpful. The act of writing down something etches the words in your memory bank.

5) Practice with family members or friends

- a. After learning the verse, incorporate it into your prayers, and repeat it frequently to someone or to yourself over a few days. You can even do this while cleaning, cooking, having your coffee fix and other daily routines.
- b. This step is essential for setting the verse firmly in your mind because we tend to forget things recently learned.
- c. Invite a friend to memorize with you. Set a time each week to check in and review. You will be surprised that by setting aside several minutes a day, you will grow by leaps and bounds in your love for God and His Word.
- d. Practice! Practice! Practice! Remember that practice makes progress! Repetition is the best way to inscribe the verses in your memory.

Hard copies are available on request: discipleship.ac@unionchurch.ph