

# Where Do I Start?

- Stories are the easiest to memorize
  - You can make outlines to jog your memory
- Psalms
- Suggestions by curriculums
- Sermon on the Mount (great for Anabaptists)
- Following the lectionary
- A personal or congregational "Top 10" or "Top 12" List
- Short key passages from lessons
- Words of Christ (parables, etc.)

"Bible memorization is more than just an intellectual exercise, it's a way to partner with the Holy Spirit."

—Rachel Miller Jacobs

Associate Professor of Christian Formation, AMBS

Other resources:

- Making Scripture Stick: 52 Unforgettable Bible Verse Adventures For Children, by Lisa Flinn & Barbara Younger (Group Books, 1992).
- Making Scripture Memory FUN: 80 Unforgettable Ideas for Children's Ministry, by Beth Wolf (Group Publishing, 1998).
- Written on Our Hearts: Helping Children Understand, Memorize, and Retain God's Word, by Susan Lingo (Zondervan Publishing House, 1995).
- Sing & Say: Bible Verses for Children, edited by Daphna Flegal (Abingdon Press, 1999).
- Sing It Make It Say It Pray It and Other Ways to Write God's Word on Your Heart! by Lisa Flinn & Barbara Younger (Abingdon Press, 2002).
- Signs of Faith: Bible Verses for Preteens and Youth, by Marcia Stoner (Abingdon Press, 2001).
- Bible Brain Breaks: Zapping Boredom, Frustration, & Total Disinterest for Children of All Ages, by Barbara Bruce (Abingdon Press, 2004).
- Bible Verse Fun with Kids: 200+ Ideas & Activities That Help Children Learn & Live Scripture, by Cindy Dingwall (Abingdon Press, 2004).
- Teaching Children Memory Verses (Editions for grades 1&2 and grades 3 & 4), by Mary J. Davis, (Rainbow Publishers, 2005).
- Memory Verse Bulletin Boards: Learning Table Activities and Games, by Bev Gundersen, (Good Apple, Inc., 1988).
- With Heart and Hands and Voices: Songs with Sign Language for Sunday School, Choir, and Worship, compiled by Debra Tyree (Abingdon Press, 2000).
- Scripture Songs for Children's Ministry: 24 New Songs to Help Kids Worship (Standard Publishing, 1998).



Year of the Bible

PLAN IT READ IT STUDY IT  
PRAY IT LIVE IT

AUGUST 1-2, 2013

# WRITTEN ON OUR HEARTS: SCRIPTURE MEMORY METHODS FOR ALL AGES



## How Do I Do It?

Ideas below include suggestions from Rachel Miller Jacobs and Marlene Bogard:

- Approach the text with **curiosity**, **study** it, don't assume you know the content
- Be sure you **understand** all the words and phrases in the text, use **online bible tools**, **commentaries**, etc. to deepen your **understanding** and **identify a reason** that text is an important one to commit to memory. Read **study notes**.
- **Break down** larger sections into smaller units to memorize, look for groupings
- Create a **mental map** of where the passage is going
- Look for **repetitions**
- **Print out** a copy of the text to mark up, make notes on, etc.
- Use **body sculpting** or **movements**, move as an actor in the story, do what you can to cross your mid-line
- **Speak** the text, talk **out loud**, not just in your head. Think about the **tone of voice** used by the original speakers/writers.
- Set the text to **music** or use something **tactile**
- **Write** or **sketch** the verse
- **Clap** on each syllable or **march** to the meter of the text
- Use **rhythm instruments** as you **chant** the words
- **Practice with another person** (give them fill in the blank prompts, practice with one person as narrator, the other voices in the story, etc.)
- Read the text **aloud** several times a day, while you are exercising, etc.
- Give yourself **deadlines**
- Write the text on your **mirror** with a **dry erase marker**

- **Tell** or **memorize** scripture for a **specific people** (as a prayer for that person, or to share with that person)
- Sit in a circle and repeat the passage in **round-robin fashion**.
- **Illustrate** key words. Use the pictures as memory aids
- **Print words** or **phrases** on **index cards** or strips of **poster board**. Hide them around the room. Have **participants** find them and place them in the correct order.
- Play **"Catch and Say."** Use a beanbag or soft ball. Have the participants stand in a circle and toss the ball around the circle. The person who catches the ball says the next word or phrase. Or, the whole class can say the word when the ball is caught.
- Print the words on **poster board strips**. Turn the strips upside down and have each person choose one. They have the group **arrange themselves** in the correct **order**.
- Particularly if working with children, invite some adults to service as **memory tutors**. Ask them to meet with individual children to practice the memory text.
- **Repeat** the memory text often. During group sessions, during worship, at the beginning of meetings, whenever members of the memorizing group are together.
- **Begin and end** your memory time with **prayer!**
- There's **NO rush!** Memorization is a **lifelong process**, any material you memorize is more than you could have done.
- The whole point of our memory time is to **deepen our ordinary ongoing relationship with Christ**.



## MAKING BIBLE MEMORY FUN AND EFFECTIVE

Ideas from Marlene Bogard, WDC  
Minister of Christian Formation

### WAKE UP YOUR BRAIN!

Recent brain research shows how we can improve learning (and memorization) by "waking up the brain". Try **breathing deeply** before memorizing scripture.

Memory can also be stimulated by crossing the body's midline and activating both sides of the brain. Try **jumping jacks**, **stretching**, or **walking** in a **figure eight** as you repeat memory-verse words together.

### USE YOUR SENSES!

Use **sight**, **sound**, **touch**, **smell**, and **taste** to create a context for learning. For example, **play music** as you repeat words, **role-play** with costumes, **clap hands** or **snap fingers** in rhythm, and create **crafts** and do other **hands-on activities** that literally help learners get in touch with the text.

### HAVE FUN!

Almost all of our memories are connected to emotions, either positive or negative, so make Bible memory fun! Plan experiences that are **interactive**, **affirming**, **rewarding**, and **fun**. Encourage **freedom of personal expression** and help learners discover methods that appeal to them. **Laughter** helps!