



**OUTSIDE READING  
ASSIGNMENT**

**TOPICAL  
MEMORY  
SYSTEM**

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# BEGIN A LIFETIME OF SCRIPTURE MEMORY AND MEDITATION

You can memorize Scripture. The process may seem slow at first as you follow the *Topical Memory System* and begin building consistent Scripture memory and meditation into your life. In the long run, however, the system saves you time. Do your best to form good memory habits now as you follow the weekly plans in this book.

*Attitude* makes the difference. Be confident as you begin memorizing, and you will develop skill.

You can count on God's help as you memorize. Remember His counsel — “*These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your heart*” (Deuteronomy 6:6); and, “*Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly*” (Colossians 3:16).

## What Scripture Memory Will do for You

**Memorizing and meditating on God's Word will help you overcome worry.** You can experience God's perfect peace by knowing His promises and having them written on your heart.

**Another benefit is victory over sin.** The psalmist wrote, “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you” (Psalm 119:11). God's word hidden in your heart is the sword of the Spirit, available for battle at any time against sin and Satan.

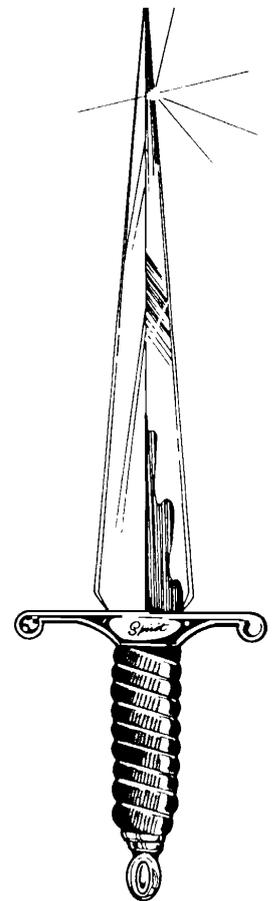
**Scripture memory will also help you gain confidence in witnessing.** One of the five series of verses in the *Topical Memory System* (Series B: “Proclaim Christ”) will give you a workable plan for sharing the Gospel with others.

**Scripture memory will help you keep spiritually fit.** You will experience immediate benefits and become better equipped to meet future needs and opportunities.

## A Look at the Topical Memory System

The *Topical Memory System* is designed to help you learn four things:

- *How to memorize and meditate on Scripture most effectively.*
- *How to apply in your life the verses you memorize.*
- *How to review the verses so you can always recall them easily.*
- *How to continue memorizing Scripture after you finish this course.*



THY WORD IS SHARPER  
THAN ANY  
TWO-EDGED SWORD

The sixty verses of the *Topical Memory System* are arranged in five series:

- **Series A: “Live the New Life”**
- **Series B: “Proclaim Christ”**
- **Series C: “Rely on God’s Resources”**
- **Series D: “Be Christ’s Disciple”**
- **Series E: “Grow In Christlikeness”**

Each series has twelve verses. These verses are arranged according to topic. There are two verses for each topic.

The recommended pace for learning new verses is three per week. Since there are three verses per week, you will actually cover three topics every two weeks.

### **Why the Topics?**

Two important reasons for knowing the topics of the verses you memorize:

- ❶ The topics help you understand the meaning of the verses.
- ❷ The topics give you mental “hooks” with which to draw a particular verse from memory when you need it. They help you recall the right verse when studying the Bible, witnessing, or counseling. The topics serve as pegs on which to hang the verses as you learn them.

### **Memorize the References**

Knowing the reference for each verse you memorize makes it possible to immediately find the verses in the Bible when you need them for personal use or in helping others. So make the reference a part of each verse you memorize.

The surest way to remember the reference is to say it both before and after the verse each time you review it. This will connect the reference and the verse in your mind.

When learning or reviewing a verse, make it a habit to say the topic first, then the reference, then the verse, and the reference again at the end. This may seem tedious at first, but it is important—and it works!

### **When is the best time to memorize?**

Memorizing the verses is easiest when you can concentrate without distraction. Two of the best times are just before you go to bed at night and just before or after your morning devotional time. A few minutes at lunchtime or just before supper may also work well for you.

Use spare moments during the day—such as when you wait, walk, or drive—to review your verses. Develop the habit of carrying your verse pack with you.

### **Why learn word-perfectly?**

Have as your aim to always quote a verse word-perfectly. It is easier to learn verses correctly at first. This also makes it easier to review them later. Knowing them word-perfectly will also give you greater confidence in using your verses.

Once you have chosen a particular Bible translation for the verses you memorize; it is best to learn all your verses in that translation, rather than mixing in others.

*You'll want to refer to these principles often in the coming weeks:*

## **Principles for Memorizing Scripture**

### **As you start to memorize a verse—**

- We suggest that you write your verses on cards as illustrated on the next page.
- Read in your Bible the context of each verse you memorize.
- Try to gain a clear understanding of what each verse actually means. (You may want to read the verse in other Bible translations or paraphrases to get a better grasp of the meaning.)
- Read the verse through several times thoughtfully, aloud or in a whisper. This will help you grasp the verse as a whole. Each time you read it, say the topic, reference, verse, and then the reference again.
- Discuss the verse with God in prayer, and continue to seek his help for success in Scripture memory.

### **While you are memorizing the verse—**

- Work on saying the verse aloud as much as possible.
- Learn the topic and reference first.
- After learning the topic and reference, learn the first phrase of the verse. Once you have learned the topic, reference, and first phrase and have repeated them several times, continue adding more phrases after you can quote correctly what you have already learned.
- Think about how the verse applies to you and your daily circumstance.
- Always include the topic and reference as part of the verse as you learn and review it.

### **After you can quote correctly the topic, reference, verse, and reference again—**

- It is helpful to write the verse out. This deepens the impression in your mind.
- Review the verse immediately after learning it, and repeat it frequently in the next few days. This is crucial for getting the verse firmly fixed in mind because of how quickly we forget something recently learned.
- Review! Review! Review! Repetition is the best way to engrave the verses on your mind.

**(Cont.)**

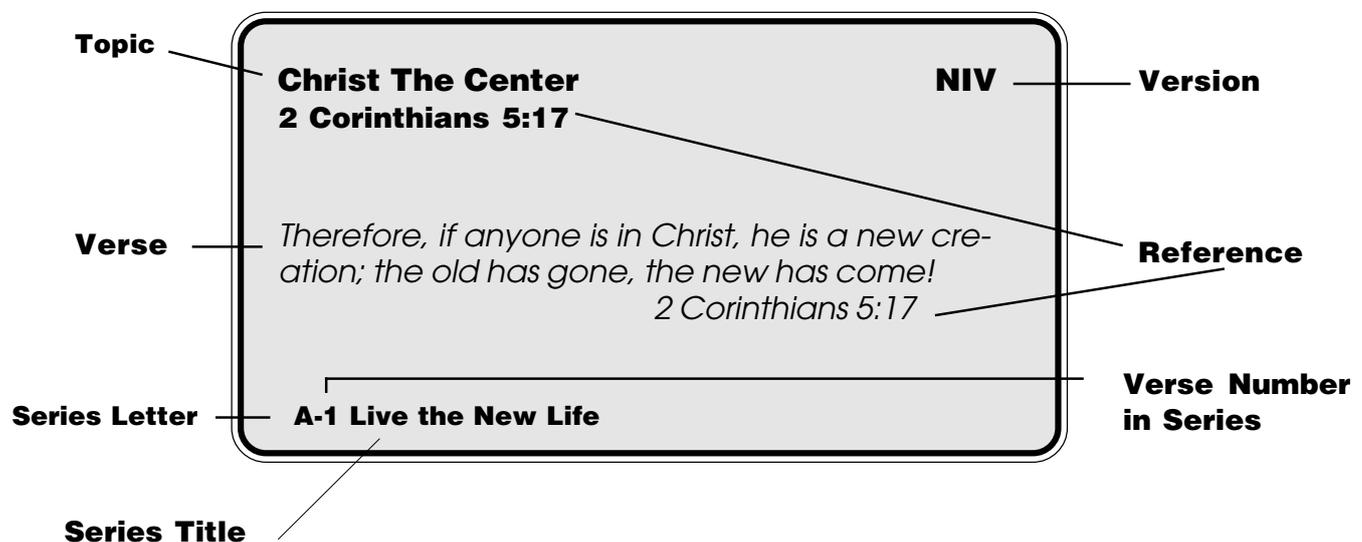
### **How to Review Memory Verses with Someone Else**

- Follow this procedure: One person holds the other person's verse cards, and calls out the topic and reference of the first card. The other person then repeats the topic and reference, and goes on to quote the entire verse and the reference again at the end. Then go on to other cards in the same way.
- First review the memory verses you know best.
- Speak your verses clearly and not too rapidly so you can be easily understood.
- While the other person is quoting his verses, be helpful and encouraging. Do all you can to ensure his success.
- When the other person makes a mistake, signal this to him by shaking your head or saying no. Give him verbal help only if he asks you.
- Once the other person has realized his mistake, have him repeat the entire verse word-perfectly before going on.
- Make it your absolute goal to repeat each verse word-perfectly.

Memorizing and reviewing Scripture with one or more friends will provide mutual encouragement, as well as opportunities to discuss difficulties in memorization. You will also be helped by having someone with whom to share how God is using the verses in your life.

## **The Verse Cards**

**Shown below is a sample of how to write out a memory verse card:**



## **Two Essentials in Scripture Memory**

Two rules form the foundation for a successful Scripture memory program:

- ❶ *Consistently memorize new verses each week.*
- ❷ *Follow a regular, daily program of reviewing the verses you have already memorized. Find a daily activity that you can hook your Scripture memory to—such as putting on your make-up, exercising, cooking, driving.*

If at the end of a particular week you cannot quote word-perfectly the verses you intended to memorize that week, you may be tempted to think, “I won’t memorize any new verses next week.” On the contrary, you should concentrate on learning these verses perfectly before starting any work on new verses.

However, skipping one week makes it easier to skip another, and then another. Instead, you should memorize new verses as usual, and put extra effort into learning any verses you have missed. Ask for God’s help.

### **If Your Scripture Memory Work Becomes Too Routine**

Don’t get discouraged if your Scripture memory work begins to seem too routine. The process of recording Scripture on your mind and heart does have a mechanical aspect. It requires certain methods and a great deal of perseverance. But as long as the process of imprinting God’s Word on your heart is moving forward, these Scriptures will be continually available for life-giving work.

There are helpful things you can do, however, if your Scripture memory program begins to seem lifeless:

- *Try spending more time going over your verses in prayer and meditation.*
- *Also begin using the verses in your conversation or in letters. New freshness can come through sharing the Scriptures with others.*

Keep in mind that memorizing and meditating on the Scriptures is a practical way of making them available to the Holy Spirit to use in your life.

## Checklist: The Topical Memory System

Each week place a check next to the reference of the verses you have successfully memorized that week.

### Series A: “Live the New Life”

Christ the Center	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Corinthians 5:17	<input type="checkbox"/> Galatians 2:20
Obedience to Christ	<input type="checkbox"/> Romans 12:1	<input type="checkbox"/> John 14:21
God’s Word	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 3:16	<input type="checkbox"/> Joshua 1:8
Prayer	<input type="checkbox"/> John 15:7	<input type="checkbox"/> Philippians 4:6,7
Fellowship	<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 18:20	<input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 10:24,25
Witnessing	<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 4:19	<input type="checkbox"/> Romans 1:16

### Series B: “Proclaim Christ”

All Have Sinned	<input type="checkbox"/> Romans 3:23	<input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 53:6
Sin’s Penalty	<input type="checkbox"/> Romans 6:23	<input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 9:27
Christ Paid the Penalty	<input type="checkbox"/> Romans 5:8	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Peter 3:18
Salvation Not by Works	<input type="checkbox"/> Ephesians 2:8,9	<input type="checkbox"/> Titus 3:5
Must Receive Christ	<input type="checkbox"/> John 1:12	<input type="checkbox"/> Revelation 3:20
Assurance of Salvation	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 5:13	<input type="checkbox"/> John 5:24

### Series C: “Rely on God’s Resources”

His Spirit	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 3:16	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 2:12
His Strength	<input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 41:10	<input type="checkbox"/> Philippians 4:13
His Faithfulness	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 3:22,23	<input type="checkbox"/> Numbers 23:19
His Peace	<input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 26:3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Peter 5:7
His Provision	<input type="checkbox"/> Romans 8:32	<input type="checkbox"/> Philippians 4:19
His Help in Temptation	<input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 2:18	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 119:9,11

### Series D: “Be Christ’s Disciple”

Put Christ First	<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 6:33	<input type="checkbox"/> Luke 9:23
Separate from the World	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 2:15,16	<input type="checkbox"/> Romans 12:2
Be Steadfast	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 15:58	<input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 12:3
Serve Others	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark 10:45	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Corinthians 4:5
Give Generously	<input type="checkbox"/> Proverbs 3:9,10	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Corinthians 9:6,7
Develop World Vision	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 1:8	<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 28:19,20

### Series E: “Grow in Christlikeness”

Love	<input type="checkbox"/> John 13:34,35	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 3:18
Humility	<input type="checkbox"/> Philippians 2:3,4	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Peter 5:5,6
Purity	<input type="checkbox"/> Ephesians 5:3	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Peter 2:11
Honesty	<input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 19:11	<input type="checkbox"/> Acts 24:16
Faith	<input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 11:6	<input type="checkbox"/> Romans 4:20,21
Good Works	<input type="checkbox"/> Galatians 6:9,10	<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 5:16

\* Some verses in the *Topical Memory System* were assigned earlier in the *Equipping The Saints* Course. To avoid duplication of these verses, other verses have now been substituted on the Disciple Application guide.

# SERIES - A

## “LIVE THE NEW LIFE”

Every person has physical life. But when we receive Jesus Christ into our lives as Savior and Lord, we then possess a new, spiritual life—the life of Christ within us.

This new life may be illustrated by a wheel as you see below. A wheel gets its driving force from the hub. In the Christian life, Christ is the hub—the source of power and motivation for living a Christian life. He lives in us in the person of the Holy Spirit, whose purpose, as expressed by John 16:13,14, is to glorify Christ.



**The rim of the wheel** represents you, the Christian, responding to Christ’s Lordship through your wholehearted obedience to him. This obedience involves your faithfulness in basic principles of Christian living.

**The spokes of the wheel** represent the means whereby Christ’s power reaches our lives. The vertical spokes concern our relationship to God through the Scripture and prayer. The horizontal spokes represent our relationships to other people, both believers and unbelievers, through fellowship and witnessing.

**The wheel** functions smoothly only when all the spokes are present and in proper balance.

The next twelve Scriptures you will memorize pertain to the truths the wheel illustrates. Christ’s Lordship, Our Obedience to Him, Prayer, Witnessing, Fellowship, and the Word itself are the topics covered this first semester.

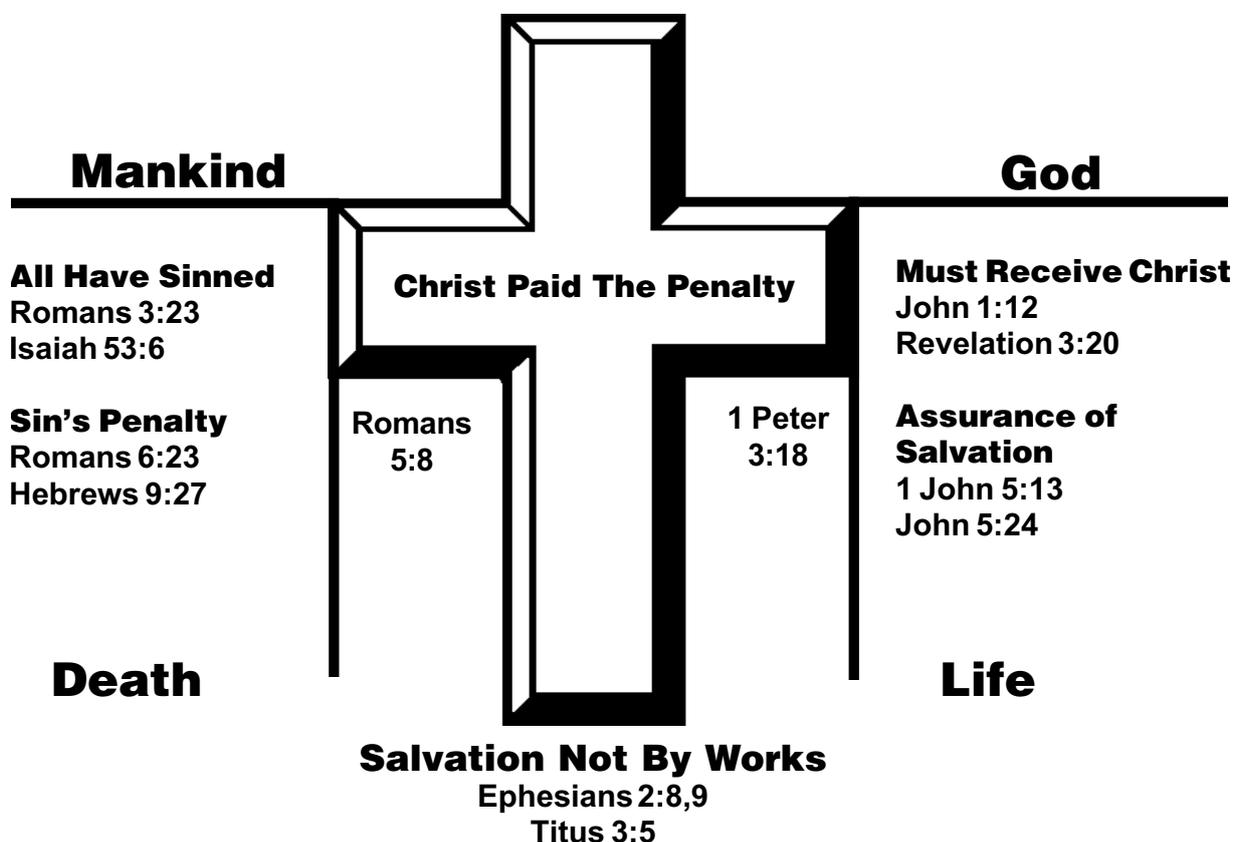
- ***Christ the Center***—2 Corinthians 5:17 and Galatians 2:20
- ***Obedience to Christ***—Romans 12:1 and John 14:21
- ***The Word***—Joshua 1:8 and 2 Timothy 3:16
- ***Prayer***—John 15:7 and Philippians 4:6,7
- ***Fellowship***—Matthew 18:20 and Hebrews 10:24,25
- ***Witnessing***—Matthew 4:19 and Romans 1:16

# SERIES - B

## “PROCLAIM CHRIST”

As witnesses for Jesus Christ we have two things to share—our testimony of how we found Christ and what He means to us, and the Gospel, God's plan of salvation. The Gospel includes the facts of man's needs, God's love for man, and what He did to meet that need.

The references of the verses you will learn in Series B are shown below in a diagram illustrating how Christ is mankind's bridge from death to life.



- All Have Sinned—Romans 3:23 and Isaiah 53:6
- Sin's Penalty—Romans 6:23 and Hebrews 9:27
- Christ Paid the Penalty—Romans 5:8 and 1 Peter 3:18
- Salvation Not by Works—Ephesians 2:8,9 and Titus 3:5
- Must Receive Christ—John 1:12 and Revelation 3:20
- Assurance of Salvation—1 John 5:13 and John 5:24

# **SERIES - C**

## **“RELY ON GOD’S RESOURCES”**

God “has given us everything we need for life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3). These blessings come to us “through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness.”

Knowing our limitations, and knowing every trial and test we will ever face, the Lord has provided all we need to live victoriously and fruitfully for His glory.

Our part is to commit ourselves to Him, to get to know Him well, to appropriate His resources, and to obey Him completely. He will provide the strength and ability. “For God is at work within you, helping you want to obey Him, and then helping you do what He wants” (Philippians 2:13, Living Bible).

In Series C are six spiritual resources you can rely on to enable you to fulfill God’s will for your life:

- ***His Spirit***—1 Corinthians 3:16 and 1 Corinthians 2:12
- ***His Strength***—Isaiah 41:10 and Philippians 4:13
- ***His Faithfulness***—Lamentations 3:22,23 and Numbers 23:19
- ***His Peace***—Isaiah 26:3 and 1 Peter 5:7
- ***His Provision***—Romans 8:32 and Philippians 4:19
- ***His Help in Temptation***—Hebrews 2:18 and Psalm 119:9,11

# **SERIES - D**

## **“BE CHRIST’S DISCIPLE”**

Except for His redemptive work on the cross, Jesus Christ’s most important work on earth was raising up a band of dedicated disciples who would multiply themselves and make an impact on the world.

Jesus ministered to the multitudes, but at times He purposefully left them. He sometimes seemed to discourage people from following Him. Jesus was not interested in nominal followers, but in truly committed disciples who had counted the cost and on whom He could depend.

Series D presents six imperatives that characterize the kind of disciples Jesus seeks:

- ***Put Christ First***—Matthew 6:33 and Luke 9:23
- ***Separate From the World***—1 John 2:15,16 and Romans 12:2
- ***Be Steadfast***—1 Corinthians 15:58 and Hebrews 12:3
- ***Serve Others***—Mark 10:45 and 2 Corinthians 4:5
- ***Give Generously***—Proverbs 3:9,10 and 2 Corinthians 9:6,7
- ***Develop World Vision***—Acts 1:8 and Matthew 28:19,20

# **SERIES - E**

## **“GROW IN CHRISTLIKENESS”**

The Christlike life is the only life that can bring glory to God. Jesus Christ in our lives makes us different, and attracts the attention of others who are searching for reality.

Christlikeness is God’s goal for every believer. But many of us have yielded to the pressures to conform to this world by letting non-Christian standards and practices determine our conduct. No wonder our influence for Christ is often small!

Only as others see Jesus Christ in us will they be attracted to Him. Christlike character cannot, however, be tacked on the outside; it must spring from within.

As we meditate on Scripture and allow it to permeate our minds, it remains there to influence our reactions and decisions—and to form Christian character. In Series E you will learn twelve passages to help you focus attention on this process:

- ***Love***—John 13:34,35 and 1 John 3:18
- ***Humility***—Philippians 2:3,4 and 1 Peter 5:5,6
- ***Purity***—Ephesians 5:3 and 1 Peter 2:11
- ***Honesty***—Leviticus 19:11 and Acts 24:16
- ***Faith***—Hebrews 11:6 and Romans 4:20,21
- ***Good Works***—Galatians 6:9,10 and Matthew 5:16