



Discipleship International

IMPORTANT

These materials are to be used only by qualified instructors who have participated in training clinics and learned how to use *The ETS Series* effectively.

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Recognition & Appreciation

For their work in developing *The Original 2:7 Series* presently called *The ETS Series*, we are particularly grateful for the efforts of the Denver Navigator staff. Ron Oertli prayerfully and thoughtfully put together the concept and its original layout. Bob Wilbraham and Bob Lovelace participated in final field testing and in refining the material to its present form.

We also want to express our thanks to the many local church lay people who were trained during the developmental stages of the series. They showed great patience and perseverance as various changes were incorporated. A special thanks goes to those in the first three churches where the materials were used. First Denver Friends Church, Valverde Presbyterian Church, and Bear Valley Baptist Church.

Our prayer is that many local churches will find *The ETS Series* a useful tool for raising up trained lay leadership for the cause of Jesus Christ.

For additional resources & training materials, please refer to: www.discipleshipint.org

*Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few."
(Matthew 9:37)*

Discipleship International (D.I.) is an evangelical Christian organization. Jesus Christ gave His followers the Great Commission to go and make disciples (Matthew 28:19). The aim of D.I. is to help fulfill that commission by multiplying labourers for Christ in every nation.

NavPress is the publishing ministry of The Navigators. NavPress publications are tools to help Christians grow. Although publications alone cannot make disciples or change lives, they can help believers learn biblical discipleship and apply what they learn to their lives and ministries.

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Based on Eighth printing, 1982

First Canadian printing Jan. 2007

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Graphic Design: www.creativematters.ca

October 28, 2008 BP

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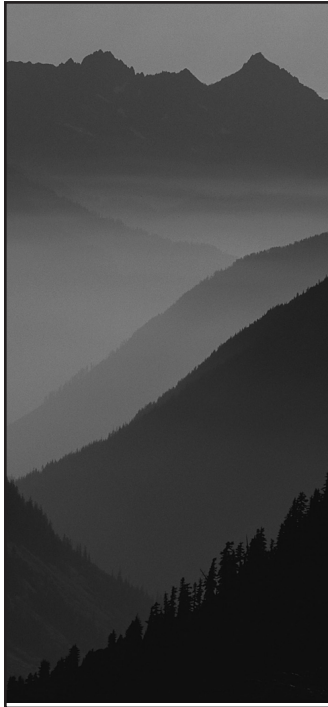
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Session 1



OUTLINE OF THIS SESSION

1. Open in prayer.
2. Review: *The Goals of Book 1* [page 6].
3. Share quiet time thoughts from your *Quiet Time Journal*.
4. Preview Book 2 by looking over the *Completion Record* [page 119].
5. Survey the *Scripture Memory Instructions – Week One* [pages 6-9].
6. Look over *The Spirit-filled Christian*, the Bible study you will be doing in this course [p. 75-111] and read the introduction to the study aloud [page 75].
7. Read and discuss *Principles for Memorizing Scripture* [p. 10].
8. Read the *At Home Assignment for Session 2*.
9. Close the session in prayer and encouragement.

AT HOME ASSIGNMENT FOR SESSION 2

- *Scripture Memory*: Study and complete *Week Two* [pgs. 12-13]. Memorize the two verses on *Christ the Center*, 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Galatians 2:20. You will take a *Scripture Memory Principles Quiz* during Session 2, so you will want to review the *Principles for Memorizing Scripture* [page 10]. In the quiz you will list at least six principles of Scripture memory. Passing this quiz is one of the requirements for graduation from Book 2.
- *Quiet Time*: Continue your Bible reading and marking as you learned in Book 1. Continue to use your *Bible Reading Highlights Record* and *My Personal Reading Record*.
- *Bible Study*: Complete questions 1-12 in *Section 1: The Obedient Christian*, of your Bible study [pages 76-79].
- *Other*: Work on getting everything you can completed and ready to be signed on your *Completion Record* at the next class meeting.

LIVE THE NEW LIFE MEMORY VERSES

Christ the Center, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 2:20

Session 1

The Goals of Book 1:

1. To enjoy Bible reading by...
 - a. using a contemporary translation or paraphrase.
 - b. using a method of Bible marking.
2. To successfully memorize the five key Scripture memory verses contained in *Beginning with Christ*.
3. To experience a more consistent and meaningful quiet time by...
 - a. combining meaningful Bible reading and prayer.
 - b. succeeding in having 14 consecutive quiet times during the course.
 - c. recording daily quiet time thoughts on a *Bible Reading Highlights Record*.
4. To complete and discuss *Your Life in Christ (Design for Discipleship, Book 1)* as a participant in a Bible study group.
5. To study and discuss the booklet *Tyranny of the Urgent*.
6. To become familiar with *The Wheel Illustration*.
7. To come to a deeper conviction about reasons for memorizing Scripture and to identify possible hindrances to doing well in Scripture memory.

Scripture Memory Instructions - Week One

[From the *Topical Memory System*]

You Can Memorize Scripture!

Your Memory Is Good. Think you have a poor memory? Wait a minute. What's your address and phone number? How about all that information you know by heart about your job? How about all the people you call by name? Or the facts and figures you can recite about your favorite sport or hobby? You see, *your memory is really pretty good after all.* Anything is easy to memorize when you are really interested in it, or use it often.

Attitude Makes the Difference. A good memory is not something you either have or don't have. It is a skill, and like other skills it can be improved. Attitude is what makes the difference. *Adopt an attitude of confidence in Scripture memory and you will develop skill in memorizing.*

Count on God's Help. Here's some additional encouragement: *You can count on God to help you memorize Scripture*, for He wants His Word to be in the hearts of His children. "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts" (Deuteronomy 6:6); "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" (Colossians 3:16).

So claim Paul's great statement, "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13), and *be confident that you can memorize God's Word and that He will help you.* Making the treasures of God's Word your own can be one of the greatest spiritual adventures of your life.

Session 1

What Scripture Memory Will Do For You

It Will Give You Confidence in Witnessing. Have you ever desperately wanted to speak to a friend about Jesus Christ, yet remained tongue-tied? You didn't know how to get started. Many today are finding that memorizing key Bible verses helps them overcome reticence and gives them a workable plan for sharing their faith. They are experiencing the joy of seeing God use them to lead others to the Savior. *Scripture memory can help you become an effective witness for Christ.*

It Will Help You Overcome Worry. Uncertainty of the future or remorse over the past plagues many Christians. Filled with anxiety, their lives become spiritually dry. *The Word of God dwelling in your heart will help you overcome worry.* You can experience God's perfect peace by writing His Word on your heart and keeping your mind fixed on Him.

It Will Give You Victory over Sin. How often have you battled some sin in your life, wishing with all your heart for victory, but experiencing defeat? Perhaps you've almost given up, feeling victory is an unattainable ideal. David 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 to do battle against sin and Satan. *Thousands of Christians have found Scripture memory a key to daily victory over sin. This can be your experience too.*

Food for Your Soul

Memorized Scripture is in a sense like medicine; it will help meet specific needs in your life. But it is more. *It is also nourishment for your soul and will help keep you spiritually fit.* Just as your physical health is affected by your food and eating habits, so your

spiritual health depends largely on the habit of feeding yourself regularly on God's Word. The Apostle Peter wrote, "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk [God's Word], so that by it you may grow up in your salvation" (1 Peter 2:2).

Memorizing Scripture also is like stocking the pantry of your heart. It will help you now and will also equip you to meet future needs and opportunities.

Why Do You Want to Memorize Scripture?

What do you expect Scripture memory to do for you? Success in memorizing Bible verses will come *if your own personal reasons for learning are clearly fixed in your mind.* Look back over the four benefits just mentioned and see which ones best describe your needs. Underline them or list them on the lines below and refer to them occasionally. You may have other reasons that were not mentioned. List them as well. The Lord will help you reach these objectives as you memorize the verses in the *Topical Memory System*.

Session 1

A Look at the Topical Memory System

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

1. How to *memorize* Scripture verses most easily.
2. How to *apply* the verses to your life.
3. How to *review* them so you will always have them at your fingertips.
4. How to *continue* memorizing Scripture after you finish this course.

The TMS in its original form consists of five series of 12 verses each. These will be memorized in Books 2-6:

Book 2: Live the New Life

Book 3: Proclaim Christ

Book 4: Rely on God's Resources

Book 5: Be Christ's Disciple

Book 6: Grow in Christlikeness

Self-Checking Quiz

In Session 5 of this course you will take the *Self-Checking Quiz* (pages 22-24) to help you check your grasp of these Scripture memory instructions.

Why the Topics?

In the TMS you will learn Bible verses according to topics – two verses for each topic. *Two important reasons for knowing the topics of verses you memorize are:*

1. The topics help you understand the verses, and make them easier to memorize and review.
2. The topics give you mental hooks with which to draw a particular verse from memory when you need it. They help you call the right verse to mind when witnessing, counseling, doing Bible study, or preparing a talk.

The topical outline of the course gives you

the course's overall perspective and shows you where you are going. In learning anything, it helps if you first get “the big picture”. Once you have the outline in mind, the topics become pegs on which to hang the verses as you learn them.

So familiarize yourself with the topical outline (page 9) and *learn the topics as you learn the verses*.

Learn the References

Knowing the references makes it possible to turn to verses in the Bible immediately when you need them for personal use or when speaking to others. It is vital, therefore, that you learn the references just as if they were part of the verses.

The surest way to remember references is to say them “fore’n’aft”, at the beginning and end of the verse each time you say it. This will connect the reference and the verse in your mind, so that whenever you hear or see the reference it recalls the verse, and the words of the verse likewise remind you of the reference. (Naturally, this “fore’n’aft” rule applies only when you memorize and review, not when speaking or witnessing.)

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.*

When Should You Memorize?

Initial learning is best done when you can concentrate without distraction. Two times during the day are most conducive to learning.

One time is just before you go to bed at night, because while asleep you forget less of what you have just learned. The other time is right after you get up in the morning, because your mind is then most receptive to new impressions.

Many people set aside part of their morning

Session 1

quiet time just for Scripture memory. They learn quickly, are spiritually refreshed, and get off to an early start on their memory work. Others find that taking a few minutes at lunchtime or just before supper best fits their schedules. One excellent habit to form is to use spare moments during the day, such as while waiting, walking, or driving, to review or meditate on your verses.

You should experiment and discover what times of day are best for your memory work.

How Fast Should You Learn?

Quality before Quantity Your main goal in the *Topical Memory System* is to gain a scriptural foundation for godly living and service to others. So don't rush your memorizing.

One or Two a Week Some weeks you will be assigned two verses. Other weeks you will do only one. Take time to look up the context of each verse – the portion of Scripture surrounding it in the Bible. You should also take time to meditate on these passages.

Keep a Steady Pace If you have time and desire to work ahead you may do so. It is important, however, that you do a thorough job. Develop good memory habits at the

beginning that will enable you to succeed.

Why Learn Word-Perfectly?

When learning or reviewing a passage of the Bible, always quote it word-perfectly. Make sure the *first* impression on your mind is clear and correct. Mistakes once learned are difficult to unlearn. It is easier to learn verses correctly, and it is easier to recall and use them when properly learned.

Word perfection as a memory habit will...

- fix the passage sharply in your mind
- make your review easier.
- give you confidence to use your verses.

Anything worth doing is worth doing right. Keep your memory habits sharp!

Which Translation Should You Memorize?

Many helpful English translations of the Bible are on the market today. The TMS verses included in this course are available in the most requested ones. Determine which one best fits your long-term needs. Then memorize in that version. It is best not to mix translations in memory work.

The *Topical Memory System*

The *Topical Memory System* includes 60 verses divided amongst five books: *Book 2: Live the New Life*. The four remaining series of verses are: *Book 3: Proclaim Christ*; *Book 4: Rely on God's Resources*; *Book 5: Be Christ's Disciple*; and *Book 6: Grow in Christlikeness*.

Each set of 12 verses has six topics with two verses for each topic. All of the topics relate to important areas of the Christian life. In this book, you will memorize the first 12 verses:

Book 2: Live the New Life

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

Principles for Memorizing Scripture

As You Start to Memorize the Verse

1. Study the *Scripture Memory Instructions* each week. This material is extremely helpful and should be reviewed each week.
2. Read the context of the verse in your Bible. This will help you understand the setting of the verse.
3. Get a clear understanding of what each verse actually means. You may want to read the verse in one or two translations or paraphrases to get a better grasp of the meaning.
4. 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 reference.
5. Discuss the verse with God in prayer, and continue to seek His help for being successful in Scripture memory.

While You Are Memorizing the Verse

6. Work on the verse audibly as often as possible.
7. Learn the topic and reference first.
8. After learning the topic and reference, continue to memorize by adding an additional phrase after you feel comfortable in quoting correctly what you have already learned.
9. Choose a time when your mind is free from outside distractions. Just before retiring at night or when you first get up in the morning are excellent times for memorizing. Keep in mind whether you are a “night” or a “morning person”.
10. As you memorize and review the verse, think about how it applies to your own life and daily circumstances.
11. Always include the topic and reference as a part of the verse.
12. Recent research has shown that memory work can be done most effectively while lying down. Sitting is the next most preferred position. Standing is the least effective position.

After You Can Say the Topic, Reference, Verse, and Reference Correctly

13. It is helpful to write the verse out. This deepens the impression in your mind.
14. Review the verse immediately and frequently in the first few days after learning the verse.
This is crucial for getting the verse firmly fixed in mind.
15. REVIEW! REVIEW! REVIEW! Repetition is the best method to deepen your impressions of verses and to maintain an ability to quote them accurately.