



Memorizing Scripture Will Change Your Life | Doug Wekenman | 7.19

Weekly Study

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Happy Sunday, and welcome Red Rocks to our kid's takeover weekend. This is the 1st week of our 2 week Word of God mini series. Pastor Doug brings a profound message about the importance and significance of scripture memorization. As a church, we are not only exhorted, but commanded to place God's Word at the center of our hearts.

Throughout this message, we are given both biblical truth and practical examples of what it looks like to build our lives on God's Word. We also learn how to move beyond simply memorizing Scripture to truly hiding it in our hearts. When God's Word becomes part of who we are, we're able to lean on it in our everyday lives and allow it to shape the way we think, respond, and follow Jesus. Join us as we dive into why and how memorizing scripture will change our lives.

☐ What are the biggest obstacles you face trying to memorize scripture?

GROW

Read Psalm 119:11

We live in a world where information has never been more accessible. The supercomputers in our pockets have defeated the necessity of remembering phone numbers, emails, saved passwords, and even the Bible. We rely on saved data rather than the discipline that it takes to actually remember things. Then asking the question, "Why do I need to know it when I know where to get it?", becomes the norm.

But God's Word was never meant to be something we only turn to when we need an answer. Throughout Scripture, God commands us to keep His Word in our hearts, speak it often, and meditate on it day and night. When we hide God's Word in our hearts, we're prepared to follow Him in every season—not because we can quickly search for a verse, but because His truth has

already begun to shape who we are.

Pastor Doug walks us through three steps and three reasons why and how we can approach this discipline with both grace and confidence. As we learn to treasure God's Word, we'll discover that it doesn't just fill our minds with knowledge—it transforms our hearts and equips us to faithfully follow Jesus every day.

☐ **Why do you think God calls us to hide His Word in our hearts instead of just knowing where to find it?**

Scripture memorization is fundamental to spiritual formation, yet many of us fail to grasp the importance of actively practicing this discipline. King David, Jonah, and Jesus himself all proclaimed scripture without the tools we carry today because it was written within their hearts. We all are able to quote from our favorite movies, shows, and sing songs 15 years old without question. Ask us to quote a bible verse and we freeze. God's Word carries power and it's when we learn His Word that we speak that same power from the overflow of our hearts. So where do we begin?

We begin to memorize scripture by repeatedly meditating and reading the passage. We mustn't stop there and continue to think it, breathe it, and repeat it in order to move it into our heart. Proverbs 3 tells us to "write them on the tablets of our hearts," which is how we internalize scripture to stay with us forever. Internalizing is where our lives begin to change. We become what we consume in both mind and body.

Jesus tells us that God's Word is Spirit filled and carries life, but we don't see that same power at work due to the lack of spiritual consumption in our daily routines. When we internalize scripture we manifest spiritual readiness and character transformation that leads to a Spirit-filled life.

☐ **What do you think are the modern barriers that keep God's Word as information in our minds rather than transformation in our lives?**

☐ **How can you approach memorizing Scripture as an opportunity to know God more, rather than just another item on your to-do list?**

MOVE

Read Hebrews 4:12

Why is it so important to internalize Scripture instead of simply reading it? Hebrews reminds us that the Word of God is living and active. As we read Scripture, it begins to read us back. It reveals the areas of our hearts that need to grow, exposes the things we need to surrender, and points us toward becoming more like Jesus.

One thing we all know is that we become what we consistently consume. The content we watch, the voices we listen to, and the things we fill our minds with all shape the way we think and live. If we constantly consume social media, reality TV, or the opinions of the world, those things will begin to influence our perspective and priorities.

But when we consistently spend time in God's Word and work to hide it in our hearts, something begins to change. Our thoughts become more aligned with God's truth, our decisions become shaped by His wisdom, and our lives begin to reflect the character of Jesus. Scripture isn't meant to simply increase our knowledge—it is meant to transform our hearts. The more we internalize God's Word, the more we become the people He created us to be.

☐ **What are you consistently consuming that is shaping the way you think?**

☐ **What is one passage of Scripture that has changed the way you think or live?**

When we work to internalize Scripture, two important things begin to happen.

First, God's Word is always with us when we need it most. When we spend time memorizing and hiding Scripture in our hearts, the Holy Spirit can bring those truths to mind in the moments we need them. Whether we're facing temptation, anxiety, discouragement, or an important decision, God's Word becomes a source of wisdom, encouragement, and strength. Instead of relying on our own thoughts or feelings, we can stand on the truth of Scripture.

Second, the more we internalize Scripture, the stronger our foundation becomes. God's Word isn't just something we remember in difficult moments—it becomes the foundation we build our entire lives upon. Jesus teaches this in Matthew 7 through the parable of the wise and foolish builders. The wise man built his house on the rock, and when the storms came, it stood firm. The same is true for us. When our lives are built on the truth of God's Word, we can withstand the storms of life because our confidence is rooted in Him, not in our circumstances.

☐ **Can you think of a time when a verse came to mind exactly when you needed it? How did it impact you?**

☐ **How would your daily decisions look different if God's Word was the first place you turned instead of your own thoughts, feelings, or circumstances?**

P R A Y

Gather together sharing any prayer requests within the group. Be intentional with praying for each request and ask that the Holy Spirit renew each individual's heart and mind. Ask God to help discern the best approach for you to begin memorizing scripture while allowing the Holy Spirit to work in you by hiding these things within your heart. Pray that the group is strengthened this week when applying this discipline to their daily lives.

CHALLENGE: Memorize one passage of Scripture this week. Read it daily, repeat it often, and meditate on its meaning. Ask God to move His Word from your head to your heart so that it becomes the foundation for the way you think, live, and follow Jesus.