

A Vision for Disciplemaking
Key Men's Conference

February 20-23, 2003

Scripture Memory
Jon Brock

Scripture Memory

Jon Brock

I. Why Memorize Scripture?

Have you sometimes hesitated to give a positive witness for Christ simply because you were afraid you would be unable to answer from the Scriptures the questions which might be asked?

In what ways does God's Word apply to us? Just how can the Bible help us personally? Here are a few of the ways:

1. God's Word is the means of our _____. (I Peter 1:23)
2. It provides food for the Christian's _____. (I Peter 2:2,3)
3. It is our source of _____. (Jeremiah 15:16)
4. It is our weapon against _____. (Ephesians 6:16,17)
5. It is the main key to finding the _____ of God. (Psalms 40:8)
6. It is the means of an effective _____ for Jesus Christ. (II Peter 1:16)
7. It equips us to _____ others. (Isaiah 50:4)

II. How May I Get To Know The Bible?

1. _____ it preached. (Romans 10:17)
2. _____ it for ourselves. (Revelations 1:3)
3. _____ it. (II Timothy 2:15)
4. _____ it. (Psalms 119:9,11)
5. _____ upon it. (Psalms 1:2,3)

Thousands of people testify that memory work pays the greatest dividends, for the time invested, of anything they have ever done. It is the fastest and most effective way to become equipped for instant use of the Word of God.

Beginning With Christ

The Navigators

Audio Companion Study Guide

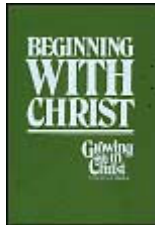
King James Version

LeRoy Eims

Beginning with Christ

[The Navigators](#)

This short booklet is great for explaining the basics of salvation and the Christian life. Topics include assurance of salvation, answered prayer, victory over sin, forgiveness, and guidance.



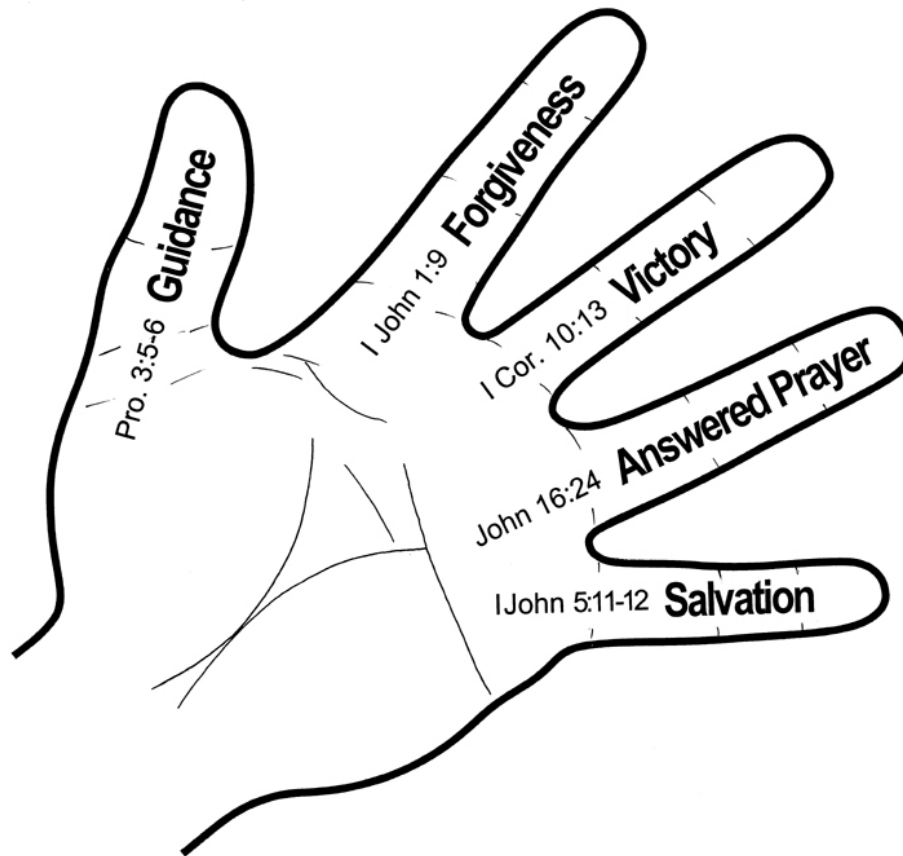
SIMPLE BUT EFFECTIVE

This little follow-up tool may be just what you need to help someone get off to a good start as a follower of Jesus Christ. The text can be read in only a few minutes, but it covers all the bases and gives plenty of Scripture references.

The Beginning with Christ booklet ([Order Online](#)) includes tear-out Scripture memory cards with key Bible verses in both KJV and NIV. It's the perfect way to introduce new believers to the [Topical Memory System](#) without overwhelming them.

Beginning with Christ

Five Assurances for Every Believer



Assurance of Salvation - “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.” I John 5:11-12

Assurance of Answered Prayer - “Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.” John 16:24

Assurance of Victory - “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” I Corinthians 10:13

Assurance of Forgiveness - “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” I John 1:9

Assurance of Guidance - “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6

Assurance of Salvation

I John 5:11-12

“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.” I John 5:11-12

When the Apostle John speaks of eternal life, he has something in mind that is completely different from the mere idea of existence after death. Many religions teach that life goes on a few years after it has ended on this earth. It is true that our soul will live on. When God breathed into man the breath of life, man became a living soul. God breathed eternity into his life. Unlike the animals, our life will go on.

However, the question at hand is this: In what way will it go on? In a state of eternal life, or eternal death. That's the issue. What then, is eternal death? John himself tells us. Let me quote from the New International Version: "But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters, and all liars - their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death" (Revelation 21:8).

Eternal life is just the opposite: "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, but is now made manifest by the appearing of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel" (II Timothy 1:9, 10). What a contrast! An eternity of fellowship with God, or an eternity separated from Him. When John says that eternal life is a gift of God in Jesus Christ, he is making a tremendous statement. It cannot be earned, we will never merit it or deserve it, but it can be ours in Christ.

What does the Apostle mean when he says, "He that hath the son?" Who is he talking about? How is that possible?

Quite simply, he is referring to all those who by faith have the Son of God by His blessed Holy Spirit dwelling in their hearts. The conditions are simple. Paul speaks of it when he said he had spent his life "Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 20:21).

Sin is leading you further and further from God in a state of endless separation. God calls upon you to turn to Him, to leave the path of death and darkness, and walk in the light of love, grace and mercy. God commands all men everywhere to repent, turn to God and do works meet for repentance.

The second condition is faith in our Lord Jesus Christ for He is our way to God. Sin must be abandoned and forsaken and Christ must be trusted for pardon and forgiveness. He is our only Redeemer and Savior. Therefore, "He that hath the Son hath life and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." Turn to Him today and receive God's unspeakable gift - eternal life in Christ.

Assurance of Answered Prayer

John 16:24

“Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.” John 16:24

What is prayer? The dictionary says it is approaching God in word or thought, often with an earnest entreaty. Webster says it consists of adoration, confession, supplication or thanksgiving. I would add intercession; going to God on behalf of others.

Why is it easier for some people to pray than it is for others? I know some who find such joy in prayer they can hardly bring themselves to do anything else. I met two people like this when I was in my first assignment with the Navigators.

I had been involved with the group for some years before, but now I was on my own. I was in Pittsburgh carrying on a campus ministry. I was living with a young minister, Rev. Ken Smith, and we would stop by the home of these two elderly sisters to take them to church. I soon became aware of a very strange thing.

In their conversation on the way to church it seemed to me that they spent most of their time in prayer. The more I got to know them the more I realized that was, in fact, the case. They would spend the morning in prayer. After they had lunch on the stove they would pray until it was cooked. After lunch they would pray until suppertime, cook supper, and then pray until time to retire for the night.

It was amazing. You couldn't keep them off their knees. They found such joy and fulfillment in entering in to the presence of the Lord.

Now I know others who are mightily used of God, but who do not have the same victory in prayer. Oh, they pray, but it is not their strong point. Some find joy in teaching the Word, others in witnessing, others in some sort of service behind the scenes. When they discuss prayer they deplore their prayer life.

They pray, but it is a struggle. What's the answer to that? Frankly, I think there must be some people among us in the body of Christ who are specifically called to pray. It is their life.

But it is also evident in the Word of God that all of us are commanded to pray. Our calling may be to evangelize or serve or whatever. But mark this: none of it will be productive if we ignore prayer. Prayer must undergird all we do.

Jesus said to pray in His name. He is our mediator, our only way to God. And when we do God will fulfill our joy. Prayer is one of the keys to a joyful Christian life.

Assurance of Victory *I Corinthians 10:13*

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” I Corinthians 10:13

The Scripture teaches that you and I must be on our guard at all times. Peter wrote, "Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary, the devil, like a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (I Peter 5:8).

Paul, in the context of our verse for today, gave us a word of caution: "Wherefore, let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (I Corinthians 10:12).

We must never grow confident and secure in ourselves. Others have fallen. We may too. And we are most likely to fall when we think we are strong and able to take care of ourselves.

But to this word of caution, God adds a message of comfort. Although we live in a world fraught with temptations and snares, we must not despair or grow over-anxious. Admittedly we will face the common testings and temptations that everybody else faces. But we have a tremendous advantage. WE have a faithful God watching over us day and night. He neither slumbers or sleeps.

Satan may deceive and accuse, but God is near to comfort and guide us in the way of truth. Our best friends may prove false, the world may fail us, but God is faithful. Our strength and security is in Him. He will not, He cannot fail. When a temptation comes, God knows. He knows exactly what we can bear. He knows exactly the amount we can take. He will see to it that the temptation is proportionate to our faith and spiritual condition.

My son-in-law is a wrestler. I remember going to a match at the Air Force Academy and watching him win. He wrestled another guy in his own weight class. He was not allowed to wrestle one of the little guys; nor was he on the mat with someone much heavier than he. Everyone was matched up with other men their own size. God does this. Our temptations are always a size we can grapple with.

And there is another tremendous promise here. There will always be a way of escape, a way out. We will never be led down a blind alley. There will never be a valley so dark that we can't find our way through. There will never be an affliction so grievous but that He can see us through and turn it to our spiritual advantage.

So there is no room for a despairing spirit or hopelessness. God wants you to walk the path of life, and He will permit no obstacle in the path that will force you to leave it or turn and go back.

Assurance of Forgiveness

I John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” I John 1:9

There have been times when the date of a nation depended on the accuracy of a message. In wartime will the enemy launch its attack today or tomorrow? The man who delivers the message had better have it right. And he must deliver it as it is; he is not allowed to tamper with it to make it easier to read or in some way sound better.

In the context of our verse John says that's what he is doing. He is delivering a message, just as he had received it from God. "This then is the message which we have heard of him and declare unto you." No frills. No modifications. No private interpretation.

The message? "God is light and in Him is no darkness at all." To the psalmist light was the garment of God. Peter explained that becoming a Christian was being called out of darkness into His marvelous light. Therefore, to walk in darkness and claim they had fellowship with God was a lie, and they knew it. God is the excellency of perfect holiness and purity.

Now that poses a problem. You and I are not perfect: We do foolish things, we make mistakes, we sin. If that's what keeps us from fellowship with God then there is no use of our arising to it. But thank God, that is not what he is saying. He is talking about walking in darkness and to walk in darkness is to persist in our ignorance even when we know better, to persist in our sin even when we know the consequences, and to live contrary to the Word of God even though God has revealed the truth to us.

No, we must walk in the light if we are to have fellowship with God. And the blood of Jesus Christ has a continuing, purifying power in our lives through the blessed Holy Spirit of God.

OK, you say, all well and good. But what happens when we do sin? What then? Well of course, that is a problem. John reminds us of that in verse 8: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (I John 1:8).

A wavering will, weakened standards, foolish impulses borrowed from the world or made attractive by the devil can occasionally get to us. Not to admit this would be to mislead ourselves; the truth of His Word is not in us.

Then comes the promise of today's verse. Go to God. Confess your sin. God's faithfulness is great. He is true to His Word. His righteousness is declared in the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, and you will be cleansed and forgiven in His name.

Assurance of Guidance

Proverbs 3:5-6

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6

When God calls upon us to exercise faith, it is to be total and undivided. Our hope, our confidence must be in God alone: no confidence in the flesh, no reliance on human wisdom. Naturally we resist that idea in our pride and self-reliance. We want to lean on ourselves, to trust our own foolish and false ideas.

The prophet Jeremiah has a word for us at this point: "Thus saith the Lord, cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord [6] For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh, but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited" (Jeremiah 17:5, 6).

This is the story of Adam: any Eve, and the history of mankind since. We want to go our own way and do our own thing, to lean to our own understanding. But our own understanding is likely to take us down the wrong path, in the wrong direction. Why? Paul lays it out loud and clear. "This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, [18] having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart" (Effusions 4:17, 18). He told the Romans, "Because, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful, but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. [22] Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools" (Romans 1:21, 22).

So the human mind by itself, without the illumination of the blessed Holy Spirit, corrupted by the fall, is a false and untrustworthy guide. Does this mean we are not to use our heads? No. Absolutely not. Dawson Trotman, the founder of the Navigators, used to tell us, "God gave you an awful lot of leading when He gave you a mind." So faith in God strengthens, enlightens and invigorates our minds.

Self-dependence is folly and rebellion is ruin. But to trust in the Lord is a dynamic, adventuresome, exciting lifestyle. Placing our faith in the power, goodness and wisdom of God is the most sensible thing we can do.

The next step is to take all the ordinary matters of life to Him in prayer. To give lip service to God and then try to make do by ourselves in the every day affairs of life is self-idolatry. Morning prayer, the practice of taking things to God in the first place, before we have consulted human counselors or just let things take their course; this is a powerful practice that is much overlooked. Men like David, the man after God's own heart, knew its worth: "My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up" (Psalm 5:3).

Stick with the Word and prayer. Don't look for strange revelations. Open your Bible and go through it with sober, practical and reverent faith. God will not lead you astray. "He shall direct thy paths." No step you take that you have prayed over will bring ultimate regret. Naturally you will never be infallible, but even in your mistakes, God will see you through.

Topical Memory System

Hide God's Word in Your Heart

If you want to memorize Scripture, but aren't sure what to memorize or how, this is exactly what you need. This package includes memory verse cards in four different Bible versions—NIV, KJV, NASB, NKJV. Begin now to hide His word in your heart. [The Navigators](#)



WHAT THE TOPICAL MEMORY SYSTEM WILL DO FOR YOU:

- Freedom from Anxiety:** Memorizing and meditating on God's Word will help you overcome worry. You can experience God's perfect peace by having His promises written on your heart.
- Victory over Sin:** God's Word hidden in your heart is the sword of the Spirit, available for battle at any time against sin and Satan.

•**Confidence in Witnessing:** One of the five series of verses in the *Topical Memory System* will give

you a workable plan for sharing the gospel with others.

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

YOUR MEMORY IS GOOD

If you don't think so, consider all the information you know by heart—your address and phone number, all the people you know by name, details about your job, facts and figures about your favorite sport or hobby, and much more. You see, your memory is pretty good after all. Anything is easy to memorize when you really have an interest in it. Includes the 72 page *Navigators Scripture Memory Course* book, verse cards of four versions—KJV, NIV, NASB, NKJV—and a handy wallet to hold the cards currently being memorized.

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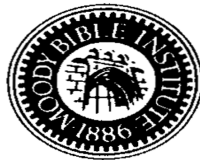
MEMORIZE THE WORD

A Key to Christian Maturity

A BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

Text Material by
LORNE SANNY
and the
Staff of The Navigators

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by
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MOODY BIBLE INSTITUTE
CENTER FOR EXTERNAL STUDIES
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Memorize the Word
(Enrollment Form)

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

1. In the sense of John 3, do you know whether or not you have been born again? Circle your answer: Yes No Not sure. If yes, when? _____

2. Have you ever regularly and systematically memorized Scripture?

3. If yes, for how long and when, what year or years?

4. Have you completed any systematic Bible Studies? List any completed:

5. Why are you enrolling in this course?

6. Do you finish well what you undertake to do? Circle answer: Almost always, Usually, More often than not, Seldom, Very Seldom.

7. Will you determine NOW, before starting, to attend every meeting possible, thoroughly prepare your assignment prior to each meeting, and discipline yourself to DAILY REVIEW during the period required for completion of this course? Please answer below and in doing so honestly reveal the depth of your commitment:

SIGNATURE: _____