100 Bible Verses

everyone should know by heart

ROBERT J. MORGAN

SMALL GROUP LEADER’S GUIDE
Beginnings: The Bible’s Fantastic Four
“As We Think” and “Beginnings: The Bible’s Fantastic Four”

Facilitator: Use the following questions and activities to lead your group in the discussion of 100 Verses Everyone Should Know by Heart by Robert J. Morgan. This study guide works best if participants have read through the book in its entirety, or have read the chapters covered in each session, before the group meeting. Each session leads participants through one of the 13 memorization sections of Part Two of 100 Verses... as well as coordinating passages from Part One.

READY
Begin the group meeting by providing note cards to each participant. Instruct group members to number 1-5 on their note cards, and then write their answers to the following questions you ask aloud:
1. What is your favorite Bible verse? Why?
2. What was the first verse you memorized?
3. Why do you think Bible memorization is important?
4. Honestly—what role does Bible memorization play in your spiritual growth now?
5. What are the factors keeping your from meeting your memorization goals and aspirations?

Provide time for participants to share answers, but do not force anyone to volunteer. Of course, be sure to present your answers to the group. Ask each to write his or her name on the note card, and then take up the note cards. Not only does this activity break the ice, but it also allows you to gauge where each group member is in the implementation of memorization, etc. (In preparation for the next meeting, review these note cards. Adjust your session’s focus, based on what you learn from the note cards, to better guide your group members into the practice of Bible memorization.)

SET
Next, read aloud James Allen’s quote from page 4:

“A [person’s] mind may be likened to a garden, which may be intelligently cultivated or allowed to run wild; but whether cultivated or neglected, it must, and will, bring forth. If no useful seeds are put into it, then an abundance of useless seeds will fall therein, and will continue to produce their kind.”

Ask: What did you learn from these? Do you agree with Allen’s observations? How can Proverbs 23:7 apply to Bible memorization?

Transition into the “Beginnings: The Bible’s Fantastic Four” section by reading the “Fantastic Four” verses aloud: Genesis 1:1; John 1:1, 14; 3:16. Ask: Why do you think the author chose these verses as the first to memorize? What is your “history” with these verses, i.e. memorized them as a child, just read them for the first time, etc?

In 100 Verses..., Mr. Morgan presents Genesis 1:1 as “giving us roots” and “giving us routes.” Ask: What does the writer mean when he says, “Genesis 1:1 gives us roots”?
On page 47, Morgan says:

“The book of Genesis gives us the history of creation, sin, the beginnings of human society, and the wondrous plan of redemption introduced by God. If you discard Genesis 1:1, you abandon the roots and reality of humanity on earth. By removing this text from conscious thought, we lose all inherent moral law in the universe, all intrinsic bases for self-image, all eternal purpose to life, and any and all hope in the human heart.”

Ask: What does Morgan mean when he says, “Genesis 1:1 gives us routes”?
On page 48, he explains:

“If we have a past, we have a future. If we were created in God’s image, we have eternal potential. If we have an intelligent Creator who knows and loves us, He must have a purpose and plan for time and eternity. Without Him we’re dying embers in a dying universe with no ultimate significance. With Him we have roots in a dignified past and routes to a great future.”

Ask: How does this explanation of Genesis 1:1’s “roots and routes” encourage you?

Move on to discuss John 1:14, which will be the assigned verse to memorize for this session. Read through the eight-point outline on page 51:

• Jesus is the God who made us (1:1-3).
• He is the life who sustains us (v. 4a).
• He is the light who illumines us (vv. 4b-5).
• He is the message who excites us (vv. 6-9).
• He is the Savior who redeems us (vv. 10-13).
• He is the friend who dwells among us (v. 14).
• He is the Lord who surpasses us (v. 15).
• He is the Son who blesses us (vv. 16-18).

Ask: Which of these descriptors of Christ is most meaningful to you?

On a white board or poster, write down the group’s answers to the following questions: Why would John 1:14 be beneficial to memorize? What truth does it present? How can that truth impact your life?

MEMORIZE
Challenge participants to memorize John 1:14 before the next meeting. This memorization assignment may bring on anxiety, fear, or even dread. Commit to being a cheerleader, an encourager for those in your group. Remind them to meditate on the reasons listed on the white board or poster. This reasoning can motivate them for the task!
The Roman Road: The Plan of Salvation
“Getting Scripture into the Memory” and “The Roman Road: The Plan of Salvation”

Facilitator: Although these sessions use 100 Verses by Robert J. Morgan as a launching point, remember the purpose of this study group (and the book!) is not merely to enjoy a good read, but to cultivate the spiritual discipline of Bible memorization into a believer’s life—a life-changing pursuit bestowing blessing after blessing.

READY
To start off this session, ask for volunteers to share their salvation story; present your salvation story; or invite a guest speaker to share his or her testimony, whichever is most appropriate for your study group.

Segue the discussion by noting that while Morgan called the four verses from “Beginnings” the “bare bones of biblical truth,” he refers to the verses in this study section—“The Roman Road”—as the “comprehensive outline for God’s plan of salvation” (p. 55).

SET
Using PowerPoint, a white board, or poster, write out Romans 3:23; 6:23; 10:9-10. Instruct participants to name aloud everything they learn about God’s salvation from these verses.

Example observations:
• Romans 3:23—“We all have sinned and fallen short of the perfect standards and holy expectation of the God of all glory. We are separated from Him by our sins. Before the good news of salvation, we have to know the bad news of sin” (p. 56).
• Romans 6:23—“The Bible says that we’re all employed by sin, and the result or payback is physical, spiritual, and eternal death. In contrast to that, God wants to give us a gift, which is everlasting life” (p. 57).
• Romans 5:8—“The first two words state an historical fact: ‘Christ died.’ The second two add the theological significance: ‘for us.’ The full four form the crux of the Gospel” (Baxter, p. 60).
• Romans 10:9—This verse is “the acknowledgement that Jesus Christ is God Himself and that we are making Him the Lord of our lives. This is our declaration when we decide to believe and receive the truth of the risen Christ” (p. 61).
• Romans 10:10—“Verse 9 tells us to confess with our mouth and to believe in our hearts. Verse 10 explains that we believe with our hearts and confess with our mouths. That’s not a contradiction; it’s a mirror image of the process” (p. 64).

MEMORIZE
Inform participants the next verse to memorize is Romans 10:9. (And if they are willing, include verse 10 too!)

On page 7, Morgan says:

“Scripture has power that is supernatural, soothing, convicting, transforming, life-changing, timely, timeless, and eternal. Nothing beats having the Word of God stored away in the chambers of the mind.”

This is an excellent quote to write on a note card, enter as a screen saver, or store in a phone to encourage participants as they commit to Bible memorization.

Instruct study members to find a partner within the group. Allow the partners to recite the memory verse from the previous session to one another. After five minutes or so, bring everyone together again and ask: What surprised you about memorizing this verse? What were your challenges in memorizing this verse? How did you overcome the difficulties? How did God use the memorized verse in your life?

Note to Facilitator: This study guide is set up to guide participants in memory of one verse from each section of Part One from 100 Verses...—13 total verses. However, the number of memorized verses can be altered depending on the needs and ability of your group. For instance, if you only meet once a month, then challenge participants to memorize four verses per month.

100 Verses... is a primer of sorts on Bible memorization—a first step in implanting memorization of God’s Word into the routine of a Christian’s life. Take the cue from Morgan in “Getting Scripture into the Memory” and promote the concept of memorizing Bible passages instead of stand-alone verses as the intended goal. Use Morgan’s story of Dallas Willard on pages 7-8 to support your challenge.
Listening: The Word of God and Prayer
“Getting Scripture into the Subconscious” and “Listening: The Word of God in Prayer”

**Facilitator:** This study guide is designed to provide you with the talking points, teaching material, discussion questions, and activities needed to effectively facilitate a study group through 100 Verses... Yet, remember to include time in each session to focus on participants’ observations, questions, and comments from their personal time reading the book and memorizing Scripture. Concentrate more on the spiritual growth of group members and application than simply trying to complete a session outline. That being said, also be aware of unhelpful “rabbit trails” to be chased, taking away valuable group time.

**READY**
Bring treats to the group meeting—candy, stickers, sodas, something reminiscent of Sunday school prizes, etc. Give a treat to each person who can recite the previously assigned memory verse. Keep the mood jovial and encouraging, being sure not to scold or embarrass those who cannot repeat the verse.

**SET**
Assign each of the following verses to six different study members. (Scriptures can also be divided among groups.)

- 2 Timothy 3:16
- Joshua 1:8
- Psalm 119:11
- Deuteronomy 6:6
- Deuteronomy 6:7
- Hebrews 4:12

Instruct each participant to tell what benefits are ascribed to the Word of God in his or her verse, and then share the observation with the group. If time allows, analyze Morgan’s comments on each:

- Joshua 1:8—Discuss the threefold command and twofold promise found in this verse presented on page 68.
- Psalm 119:11—“When Jesus was tempted by the devil, He quoted memorized Scripture, giving us an example. If we’ll fill our minds with God’s Word, we’ll have the weapons needed to fend off the attacks of the evil one. God has put more than thirty-one thousand verses in this Book to help us withstand the temptations we face in life. It’s like having thirty-one rounds of ammunition; and there’s no excuse for having your arsenal empty” page 71.
- Deuteronomy 6:6-7—Examine Morgan’s three golden rules for parenting on pages 72-73. How can these principles affect your family life?
- Hebrews 4:12—Consider the exposition presented on page 76. What did you learn from the suggested exercise (in the “Context” portion)?

Direct participants’ attention to the book text on pages 10-11:

> “Some people question the value of rote memory, and I’ll admit that just memorizing words for the sake of words is of limited value. . . . When we memorize a word, phrase, line, or verse from God’s Word, it’s like implanting a powerful radioactive speck of the very mind of God into our own finite brains. As we review it or hear it spoken again, it sinks deeper into our heads. As we learn it ‘by heart,’ it descends into the hidden crevices and fissures of our souls. As we meditate on it, it begins sending out its quiet, therapeutic waves of influence. And, as the apostle Paul said, we are transformed by the renewing of our thoughts (see Rom. 12:2).”

Explain your answer. How does this book text encourage you to memorize Scripture?

Next, read aloud Psalm 1; Proverbs 7:1, 3; and Joshua 1:8. Ask: What do these verses, taken together, teach you about the significance of regular Bible study and memorization?

Segue to the final portion of the “Listen” section by reminding participants of another spiritual discipline that goes hand-in-hand with study and memory—prayer. Read the three verses—Hebrews 4:16; 1 John 5:14-15—aloud. Ask: What did you learn about prayer from these verses? What from Morgan’s observations most resonated with you? What misconceptions about prayer were dispelled for you? How will these verses on prayer impact your prayer life?

**MEMORIZE**
Again, ask participants to list their challenges when it comes to Scripture memorization, and then ask them to name off the benefits of memorizing God’s Word discovered in this session. Pose this question: Do the challenges outweigh the benefits? Or vice versa?

Of course, the benefits vastly outweigh the challenges! Use this as encouragement to continue with memorization.

Assign 2 Timothy 3:16 as the next verse to memorize. Provide memory tips to your group, such as writing out the verse on a note card and placing it on the refrigerator door, car dashboard, or bathroom mirror where it can be frequently read; or download the verse on an iPod to listen to over and over; play memory games with your children using words from verse—you and children can memorize Scripture together! Allow time for group members to share ways they enhance their retention of the verses.
Assurance: Inner Peace and Security
“Getting Scripture into the Imagination” and “Assurance: Inner Peace and Security”

Facilitator: Utilize various forms of media to encourage and establish community in your study group. Some ideas include:

- Create a study group blog, posting memorization progress, tips for memorization, inspirational thoughts, silly stories, group photos, etc.
- Be Facebook friends and/or create a Facebook group. Use this for memorization encouragement and accountability.
- Incorporate your group into a website—through your church or organization. This gives participants a place to check for updates, tips, news, and such, as well as linking your group with a larger entity.

READY
Jumpstart this session by providing one or more copies of your local newspaper, or postings from a reputable, online news source, to the study group members. (If participants have cell phones with Internet capability, you can simply instruct them to look up news stories.) Allow 5 minutes for group members to locate news stories that could cause fear, worry, or anxiety. Then, ask for volunteers to share 1-2 summaries of each story.

Ask: Do these news stories cause you fear, worry, or anxiety? Why or why not? Segue into the “Set” section by asking: What causes you the most fear in your spiritual life?

SET
For many believers, assurance of salvation is one of the most troubling causes for concern. Ask: Why is assurance of salvation such a difficulty for many Christians?

The most likely answer is the reality of sin in our lives. We know how much we fail God, and how far from holy we are. That leads us to wonder—even in the knowledge of God’s grace—can God really love us, really forgive us? And on some days, how can God even stand us?

Ask: How can we overcome the doubts about our standing with God?

The problem is our focus; we are focusing on ourselves instead of focusing on God. And how can we know what God thinks about the situation? Reading and memorizing His Words!

Robert Morgan writes on pages 16-17:

“Scripture memory is our most powerful tool in changing our habits of thought, and the internalized truths of God’s Word keep us mentally healthy. It’s the greatest secret I know to personal resiliency. It molds our thoughts, and our thoughts shape our lives; for as we think in our hearts, so we are.”

On pages 14–15, the author presents several passages on the role of our mind in our spiritual growth. Review that list with your group.

Ask: Based on this information, what does it mean to worship and serve the Lord with your mind? How does this relate to your thoughts of assurance and peace?

Ask several group members to read aloud these verses: John 3:16, 36; 5:24; 6:47, 68; 10:28-29; 17:3; 1 John 1:2; 2:25; 5:11, 13; Romans 8:38-39; and 2 Timothy 1:12. Ask: How does the truth found in these verses impact you? How do they challenge your trust in Christ? How can you encourage others with these verses?

As the “Assurance” section shows, God not only offers peace regarding our salvation, but He also offers peace for the worries and struggles experienced in life—peace in place of those newspaper articles! Write out Isaiah 26:3-4 on a white board, PowerPoint slide, or poster. Review Morgan’s observations from page 98: Perfect Peace, Stayed Minds, Abiding Trust, and Everlasting Strength.

Prompt participants to share which verse from the “Assurance” section was most encouraging and soothing to their souls. This time of testimony and transparency will no doubt be inspiring to everyone in the group, reminding all of God’s faithfulness and concern for even the smallest aspects of our lives.

MEMORIZE
Go around the room, asking each person to say the memory verse from the previous session. After each recites the passage, lead the way in cheering and clapping for a job well done.

Inform participants they can choose one verse from the “Assurance” section to memorize—perhaps, the verse that meant the most to them. End the session with this note from the author on page 17:

“If our ‘little gray cells’ are such an important thing about us, and if the Holy Scriptures are the very thoughts of God Himself, then Bible verses represent the most healing, clarifying, bolstering, uplifting data we can insert into our brains. The power of Scripture is unlike anything else on earth. It’s a force to be reckoned with, containing intrinsic power, high enough to give us insight, deep enough to give us peace, wide enough to mold our personalities, and strong enough to bear us through horrendous days.”
Praise: Worship and Thanksgiving

Sections covered: “Getting Scripture into Practice” and “Praise: Worship and Thanksgiving”

Facilitator: Pray for your study group members. Bible memorization goes against our sinful nature, Satan’s forces in our lives, and our own culture. Committing to such is no small incident. It could very well be a difficult spiritual struggle. Pray sincerely for your group, and for you as a guide/leader through this journey. Pray the verses you memorize. God is always faithful to His Word.

READY

Play the praise game! Begin with the phrase, “I praise God for . . . .” The next person must complete the sentence with a word(s) starting with the letter “A.” For example, “I praise God for answered prayer.” Then, the following person must complete the sentence with a word(s) starting with the letter “B,” and so forth. Continue through the group using all the letters of the English alphabet.

If time does not allow for this version of the game, then shorten the game by using “P-R-A-I-S-E” as an acronym. For example, “I praise God for patiently loving me” and “I praise God for redemption,” etc.

Explain that this technique is not only a fun way to kick off a study session, but it is also a technique used in the Scriptures to aid in memorization. Read the following quote from page 21 of 100 Verses...:

“The longest chapter in the Bible—Psalm 119—is actually composed of twenty-two segments arranged as an extended acrostic. The passage about the wise woman in Proverbs 31 likewise has twenty-two segments. In other words, these were composed to be memorized. In the days before the printing press, many people didn’t have access to their own copies of the Bible so they memorized vast portions of God’s Word. How tragic that now, with all our modern versions and translations, we’re memorizing it less and less, if at all” (p. 21).

SET

Again, Morgan reminds readers of the significance of Bible memory. Read these quotes from pages 20 and 21:

“Bible verses, committed to memory and applied by the Holy Spirit, are the most powerful medications in the whole world. They’re a balm for sore hearts, an elixir for lost spirits, an immunization for bad habits, a booster shot of high spirits, a pick-me-up for dreary days, and a stimulant for positive nerves. . . . Whenever we store away a verse in our minds, it becomes a concealed weapon. It’s a light, a lamp, a vault of gold, a hive of honey, and a two-edged sword. It’s available day and night for practical purposes. It helps us “fix” our thoughts, and we fix our thoughts by fixing them on Jesus via His praiseworthy Word.”

“His praiseworthy Word” not only presents praises to God, but also shows us how and why to praise God. What better verses to memorize than those that focus on who God is and what He does?

Read aloud 1 Peter 1:3-12, and then review Morgan’s “five great exclamations” found in this passage on pages 104-105:

- Praise God!
- Great Mercy!
- New Birth!
- Living Hope!
- Risen Savior!

Ask: Why do you think Christian lose sight of these great truths, allowing their joy to turn to despair? How can regular Bible reading, prayer, and memorization affect a Christian’s perspective? Move on to Psalm 100, asking study members what visual image this passage paints in their minds. Point out the verbs in Psalm 100; ask: Are these actions you associate with praise, or actions you utilize in your worship? Why does the psalmist say we are to praise God? Read through Matthew Henry’s comments on this psalm (p. 106).

Transition to the last verse for this section—Revelation 4:11—by pointing to it as another primer on worship. Read Revelation 4—5:1-14, asking participants what they learn about worship from this Scripture.

Morgan provides an outline on pages 110-111 to what he calls “the Bible’s primary text on the subject of worship, a virtual open window into an actual worship service occurring in heaven”:

- When we worship, we’re approaching a glorious throne (Rev. 4:1-3).
- When we worship, we’re joining an eternal chorus (Rev. 4:4-11).
- When we worship, we’re praising a triune God (Rev. 5:1-10).
- When we worship, we’re glorifying a worthy Lord (Rev. 5:11-14).

Provide a note card to each participant, which reads, “The more I learn about God, the more I . . . .” Ask everyone to complete the sentence on the note card. No one will be asked to share, but encourage members to keep this note card in their Bibles, journal, etc. as a reminder of what they are learning about God and how that changes their perspective, actions, and response to Him.

MEMORIZE

Provide each class member with a blank sheet of paper. Instruct everyone to write out the previous memory verse on the paper. Then, underneat the verse, to write a praise to God related to his or her memorization experience so far. Finally, ask participants to write out 1 Peter 1:13, which is the new memory verse assignment. Collect the papers and redistribute to group members, making sure no one receives his or her own paper. These sheets can be tokens of encouragement shared amongst the group—to celebrate memorization successes and God’s faithfulness to their lives, as well as perspective and energy to tackle the next memory mission.
Promises

Sections covered: “The Starting Point: Fixing Our Thoughts” and “Promises”

Facilitator: The book text covered in this section is longer than the usual session material. Keep this in mind as you prepare to lead your group. To provide study participants an opportunity to share outside of class, utilize your blog, Facebook account, etc as a place where members can write down how this section is impacting their thoughts and lives. For example, post a Facebook status update or note that asks, “How has Matthew 6:33 encouraged you?” Not only will group members chime in, but other Facebook friends can post comments too. Make daily or twice-a-day posts about this session’s material.

READY

Use this memory recitation activity to begin the session. Write everyone’s name on a piece of paper and place those pieces in a bag or jar. As you pull out each name, that person must recite the previous session’s memory verse.

Once the activity is complete, direct group members’ attention to page 26 in 100 Verses. Review Morgan’s comments about the benefits of Scripture memorization. Using a PowerPoint, white board, or poster, display the following:

1. Clearer thoughts. 5. Happier homes.
4. Purer habits.

Ask: How have you experienced any of these benefits since beginning your commitment to memorize Bible verses?

SET

Transition by saying how these memory benefits are results of God’s promises—and that is certainly the focus of the discussion in this section! Because the book text for “Promises” is longer than most, assign 10 different people, or 5 smaller groups (two bullet points per group), these sections:

- Matthew 6:33, pages 112-113
- Romans 8:28, pages 114-115
- Jeremiah 29:11, pages 116-117
- 1 John 1:7, pages 118-119
- 1 John 1:9, pages 120-121
- Proverbs 3:5, pages 122-123
- Proverbs 3:6, pages 124-125
- 1 Corinthians 10:13, pages 126-127
- Psalm 55:22, pages 128-129
- 1 Peter 5:7, pages 130-131

(Note: You can also write these verses and corresponding page numbers on pieces of paper to place in the bag or jar. Again, draw out a piece of paper and ask for a volunteer to tackle that verse, or assign that verse to a particular person or group.)

Instruct individuals or groups to take a few minutes to study the assigned section, and then to present in five minutes or less what they learned most from that verse and/or section of book text. This will allow for a good summary of the “Promises” section as a whole, while engaging group members in the study and application of the particular verses. If any participant struggles with this assignment, use the following to help him or her with the presentation:

- Romans 8:28—“Remember that the first part is the promise; the last half is the condition. The first part tells us what God will do in working all things for our good. The last part gives us our responsibility—to love Him and be true to His purposes in our lives. Memorize Romans 8:28, and you need never despair again!” (p. 114).
- Jeremiah 29:11—Examine the author’s outline of Jeremiah 29.
- 1 John 1:7—“Charles Finney used this verse evangelistically, but in its actual context it’s addressed to Christians. . . . Perhaps there’s a sin into which you repeatedly fall. It’s unhealthy to allow that sin to remain unconfessed. If we know Jesus as our Savior, we don’t lose our salvation every time we sin, but we do lose something of the sweetness we should have with our heavenly Father. We lose a clear conscience and an untarnished walk. How wonderful to confess our sins and walk in the light as He is in the light” (p. 119).
- 1 John 1:9—Discuss the benefits of confession in the life of a Christian.
- Proverbs 3:5—Highlight the three commands and one promise found in Proverbs 3:5-6.
- Proverbs 3:6—Explain what you learned from this verse coupled with the other “right path” verses listed.
- 1 Corinthians 10:13—Describe the analogy of “a way of escape” from literal entrapment in a ravine or cavern and spiritual entrapment in temptation and sin.
- Psalm 55:22—Add your testimony to that of John Fletcher, Robert Morgan, King David, and the mentioned Jewish Rabbi.
- 1 Peter 5:7—Remind members how to “CAST.”

MEMORIZE

Again, place the pieces of paper that has the Bible verses written on them in the bag or jar. As you pull out each verse, assign it to one group member. Continue this process until everyone has a new verse to memorize. (If your group is larger than 10 people, place the papers back in the bag or jar and keep drawing until finished.)

Point participants to the following quotes in the book text as encouragement for their memorization efforts:

“Without Christ our thoughts tend toward evil, filled with impure imaginations and harmful attitudes and misguided motives. But when we turn over ownership of our lives to Christ, He begins to transform our minds and to cultivate holiness and happiness. Our minds become His garden, centered on Him and sown with the bulbs of the Bible and the seeds of Scripture. . . . Scripture memory / meditation is the key to healthy-mindedness for those who have given their lives to Jesus Christ and centered their thoughts on Him. The Holy Bible isn’t just a great book; it’s in a class by itself—a book authored by the Creator God through the agency of human beings who were guided by the Holy Spirit in their writings” (pgs. 23-24).
Holiness: Obeying God's Commands
“Seven Immediate Benefits of Scripture Memory, Part 1” and “Holiness: Obeying God's Commands”

Facilitator: As the book study and Bible memorization progresses, the routine of study and memory may become monotonous to some, and even discouraging to others. Continue to be a cheerleader for your group, always reminding them of the importance and reasoning behind Scripture memory. This session will especially prove helpful toward that end, as participants begin studying the “Immediate Benefits” of memorization, according to the author.

READY
Provide participants with a blank sheet of paper. Ask them to write down the top three instructions and/or reminders they give to their children, or they received from their parents. Examples are: “Don’t forget to brush your teeth”; “Clean your room”; and “Please play nicely.” Next, ask group members to share those often-repeated statements, along with the reasoning behind each one. For example, “Don’t forget to brush your teeth because if you neglect oral hygiene, gum disease, cavities, and worse can develop in your mouth.”

Transition by reminding participants that God’s commands for us are with the same love—they are for our good. Even in His wish for us to pursue Scripture memory, He provides rewards/benefits for our obedience.

SET
Jump right into the first “Immediate Benefit of Scripture Memory”: Scripture memory gives us clearer thoughts (p. 28).

Ask: As you have practiced Scripture memory, how has it impacted your thought life?

Read these verses, discussing what you learn about the mind:

- Psalm 26:2
- Psalm 86:11
- Isaiah 26:3
- Colossians 3:2
- Ephesians 4:23
- Matthew 22:37

Morgan writes,

“All truth is God’s truth, but Scripture is His revealed truth and provides the intellectual foundation for all the rest. It provides the historical, philosophical, theological, and psychological scaffolding within which all other facts become cohesive. It reveals the wisdom of God regarding everything from daily life to eternal life. Without the engraving of Scripture in our minds, we’re left with a brain filled with the rantings and ravings of a confused intellect” (pgs 28-29).

As the facilitator, provide an example of when this was true in your life, or a time when a Bible passage, called to mind, help calm or redirect your thoughts.

Morgan also notes that Jesus quoted the Old Testament several times, especially during His crucifixion. According to the New Testament record, Jesus quoted the Old Testament—“the Law and Prophets”—24 different times. Ask: How does the reality of Jesus’ own dedication to Scripture memory challenge you? (Some may answer: He was God, He wrote the Bible. Of course, He knows it! Or others may respond: If Jesus needed and used Scripture, then how much more do I need it?) Morgan says, “If memorized Bible verses enabled Jesus to think clearly during six torturous hours on the cross, think how they can help us through the stress and strain of each day. When we recall Scriptures, they become like sanitizers of the brain, washing our minds in a bath of praise” (p. 29).

The likelihood probably remains that when it comes to Bible memorization, most are excited about and drawn to those verses of assurance, praise, and promises; but when they focus on holiness and obedience—the focus of this session’s study—some may sigh a simple, “oh.” Yet, as the “Holiness” section points out, God again as a loving Father, does not require obedience out of cruelty or depravation, but out of love and good intent—even a further progression of an intimate relationship with Him.

For example, review the study of 2 Chronicles 7:14 (p. 132). Read this verse aloud, then ask: What are the “Requirements for Revival” and the “Promises of Revival”?

Continue this same exercise with the following verses, asking, “What is the command?” and “What is the benefit of obedience?”:

- Romans 12:1-21
- 2 Corinthians 9:6-15
- Hebrews 10:19-23
- Proverbs 1:7; 15:1

Ask: How did this exercise encourage you towards obedience? What did you learn about God from this verse study? How can concentration on—through memorization—these holiness verses actually impact your obedience?

MEMORIZE
Allow participants to recite the memorized verse from the previous session to another person in the group.

Finally, assign Romans 12:2 as the next verse to commit to memory. Ask the pairs to read this passage together, and then share struggles each is experiencing in the memorization process. Encourage them to pray together for God to honor their desire to “renew their minds” through Bible memorization and to enable them to be His obedient, faithful followers.
**Facilitator:** Due to the topics covered in this section, be careful to avoid discussions and conversations about social drinking versus drunkenness or various views on what it means to be “filled with” the Holy Spirit. If group members do have questions and/or concerns on these topics, direct them to consult with their pastor at another time, or if you feel qualified to tackle these issues, do so privately before or after the group meeting.

**READY**

Begin the session by asking participants to recite the previous Bible memory verse. (If going in order, use the “renewing our minds” truth to transition into this “Ready” section.)

When thinking about the Holy Spirit, many Christians feel confused about or even afraid of His role. Using PowerPoint, a white board, or poster, make a list based on participants’ answers to this question: Before you read the section on “Fullness,” how would you describe the Holy Spirit’s purpose and actions in your particular life?

**SET**

Many believers focus on the Holy Spirit’s role as Comforter—“giving us steadier nerves and calmer spirits.” That is very, very true, but the *100 Verses*...author also points out in his second “Immediate Benefit of Scripture Memory” that Bible memorization “gives us steadier nerves” too (p 29). He writes, “Specific Bible verses stored away in our minds serve as the shock absorbers of life, giving us steadier nerves and calmer spirits. . . . Romans 8:28 is from below perspective, tell us that here on earth all things work for our good. Ephesians 1:11 is from God perspective, telling us that all things work together in conformity with the purpose of His will in order that we might before the praise of His glory (v. 12).”

Of course, the benefit of “steadier nerves and calmer spirits” does not come in an either-or situation, that is, either through Scripture or through the Holy Spirit. It comes through both. The Scripture tells us that the Holy Spirit’s work and presence in our lives is in accordance with God’s will; it’s just how He planned it.

Follow this outline as you work through the “Fullness” section:

- Read Ephesians 5:18 aloud. Ask: How is the word picture of drunkenness an appropriate description of our relationship with the Holy Spirit?
- Read Ephesians 5:19 aloud. Ask: What is the response to being filled with the Holy Spirit?
- Read Ephesians 5:20 aloud. Ask: How does the Holy Spirit’s presence in our life create a heart of thankfulness?
- Read Ephesians 5:21 aloud. Ask: What are the three “gauges” of the Holy Spirit’s work in your life? How do these translate into marriage relationships and parent/child relationships?
- Read Galatians 5:22-23 aloud. Ask: What are the results of walking via God’s ever-present Spirit? What is the evidence of walking in the Holy Spirit?
- After some discussion, ask: From these verses, what did you learn about the Holy Spirit’s role in your life?

**MEMORIZE**

Instruct four volunteers to read aloud one verse from Ephesians 5:18-21. Challenge group members to memorize all four verses by the next group meeting. Of course, if some participants feel overwhelmed by this request, allow them to choose which of the four verses to memorize for next time.
Joy

“Seven Immediate Benefits of Scripture Memory, Part 2” and “Joy”

Facilitator: This session asks participants to read multiple Bible verses. If time does not allow for your group to cover each passage, pick one or two for the focus of your discussion. However, encourage group members to incorporate review of all verses mentioned in this session into their personal devotional times throughout the following days.

READY

Start off this session by quizzing participants: If asking a Hollywood starlet what brings her joy, how do you think she’s answer? If asking a Jewish Rabbi what brings him joy, how do you think he’d answer? If asking a non-believing businessman what brings him joy, how do you think he’d answer? If asking a professional athlete what brings him or her joy, how do you think he’d answer? If asking a little girl what brings her joy, how do you think she’d answer? If asking yourself what brings joy to you, what would you answer?

Transition into the study session by directing group members’ attention to page 167: “According to reports, anxiety is epidemic in the United States; more Americans suffer from anxiety (in proportion to population) than any other country on earth. Anxiety affects forty million Americans, and three of the top-ten drugs are for mental illness. The Bible is a medicine chest of antidepressant verses and tranquilizing passages.”

SET

100 Verses... author, Robert J. Morgan, lists the third “Immediate Benefit of Scripture Memory” as: Scripture memory gives us healthier emotions. And if the statistics are true, Americans could use some help with that!

Use the Scripture passages below to discuss what the Bible teaches about moving from worry, fear, anxiety, and turmoil to a spirit and mind of joy and peace:

- Deuteronomy 26:11
- 2 Chronicles 6:41
- Psalm 9:14
- Psalm 31:7
- Psalm 42
- Psalm 119:14, 162
- Psalm 103
- Psalm 118:24
- Proverbs 29:11
- Isaiah 65:18
- Jeremiah 31:12
- Romans 5:2
- Romans 12:1-8
- Romans 12:17-21
- Philippians 4:4-7
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
- James 1:2-5
- 1 John 1:7-9

Now focus on three (or one or two, depending on the time allotment for your meeting) particular passages from the “Joy” section.

Read aloud Philippians 4:4-9, and ask:
- What are the “six easy steps” for experiencing inner peace?
- What are the two promises connected with these principles?
- How does verse 5 apply to joy?
- Why are prayer and thanksgiving a precursor to a joyful life?
- What does verse 7 teach?
- How do you find these verses particularly helpful?

Read aloud James 1:2-5, noting these text quotations:
- Page 175: “When believers have a series of reversals or difficulties, our first emotions and reactions may be painful; but we have divine resources, divine help, and divine truth to help us as we think it through and work it out in our minds. In so doing we’ll come to a different conclusion about our problems than a non-Christian would.”
- Page 177: “‘Counting it all joy’ means looking at our problems not as isolated incidents but in terms of God’s chain reactions. The Lord works in mysterious ways, and James strips away the covering so we can see the machinery of His operation . . . . Notice the sequence: Various trials come to test our faith. The testing of our faith produces endurance and perseverance, and that results in maturity.”
- Page 179: “James 1:2-5 shows us how to manage problems from the perspective of Calvary. Jesus’ death and resurrection enable us to ‘count it all joy’ by understanding the process by which God produces people who bear the image of Christ. Our trials exercise our faith and build our spiritual muscles. The resulting stamina gives us greater endurance, leading to maturity.”
- Page 181: “In times of strain, we need to see the sovereign, providential ways of God, and we need the calmness of His peace. We need the ability to make right decisions and give judicious advice. Wisdom is the God-given ability to say and do the right thing, in the right way, at the right time, with the right tone, and for the right reasons.”

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22 aloud. This passage contains some of the most succinct commands in all of Scripture, yet its implications are life-changing and certainly challenging! Ask group members how each verse can be applied to the life of a Christian. Encourage them to utilize Morgan’s observations in the book, as well as their own experiences and thoughts.

MEMORIZE

If participants, or groups of participants have memorized the previous memory verse in the same Bible translation, ask them to recite the verse(s) in unison.

Use Philippians 4:7 as the next memory verse.
Faith: Trusting God and Resting in His Word

“Seven Immediate Benefits of Scripture Memory, Part 2” and “Faith: Trusting God and Resting in His Word”

Facilitator: Encourage discussion through the use of open-ended questions as you lead this session. This study guide does provide such questions, but probe deeper if group members have other questions, are interject interesting comments, etc. Also, keep in mind as you conduct a discussion-oriented study session, to keep the conversation on track and on topic.

READY
Play a game to recite the previous memory verse. If participants have used the same Bible translation, instruct them to recite the memory verse one word at a time until the verse is complete. If group members have memorized the verse from various translations, conduct a relay race to determine who can correctly write the verse the fastest.

SET
Start the study session by reading Ephesians 2:8-9 aloud. Ask: Are there any passages from the 100 Verses text on pages 189-190 that you found particularly helpful as you contemplated these Ephian verses? If participants are feeling particularly shy, discuss these quotations:

• “When Jesus died on the cross, He shouted three words that ring through the ages and echo from the heavens to the four corners of earth: It is finished! When we think about salvation, we don’t think of the word do but of the word done. It isn’t righteous acts we do or works of charity we perform. It’s not a matter of living a good life or hoping that our altruistic actions outweigh our selfish ones. It’s a matter of what Jesus Christ has done for us on the cross. We are saved by grace.

• “Justification by grace through faith’ was the rallying cry of the Reformation, but what does it mean to say we’re not saved by works? It means we can never earn our way into eternal life by good deeds, mission trips, winning smiles, pleasant personalities, study habits, worship attendance, baptism, church membership, getting along with others, volunteering at mercy centers, helping the homeless, caring for unwanted youngsters, writing checks, giving money to worthy causes, keeping the law, being a good neighbor, being a good citizen, wearing religious symbols, telling the truth, uttering mantras, performing acts of heroism, doing random acts of kindness, or giving someone our parking space.

Could we build a ladder to the moon with hammer and nails? Could we tunnel through the earth with pick and shovel? Could we swim across the Pacific with mask and fins? The distance to heaven is far greater than to the moon, through the earth, or across the sea. The chasm between us and God is bridged only by the cross of Christ. It’s “not by works of righteousness that we have done, but according to His mercy” that we are saved (Titus 3:5). Not by works, lest anyone should boast.”

MEMORIZE
Assign Galatians 2:20 as the new memory verse. Continue to support your group’s memorization efforts, being careful not to chide and only to encourage. End this session by focusing on Morgan’s fourth “Immediate Benefit of Scripture Memory”: Scripture memory gives us purer habits. He says,

“While we rejoice in the good news Ephesians 2:8-9 bring, for many, its truth battles against our nature. We want to earn the salvation, do something to gain God’s pleasure. However, it is the submissive faith that acknowledges what God says and what He did is true—we cannot earn salvation, only receive His salvation as a gift. But what about works? Do they play no part in our Christian life?

Read Ephesians 2:10, and discuss how Morgan explains the relationship between faith and works. Highlight this quote:

“works. Highlight this quote:

Ask: How can we avoid the temptation of doing good works in our own strength and with the wrong intentions? How does Morgan’s three-point configurations help you understand this balance? (Spend a few minutes reviewing “The Relinquished Life,” “The Exchanged Life,” and “The Trusting Life.”)

Ask: According to Colossians 3:15-16, how does our faith in Christ’s salvation affect our worship? Our good works?

Because this section covers several biblical passages, end the verse study here; but ask participants to note what other verses and book text impacted their thinking before closing the group meeting.

MEMORIZE
Assign Galatians 2:20 as the new memory verse. Continue to support your group’s memorization efforts, being careful not to chide and only to encourage. End this session by focusing on Morgan’s fourth “Immediate Benefit of Scripture Memory”: Scripture memory gives us purer habits. He says,

“The practice of memorizing and meditating on the Bible is the primary way to accelerate spiritual growth in your life. It speeds up the transformation process and leads to holier habits. After all, spiritual maturity is simply thinking more as God thinks; so as we implant His thoughts into our minds, using Scripture memory, and as we use the process of meditation to convert these verses into regular thought patterns, we’re developing the mind of Christ (Phil. 2:5), yielding mature thoughts, pure habits, and holier lives” (p. 33).
Sent: The Great Commission and Our Global Task

“Seven Immediate Benefits of Scripture Memory, Part 3”
and “Sent: The Great Commission and Our Global Task”

Facilitator: Bring prayer cards from missionaries supported by your church; or bring information from the Voice of the Martyrs (persecution.com). Discuss how some believers are taking the gospel to dangerous countries, and are facing violent persecution doing so. Encourage group members to see themselves as partners with those who take the good news of Christ to other lands—through prayer, financial support, and missionary endeavors in their own communities.

READY
Dive into this study session by recounting how you came to salvation in Christ. Tell who introduced you to Christ, taught you about Him, etc. Who were your mentors in the Christian faith? If time allows and volunteers are willing, ask them to share their salvation story as well.

SET
Ask: What are the excuses people use to avoid sharing the gospel of Christ with others, especially non-believers?

On page 214, Robert J. Morgan quotes Hudson Taylor as saying, “The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed.” Ask: How does that statement impact you?

As study of other Scripture passages reveal, God does not leave us alone struggling and striving for obedience. Instruct participants to read Matthew 28:18-20 and Acts 1:8, and then relate what these verses teach about Christ. Be prepared to write down their observations on a white board or poster. Next, instruct them to review those same verses, noting what they reveal about the Christian’s role.

Morgan says on page 214,

“In verses 18–20, we’re all commanded to ‘go and tell,’ and this command is preceded by an all-encompassing claim. Jesus declares that all authority is His in heaven and on earth. With that supreme authority, then, He has appointed you and me to do our bit, throughout every day and wherever we go, to spread His good news.”

Ask: Why do Christians have a tendency to focus on our “going” and “doing” while leaving out Christ’s power and presence?

Although Morgan’s intent is to provide a memorization tip, on page 215, his tips point to focal point of the Great Commission—Christ. Evangelism is practiced and lived out in:

- His Power.
- His Purpose.
- His Place.
- His Plan.
- His Presence.

Ask: When thinking about the before-mentioned excuses—and even personal fears—many have in regards to evangelism, how does meditating on Matthew 28’s promises impact you?

Ask participants how they responded to Morgan’s comment: “The promise of God’s presence is a potent reality for every Christian worker. It was originally given to the eleven disciples on a hillside in Galilee; and it so deeply impressed one of them—Matthew—that he chose to end His Gospel with these words rather than by recording our Lord’s ascension into heaven or the promise of His return” (p. 217).

Ask: What other promise is given to Christ’s disciples in Acts 1:8? How does the author’s observation of “Acts 1:8 represents Christ’s agenda for the duration of history” challenge your thinking and Christian walk?

Perhaps, there is no greater mission field than one’s own home, especially one’s children. In fact, many of your group members may have listed a parent as the most influential person in their Christian faith. Morgan cites the fifth “Immediate Benefit of Scripture memory” as giving us happier homes.

Read Deuteronomy 6:6-7 aloud. Ask: What do these verses imply about the importance of Bible memorization? Morgan says, “Deuteronomy 6 tells us to talk about the Scriptures when we lie down and when we rise up, when we sit at home and when we walk along the way. This assumes that we have ready mental reference to the Scriptures so that we’ll be able to recall the right verse for the right occasion” (p. 36).

Ask: Why do you think Bible memorization is important for children? How can you incorporate it into your children’s lives?

MEMORIZE
Close this session by praying for missionaries who are carrying the gospel in other countries, praying for each other as you live out and share the gospel with others, and praying for God’s guidance and power as you teach your children about Christ.

Assign Acts 1:8 for the next memory verse to learn.
The Twenty-third Psalm
“Seven Immediate Benefits of Scripture Memory, Part 3” and “The Twenty-third Psalm”

Facilitator: Surprise your group members with a special treat—appetizers, coffees, desserts, etc. Celebrate the hard work and success of Bible memorization with a mini-party before or after your group meeting.

READY
Prepare a handout or a PowerPoint that lists the five “Immediate Benefits” of Bible memorization as presented by Robert J. Morgan. Scripture memory:

• Gives us clearer thoughts
• Gives us steadier nerves
• Gives us healthier emotions
• Gives us purer habits
• Gives us happier homes

Distribute the handouts or project the PowerPoint so everyone can see. Ask: How have you found these benefits to be evident in your life, as you’ve engaged in Bible memorization? Have you noticed any additional benefits not discussed by Morgan?

Segue into the “Set” section by informing participants you will discuss the last two benefits in this session.

(Note: If you utilize the handout format, it will provide group members with an opportunity to take notes, allowing them to have the “Immediate Benefits” listed in one document.)

SET
The sixth benefit of Bible memory is that it enhances our reputation. Ask: Did you find this benefit startling or a stretch at first? Why or why not?

Morgan writes on page 38, “Our ability to wisely dispense needed words is directly proportional to our knowledge of His Word.” Ask: Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not? Why is wisdom important in your personal life? Why is wisdom important in relationships?

The seventh and final benefit of Bible memory as listed by the author is: Scripture memory makes us eternal optimists. Ask: How is this possible? How can a heavenly perspective alter your earthly attitude?

Direct group members’ attention to Morgan’s comments on page 40: “As we faithfully memorize and meditate on Scripture, the Holy Spirit will gradually remold our minds until we see things and evaluate life increasingly from God’s point of view, and that’s the essence of wisdom.”

Now that all seven “Immediate Benefits of Scripture Memory” have been discussed, review them as a unit once again, referring to the handout or PowerPoint.

Transition into “The Twenty-third Psalm” section by saying: A better understanding of the rewards of Bible memory should prompt us to continue our pursuit of knowing and retaining God’s Word. For this session, we will focus on the twenty-third Psalm.

The author talks about the “geography” of Psalm 23 throughout this section. Divide participants into six smaller groups, or simply assign six individuals to complete this activity. Provide blank paper and writing utensils, such as markers or crayons. Assign each group one verse from Psalm 23, and ask them to depict that verse. For example, what does it mean now for God to be your Shepherd? How is He guiding you?

Allow 10 minutes for each group to complete the task. Then, invite each group to share its drawing, poem, etc to the entire study group. After each group presents its verse, also ask others to mention book text for that particular verse that impacted them.

If time allows, read aloud the other guidance verses mentioned by Morgan:

• Proverbs 2:5-6
• Psalm 37:23
• Psalm 139:16
• Isaiah 48:17
• Psalm 32:8
• Psalm 48:14
• Psalm 73:24

Ask group members to share testimonies of when God has faithfully guiding them. And then, allow for prayer requests for needed guidance, even stopping the study session to present these petitions to God.

MEMORIZE
Staying in the same groups, or breaking into pairs, ask participants to recite the previous memory verse; then share the new memory assignment: Psalm 23:1-6. Allow a few minutes at the end of the group meeting for participants to begin practicing this psalm. If some feel six verses are too much, then suggest memorizing verse 6 alone.
Alpha and Omega:  
The First and Second Comings of Christ  
Sections covered: “You Can Do It!” and “Alpha and Omega: The First and Second Comings of Christ”  

Facilitator: Reward your group members for a job well done! Give them a small gift, a gift card for a treat, make an announcement during the church service recognizing their memorization accomplishments (this could also motivate others to memorize Scripture), etc. You know your group best, so choose a reward to encourage and bolster them to continued Bible memory. If this session serves as your final meeting, discuss with your group how everyone can stay accountable for Bible memory progress once the regular meetings have ended.

READY  
Bring a little Christmas spirit into the study session! Open this group time by singing or reading the lyrics to “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” by Charles Wesley, whom Morgan quotes on page 234. Once the music has ended, discuss what this song says about the “newborn King,” making a list to note the songwriter’s observations from Scripture. Segue into the “Set” section by stating that Scripture teaches much more about Jesus Christ’s first coming to the earth.

SET  
In preparation for your group meeting, write out the following verses on one note card each: Isaiah 9:6; Luke 2:10; Luke 2:11; Luke 2:12. Add this additional text to each note card:

• At the bottom of the Isaiah 9:6 note card include this text: Isaiah 9:1-7.
• At the bottom of the Luke 2:10 note card write: What kind of message was delivered to the world?
• At the bottom of the Luke 2:11 note card jot down: How was the world “ready” for Christ’s first coming? What are the contrasts of His first coming to His second?
• At the bottom of the Luke 2:12 note card insert the words: Luke 2:12-14.

Now, distribute these note cards to four group members. Instruct the holder of the Isaiah 9:6 note card to read aloud Isaiah 9:1-7. Ask the group: What does this Isaiah passage teach us about the Christ Child? How did Christ fulfill these predictions?

Instruct the person who has the Luke 2:10 note card to read that verse aloud, and then ask the group the question found on the note card. (Direct the participants to page 235 for additional information.)

In the same manner, the person who holds the Luke 2:11 note card should read the verse and direct the question to all participants, noting page 238 from 100 Verses... for help with the answer. For the Luke 2:12 note card, ask the group member to read aloud Luke 2:12-14. Then discuss how these verses together present the Christ Child.

Before shifting to the second coming verses, ask study participants to share any other observations or questions from the Isaiah and Luke passages.

Transition into discussion of the second coming verses by dividing the participants into even, smaller groups. Assign these verses to the groups:

• Group 1—Acts 1:11; Luke 24:39; Zechariah 12:10; Revelation 1:7; Mark 14:62; Matthew 24:30; Daniel 7:13; Matthew 26:63; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; and Zechariah 14:4
• Group 3—Revelation 22:3-21

Allow 10 minutes for group members to record what these passages teach about the second coming of Christ. Once the time is up, ask each group to present their findings to the entire study session members. If group members do not reference Morgan’s observations in their presentations, direct participants’ attention to pages 241, 245-245, and 248.

Ask: How do the truths found in these verses bring hope to you? How do they provide comfort? How do they impact your perspective on your life?

Of course, remind study participants that these second coming verses are not exhaustive, but a good overview of the Bible’s teaching on this subject. Also, avoid any debate on the various eschatological interpretations. Suggest a discussion with the pastor and/or you outside of class time.

MEMORIZE  
Instruct group members to recite aloud, one by one, the previous memory verse. This is a perfect time to present them with the “memorization” rewards for a job well done!

Although during this book study, group members have only memorized a handful of verses, use this closing session as a commissioning or commitment “service” to continue the Scripture memory process. Challenge participants to memorize all 100 verses suggested by Morgan, starting with Revelation 22:20 from this session’s study.

Read this quote from page 42:

“We have a remarkable, built-in capacity for memory, thank God. If you can learn one single word, you can learn another. And if you learn two, you can learn four. The younger we are, the quicker our minds inscribe the data, but whatever our age, we should be actively practicing the discipline of Scripture memory.”

Using PowerPoint, a white board, or even handouts to give to each participant, review Morgan’s 10 memorization suggestions (page 43-44):

1. Resolve to memorize just one verse.
2. Work at it every day.
3. Keep your current memory verse on whatever screens you use, such as your handheld phone or your computer screen.
4. Repeat, repeat, repeat.
5. Set the verse to a memorable melody.
6. Read each verse in its context and study it.
7. Learn the reference as part of the verse.
8. Review, review, review.
9. Create mnemonics and mental associations.
10. Use your verses.