



BIBLE HABITS

CONVERSATION #5: MEMORIZING GOD'S WORD

ICEBREAKER: JINGLE JAM

To begin our conversation today, let's see how many of these well-known jingles you can recall:

1. Like a good neighbor ...
2. Maybe she's born with it ...
3. The best part of waking up ...
4. Ba da ba ba
5. Give me a break, Give me a break ...
6. What's in your ...
7. Melts in your mouth, not ...
8. Love that chicken from ...
9. America runs on ...
10. Nationwide is ...

These jingles came out so easily because we've heard them again and again. Over time, they just got stuck. In the same way, what's familiar to us often shows up first without us trying. As we keep that in mind, let's think about our own experience with the Bible and what tends to come to mind for us. These questions are simply a way to reflect on what's already there - and what we might want to grow in next.

- Can you recite one scripture from memory?
- If someone asked you for a verse that's helped you recently, would one come to mind quickly?
- When was the last time a Bible verse came to mind on its own during a hard moment?

STUDY: THAT I MIGHT NOT SIN

It's interesting how easily those jingles come to our minds. Some of them are old, yet they're still right there, ready the moment we hear the first few words. That's not because we worked at memorizing them - it's just because they've been part of the background of our lives for a long time. And that's actually encouraging, because it reminds us that familiarity grows through exposure, not perfection.

As we talk about God's Word today, this isn't about pressure or feeling like you should know more than you do. It's simply an invitation to notice what's already shaping us and to imagine what could change if Scripture became a more natural, everyday part of our lives - something that's there for us when we need strength, direction, or reassurance.

That idea of familiarity is exactly what **Psalm 119:11** points us to. As we read it together, listen for how God's Word is meant to move from something we occasionally turn to into something we intentionally carry with us every day.

READ PSALM 119:11

- What does it look like for God's Word to be "hidden" in your heart, not just read occasionally?
- How might having Scripture stored ahead of time change the way you respond in stressful or tempting moments?

As we consider this verse, three words show us why "hiding God's word in our hearts" or memorization matters. **"Hidden"** points to intentional effort, **"heart"** reminds us God's Word is meant to shape us internally, and **"that I might not sin"** shows Scripture works preventively, guiding us before we react. Memorization isn't about impressing God - it's about preparing our souls so we're ready when life puts pressure on us.

DISCUSS:

- Which of the three words -hidden, heart, or preventative - stands out to you most right now, and why?
- When do you most often turn to Scripture - before stress or after it hits?
- What does your current approach to Scripture say about whether you're feeding yourself or being fed by others?
- Why do you think memorization feels intimidating or unnecessary to you?

CHALLENGE: HIDE THE WORD

This week, challenge yourself to hide God's Word in your heart intentionally. Choose one verse to memorize from the list below, then follow the steps outlined.

Joshua 1:8 Colossians 3:16 Psalm 1:1-2 Romans 12:2 Luke 6:45 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Step 1: Each day, read the verse out loud three times

Step 2: Write it down once a day on a card or on paper.

Step 3: Practice saying it from memory without worrying about perfection.

As the week goes on, pay attention to moments when the verse comes to mind naturally, especially during stress, temptation, or strong emotions. This isn't about impressing God or getting it exactly right; it's about feeding yourself spiritually so God's Word is already there, shaping how you respond when life puts pressure on you.