

SESSION 1

OUTLINE OF THIS SESSION

1. Open the session in prayer.
2. Go over "Reviewing the Goals of Book 1 in THE 2:7 SERIES" (pages 9–10).
3. Preview book 2 by looking over *My Completion Record* (pages 7–8).
4. Will you memorize in the same translation you used in book 1?
5. Survey "Scripture Memory Guide — Week 1" (pages 10–11).
6. Read aloud "The TMS in Book 2" and "Bible Study in Book 2" (pages 11–12).
7. Read and discuss "Principles for Memorizing Scripture" (page 13).
8. Discuss "Practical Suggestions on Prayer" (pages 14–15). Locate prayer sheets at the end of this book (pages 141–146).
9. Read "Assignment for Session 2" (page 16).
10. Close the session in prayer.

REVIEWING THE GOALS OF BOOK 1 IN THE 2:7 SERIES

The goals of book 1 were:

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* and to have the option of memorizing an outreach verse
3. To experience more consistent and meaningful quiet times by:
 - a. Combining meaningful Bible reading and prayer
 - b. Succeeding in having seven consecutive quiet times during the course
 - c. Recording daily quiet time thoughts on a *My Reading Highlights* page
4. To study and discuss The Wheel Illustration
5. To study and discuss *Tyranny of the Urgent*
6. To understand the value of The Wheel and The Hand Illustrations
7. To come to a deeper conviction about reasons for memorizing Scripture and to identify possible hindrances to doing well in Scripture memory
8. To establish an evangelism prayer list

SCRIPTURE MEMORY GUIDE — WEEK 1

EXCERPTS FROM THE TOPICAL MEMORY SYSTEM (TMS)

You Can Memorize Scripture!

Your Memory Is Good. Do you 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.

DEEPENING YOUR ROOTS IN GOD'S FAMILY: A COURSE...

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 can make the difference. Adopt an attitude of confidence in Scripture memory and it will help your memory work.

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).

Why the Topics?

In book 1, you learned the topics and references as well as the verses. Here in book 2, you will do the same.

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 meditating, witnessing, counseling, doing Bible study, or preparing a talk.

So familiarize yourself with the "Live the New Life" topics on page 11 and learn each topic along with the verses.

Scripture Memory Helps in Book 2

The weekly Scripture memory guides in this course help in four areas:

1. How we can *memorize* Scripture verses more easily
2. How to *apply* the verses to our lives
3. How to *review* them so we can have them at our fingertips
4. How to *continue* memorizing Scripture after finishing this course

THE TMS IN BOOK 2

As you may know, NavPress publishes a Scripture memory course called the *Topical Memory System* (TMS). (Over the next few years you might choose to complete the TMS). The whole course contains sixty verses grouped into five major topics:

A. Live the New Life	12 verses
B. Proclaim Christ	12 verses
C. Rely on God's Resources	12 verses
D. Be Christ's Disciple	12 verses
E. Grow in Christlikeness	12 verses

Each topic (A through E) has six subtopics. All the verses deal with important areas of the Christian life. You can find more Scripture memory information at www.2-7series.org.

During book 2, you will memorize verses from "Live the New Life." Notice that the topics are the same important subjects you discussed in your Bible studies during book 1.

A. Live The New Life	Required:	Recommended but Optional:
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	Hebrews 10:24-25	1 John 1:3
Witnessing	Matthew 4:19	Romans 1:16

Probably your first question is "Do I need to memorize all twelve of these great verses to graduate from book 2?" Or "How could I possibly memorize twelve verses during this course? It stretched me to memorize the verses in book 1!" The straight answer is that you can graduate from book 2 by perfectly quoting one verse on each of the six topics — that is, six memory verses. But quoting all twelve is highly recommended.

Thousands of people have found memorizing twelve verses in book 2 to be easier than memorizing the verses in book 1. They learned to apply the principles for memorizing and reviewing Scripture verses. They continued to review the verse cards they already knew. Then they focused on learning one new verse (phrase by phrase) over a two-day period. They continued to review that verse, preferably more than once a day. Then over two more days, they memorized the second verse. That left them three days to continue to review the two new verses before their next weekly 2:7 group. This is doable!

Give yourself a gift! Go for the twelve verses while you are with friends in a positive Scripture-memory environment. It is a relatively small investment that can pay huge dividends. If you follow proven Scripture-memory principles and guidelines, it will happen for you as it has for so many others.

BIBLE STUDY IN BOOK 2

The Bible is a book of life, a treasure chest of truth . . .

reviving the soul . . .
 making wise the simple . . .
 giving joy to the heart . . .
 giving light to the eyes . . .
 more precious than gold . . .
 sweeter than honey. (Psalm 19:7-11)

The abundant wisdom and riches God has provided in His Word are available to every Christian, but they are only experienced by those who persistently dig for them. Meditation and prayer are two keys that unlock this storehouse of God's wisdom as you study. Prayerfully meditating on each verse you look up helps you grasp its meaning and its application for everyday life.

As you continue to walk with Christ, you may wonder what God's plan and purpose is for your life and how you can best walk by faith. During this course, your Bible studies cover five important subjects concerning your walk with Christ:

- Maturing in Christ
- Spiritual Warfare

DEEPENING YOUR ROOTS IN GOD'S FAMILY: A COURSE...

- Faith and the Truths of God
- Knowing God's Will
- Walking as a Servant

PRINCIPLES FOR MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE

AS YOU START TO MEMORIZE THE VERSE

1. Study the Scripture memory guide each week. You will find it extremely helpful.
2. It helps to read the verses before and after a memory verse — that is, the context or setting of the verse.
3. Get a clear understanding of the meaning of each verse. Perhaps read the verse in another translation or paraphrase for clarity.
4. Read the verse thoughtfully, aloud or in a whisper. Look at 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. Ask Him for insight and appropriate application.

WHILE YOU ARE MEMORIZING THE VERSE

6. Learn the topic, reference, and first phrase as one unit.
7. After learning the topic, reference, and first phrase, continue to add one phrase at a time until you can say the whole verse.
8. Work on the verse aloud as often as possible.
9. As you memorize and review the verse, think about how it applies to your own life and daily circumstances.
10. Always include the topic and reference at the beginning and the reference at the end.
11. 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 verses.

AFTER YOU CAN SAY THE TOPIC, REFERENCE, VERSE, AND REFERENCE CORRECTLY

12. Review the verse frequently (even several times a day) in the first few days after learning it. This plants it solidly in your mind.
13. After you learn the verse, write it out or quote it to someone, deepening that early impression on your mind.
14. Review, review, review! Repetition is the best method for strengthening your grasp on the verses you have memorized. It helps you maintain your ability to quote them.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS ON PRAYER

A SUGGESTED PRAYER FORMAT: ACTS OR CATS

The disciples asked Jesus Christ to teach them how to pray (Luke 11:1-4). He gave them a pattern that began with praise and adoration and ended with supplication.

One helpful way to follow this pattern is to use the acrostic ACTS (adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplication). Some prefer to take care of confession first before continuing their prayer time: CATS.

Please look up the following verses and write a summary thought for each:

Adoration: praising God's character and attributes.

1 Chronicles 29:11 _____

Psalms 145:1-3 _____

Confession: confessing our sins to God (some prefer to do this first).

Psalms 32:5 _____

DEEPENING YOUR ROOTS IN GOD'S FAMILY: A COURSE...

Job 42:5-6 _____

Thanksgiving: expressing our gratitude to God.

Ephesians 5:20 _____

Psalm 100:4 _____

Supplication: a humble prayer to God, asking for ourselves or for others.

Matthew 7:7-8 _____

James 4:2 _____

This prayer format is an approach you may use for a week or two and then change to another pattern. A few weeks later, you might want to return to it. It is to use as much or as little as you choose.

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

— COLOSSIANS 4:2

USING PRAYER SHEETS

You can find blank prayer sheets at the end of this book. They are also available along with other downloads at www.2-7series.org.

It is a great encouragement to see answers to prayer. Recording how God has answered alerts us to His working and reminds us to be thankful. We can expect answers to our prayers that are in line with His will (1 John 5:14-15).

Not every prayer request we pray needs to be written down on a prayer sheet. You can record requests that you want to bring to the Lord repeatedly: life issues, family, ministry, job, and so on. Be specific in your prayers. Be bold. Follow the counsel of Hebrews 4:16: "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

State your request so that you can tell when God has answered. It is difficult to identify a specific answer for a vague request. You will find it helpful and encouraging to record requests and their answers.

Here is a sample of how someone made entries on a prayer sheet:

DEEPENING YOUR ROOTS IN GOD'S FAMILY: A COURSE...

REQUEST	GOD'S ANSWER
2/4 floor covering for the basement at a reasonable price	5/20 \$14-carpet and pad for only \$1.95/sq. yard
2/10 Membership in the right church for us	3/16 Confirmed that Westside Church is for us
2/13 Someone to start discipling by March 15	5/12 George seems to be the one!
3/10 Christian friend for 10-year-old Mark	6/20 Perez family moved next door-their son is 12
3/28 That Bill Alden would finish the TMS	
4/17 To be close friends with George and Mary	
5/4 Extra money to attend July conference	6/8 Garage sale brought in \$302
5/10 Jerry Cole would get a job in the Middle East	
5/11 Safe delivery and a healthy baby for Al and Nancy	6/8 Seth Allen arrived in good health
5/31 Close friendship with Don S.	

ASSIGNMENT FOR SESSION 2

1. Scripture Memory: Study and complete "Scripture Memory Guide — Week 2" (pages 17–18). Memorize the verse(s) on "Christ the Center": 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Galatians 2:20 (recommended but optional). In preparation for the "Scripture Memory Principles Quiz" during session 2, review "Principles for Memorizing Scripture" (page 13). During the quiz, you need to list only six of the principles of Scripture memory in

DEEPENING YOUR ROOTS IN GOD'S FAMILY: A COURSE...

order to get signed off on *My Completion Record*. However, you are probably thinking that it would be wise to be able to recall more than six, to allow yourself a little margin. (It is okay to paraphrase and abbreviate your six or more entries.)

2. Quiet Time: Continuing to use *My Reading Highlights* and *My Reading Progress* can help you enjoy Bible reading and marking as you did in book 1.
3. Bible Study: Please complete the Bible study "Maturing in Christ" (pages 19–24).
4. Other:
 - a. You want to start using a prayer sheet to record your requests and God's answers. In session 4, we will discuss how this has worked for everyone in the group.
 - b. Please bring your evangelism prayer list to class.
 - c. Come ready to have several items initialed on *My Completion Record*.