

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:

Overflowing with Thankfulness

3

- THE 2:7 SERIES -

A NAVPRESS DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCE



A Proven Tool for Making Disciples

BEARING FRUIT

in God's Family





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Bearing Fruit in God's Family

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We are grateful for the dedicated efforts of Ron Oertli, who originated the concept of THE 2:7 SERIES and is its principal author. Ron is also the key person responsible for this updated edition. This discipleship training approach began in Denver in 1970 and continues to be highly effective in many places around the world.

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MY COMPLETION RECORD

As you complete each item, ask someone in your group to sign off for that item with his or her initials and the calendar date.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY	INITIALS	DATE
Required verses: "Proclaim Christ"		
"All Have Sinned"—Romans 3:23		
"Sin's Penalty"—Romans 6:23		
"Christ Paid the Penalty"—Romans 5:8		
"Salvation Not by Works"—Ephesians 2:8-9		
"Must Receive Christ"—John 1:12		
"Assurance of Salvation"—1 John 5:13		
Recommended but optional verses: "Proclaim Christ"		
"All Have Sinned"—Isaiah 53:6		
"Sin's Penalty"—Hebrews 9:27		
"Christ Paid the Penalty"—1 Peter 3:18		
"Salvation Not by Works"—Titus 3:5		
"Must Receive Christ"—Romans 10:9-10		
"Assurance of Salvation"—John 5:24		
Quoted the 6 required "Proclaim Christ" verses		
Quoted all 12 "Proclaim Christ" verses		
Quoted your "Live the New Life" verses from book 2		
Reviewed your "Live the New Life" verses for 14 consecutive days		
QUIET TIME		
Completed <i>My Reading Highlights</i> for 14 consecutive days		
WITNESS		
Identified with Christ in a relating activity (pages 18–19)		
Told "My Story" with or without notes in less than 4 minutes		
Used evangelism prayer list for 7 consecutive days		
Gave The Bridge Illustration:		
Outline		
"Lecture Presentation 1"		
"Lecture Presentation 2"		
BIBLE STUDY		
Session 3—The Call to Fruitful Living (pages 28–35)		
Session 5—Love in Action (pages 44–49)		
Session 6—Purity of Life (pages 52–58)		
Session 8—Integrity in Living (pages 71–75)		
Session 11—Character in Action (pages 91–97)		

OTHER		
Completed "Ways to Meditate on Scripture: Part 1" (pages 14–18)		
Completed "Ways to Meditate on Scripture: Part 2" (pages 22–24)		
Completed "Verse Analysis of Matthew 6:33" (pages 77–80)		
Completed "Priorities: Part 1" (pages 80–84)		
Studied "Priorities: Part 2" (pages 85–90)		
LEADER'S CHECK		
Graduated from <i>Bearing Fruit in God's Family</i> (book 3)		

ABBREVIATIONS FOR BIBLE VERSIONS

Unless otherwise identified, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, *New International Version*. You can refer to this list when you encounter unfamiliar Bible version abbreviations.

- (AMP) The Amplified Bible
- (ESV) English Standard Version
- (KJV) King James Version
- (MLB) Modern Language Bible: The Berkeley Version in Modern English
- (MSG) The Message
- (NASB) New American Standard Bible
- (NCV) New Century Version
- (NIV) New International Version
- (NKJV) New King James Version
- (NLT) New Living Translation
- (NRSV) New Revised Standard Version
- (PH) The New Testament in Modern English (J. B. Phillips)

OUTLINE OF THIS SESSION

1. Open the session in prayer.
2. Go over “Reviewing the Goals of Book 2 in THE 2:7 SERIES” (pages 9–10).
3. Preview book 3 by looking over *My Completion Record* (pages 7–8).
4. Survey “Scripture Memory Guide—Week 1” (pages 10–11).
5. Read “The TMS in Book 3” (pages 11–13).
6. Complete “Ways to Meditate on Scripture: Part 1” (pages 14–18).
 - a. Write out a paraphrase of 2 Timothy 3:16.
 - b. Ask yourself questions on Hebrews 10:24-25.
7. Discuss current use of the evangelism prayer list.
8. Read and discuss “Openly Identifying with Christ” (pages 18–19).
9. Read “Assignment for Session 2” (page 19).
10. Close the session in prayer.

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

The goals of book 2 were:

1. To experience a more consistent and meaningful quiet time by:
 - a. Combining meaningful Bible reading and prayer
 - b. Succeeding in having fourteen consecutive quiet times during the course
 - c. Recording daily quiet-time thoughts and how they impressed you on *My Reading Highlights*
 - d. Growing in your ability to share key quiet-time thoughts with others in the group
2. To quote accurately the five or six Scripture memory verses you learned in book 1
3. To memorize at least six TMS verses from “Live the New Life,” which correlate with The Wheel Illustration
4. To study and discuss *My Heart—Christ’s Home* by Robert Boyd Munger
5. To experience an Extended Time with God (see book 2, session 10) after reading and discussing material on the subject
6. To complete five Bible studies and discuss each of them in your 2:7 group

7. To tell your “My Story” in less than four minutes using only an outline on an index card
8. To relate to a non-Christian friend through a nonspiritual activity

SCRIPTURE MEMORY GUIDE—WEEK 1

EXCERPTS FROM THE *TOPICAL MEMORY SYSTEM (TMS)*

You’re Under Way

Book 2 got you off to a good start with your completion of valuable verses on “Live the New Life” from the *Topical Memory System*. You have begun to enjoy some of the benefits that Scripture memory can bring. Now you want to keep up your momentum as you tackle verses on “Proclaim Christ,” wonderful verses you can use as you share your faith.

During this course, you will again have helpful memory suggestions each week in the Scripture memory guides. The segments “About the Verses” and “Your Weekly Plan” will contribute to your success.

What to Expect

Scripture memory is personally enriching and helps in at least three major areas: having victory over temptation, overcoming anxiety, and witnessing effectively. In book 3, you will learn verses that can greatly contribute to your effectiveness in witnessing.

Memorize and Review from Verse Cards

During this course, you’ll continue to either download and print your verse cards or put your memory verses on a

blank business card or index card. Write them out or use your printer. On the front of the card, put the topic, reference, verse, and reference.

Use the Buddy System

Proverbs 27:17 says that “as iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend” (NLT). There’s a parallel thought in Ecclesiastes 4:9-10: “Two people are better off than one. . . . If one person falls, the other can reach out and help” (NLT). We all need encouragement in our Christian lives, and this surely applies to memorizing Scripture.

Ask someone else in your 2:7 group to get together with you outside of class to review each other’s verses. You may also want to talk over any difficulties you are having, but, above all, share how God is using the verses in your lives. This will help both of you succeed in Scripture memory.

Knowledge and Application

Some Christians confuse Bible knowledge with spiritual maturity, assuming that knowing more about the Bible automatically makes a person a better Christian. This is not necessarily true. The Pharisees knew the Old Testament, yet they were

spiritually blind. The key to spiritual maturity is sincere and consistent application of God's Word to life.

The apostle Paul addressed the Corinthian believers as fleshly, unspiritual babes in Christ. He had to feed them milk instead of solid spiritual food. They took pride in wisdom and logic and may have understood the deeper truths Paul wanted to impart to them. But their lives contradicted what they professed to believe. Jealousy and strife split their ranks, and they behaved like ordinary, unregenerate people. Their lives were too much like those of the unbelievers in Corinth. What an indictment! They needed to apply the Word of God to their daily living.

Picture the Verse

We remember pictures more easily than words or concepts. If you find it difficult to connect a particular verse with its topic and reference, try forming a mental picture of the verse based on its content, context, or some other feature that will help you remember. The picture can become the mental hook you use later to draw the verse from your memory. It helps if you make the image as unusual or

striking as possible.

For example, consider two verses in book 2 on witnessing: Matthew 4:19 and Romans 1:16. Associate the first verse with Christ and the second with Paul. Picture Jesus standing on a beach by the Sea of Galilee. Two fishermen are tending their nets when He calls out, "Come, follow me, . . . and I will send you out to fish for people." Fix this scene in your mind. Associate the picture with the topic of witnessing and with the reference Matthew 4:19.

Paul didn't write the book of Romans from Rome, but because it was addressed to the believers there, you might picture Paul standing in the Roman Forum or Colosseum speaking out to the pagan citizens, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile." Associate this picture with the topic of witnessing and with the reference Romans 1:16.

You won't create a picture for every verse, but it is helpful for verses that you find difficult to remember by ordinary means.

THE TMS IN BOOK 3

You may recall that the whole *Topical Memory System* contains sixty memory verses. Each topic (A through E) has six subtopics. You can find more information about the TMS and other Scripture memory helps at www.navpress.com.

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

In book 2, you memorized verses from "Live the New Life." Here in book 3, you'll memorize verses from "Proclaim Christ." These are key verses you can use for explaining the gospel to others. You will use these memorized verses for the rest of your life; you want them at your fingertips, in the front of your mind.

So why not give yourself a gift? Go for memorizing all twelve verses while you are with friends in a positive Scripture memory environment. As you follow proven Scripture memory principles and guidelines, you will excel, but it will take consistent work. Memorized key verses become tools readily available for the Holy Spirit to use through you. Here are the "Proclaim Christ" verses:

Proclaim Christ (TMS)	Required:	Recommended but Optional:
All Have Sinned	Romans 3:23	Isaiah 53:6
Sin's Penalty	Romans 6:23	Hebrews 9:27
Christ Paid the Penalty	Romans 5:8	1 Peter 3:18
Salvation Not by Works	Ephesians 2:8-9	Titus 3:5
Must Receive Christ	John 1:12	Romans 10:9-10
Assurance of Salvation	1 John 5:13	John 5:24

Plan to end book 3 with the ability to skillfully quote all the verses you have memorized in THE 2:7 SERIES. By the end of this course, you will have memorized at least seventeen verses. That's great! You may even have memorized all twenty-nine verses. You may have memorized more than seventeen but less than twenty-nine. Whatever your life circumstances have allowed you to do, good work! You will have those verses readily available for recall to apply to your own life or to use in helping others. Plan to keep those verses sharp for a lifetime!

Your book 1 verses were:

<i>Beginning with Christ</i>	Required:	Recommended but Optional:
Assurance of Salvation	1 John 5:11-12	
Assurance of Answered Prayer	John 16:24	
Assurance of Victory	1 Corinthians 10:13	
Assurance of Forgiveness	1 John 1:9	

Beginning with Christ

Assurance of Guidance
Optional Outreach Verse:

Required:

Proverbs 3:5-6

**Recommended
but Optional:**

John 5:24

Your book 2 verses were:

Live the New Life (TMS)

Christ the Center
Obedience to Christ
God's Word
Prayer
Fellowship
Witnessing

Required:

2 Corinthians 5:17
Romans 12:1
2 Timothy 3:16
John 15:7
Hebrews 10:24-25
Matthew 4:19

**Recommended
but Optional:**

Galatians 2:20
John 14:21
Joshua 1:8
Philippians 4:6-7
1 John 1:3
Romans 1:16

MEDITATION: AN AID TO APPLICATION

One of the most beneficial reasons for memorizing Scripture verses is that it stimulates us to meditate on their content. During this course, you will be doing an exercise (pages 14–18) to increase your ability to meditate on passages of Scripture.

A valuable part of your Scripture memory program is meditating on verses you have learned. Not only will this enable you to retain them in your memory with accuracy, but as you reflect on and consider their contents, you will experience challenges, encouragement, and motivation. Remember God's instruction to Joshua: "Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful" (Joshua 1:8).

IMPORTANCE OF DAILY REVIEW

Continual review is the key to having a grasp on the verses you already know. An excellent goal by the end of book 3 would be having the ability to comfortably and accurately quote all of your memory verses from books 1–3, along with the topic for each of those verses. Plan to not only complete your memory assignments each week in book 3 but also quote daily the topics and references of all the verses you have learned.

Scripture memory and meditation are strategic parts of the discipleship training in which you are involved. They promote your spiritual development and lay the foundation for future spiritual growth. You will agree then with the psalmist: "Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long" (Psalm 119:97).

WAYS TO MEDITATE ON SCRIPTURE: PART 1

A GROUP EXERCISE

Blessed is the one
 who does not walk in step with the wicked
 or stand in the way that sinners take
 or sit in the company of mockers,
 but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,
 and who meditates on his law day and night.
 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
 which yields its fruit in season
 and whose leaf does not wither—
 whatever they do prospers. (Psalm 1:1-3)

WHAT IS MEDITATION?

Meditation is the act of reflecting on, pondering, musing over, or contemplating. Meditation is *not* mind-wandering or indulging in “mental drifting”; instead it has form and an object. Bible verses and scriptural concepts are the focus of a Christian’s meditation.

When we meditate, we spend a few moments directing our thoughts to a single subject. Meditation is thinking with a purpose. Meditation is not a solemn, academic exercise. It requires an attitude of curiosity and expectation, leading to exciting discoveries, refreshment of spirit, and transformation of character. It brings reward and benefit. When we meditate, we purposefully sort through information for clarification, application, categorization, and assimilation.

FURTHER INSIGHT INTO MEDITATION

The Message expresses Joshua 1:8 in a wonderful way:

And don’t for a minute let this Book . . . be out of mind. Ponder and meditate on it day and night, making sure you practice everything written in it. Then you’ll get where you’re going; then you’ll succeed.

Meditation helps move biblical truth into everyday living patterns through personal, practical application. During this class session, you’ll have the opportunity to practice two methods of meditation (pages 15–18). As part of your homework for next week, you will practice four additional methods of meditation (pages 22–24) for a total of six methods.

1—Paraphrase

The first method of meditation your group will practice is writing a paraphrase. As you attempt to put a verse or passage into your own words, you come to understand it more clearly. Some exciting insights often result from writing a paraphrase.

On the lines on page 16, write out 2 Timothy 3:16 in your own words, using the following translations and paraphrases to help you complete this part of your work. (You may want to use more words in your paraphrase than are in the original verse.)

VARIOUS TRANSLATIONS AND PARAPHRASES OF 2 TIMOTHY 3:16

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. (NIV)

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. (NKJV)

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness. (NASB)

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. (NLT)

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. (NRSV)

All Scripture is God-breathed (given by divine inspiration) and is profitable for instruction, for conviction (of sin), for correction (of error and restoration to obedience), [and] for training in righteousness (learning to live in conformity to God's will, both publicly and privately—behaving honorably with personal integrity and moral courage). (AMP)

MY PARAPHRASE OF 2 TIMOTHY 3:16

2—Questions

A second method of meditation is to ask questions about a verse or passage. (What does it say? What does it mean?) Two methods for asking those questions are:

1. Asking *who, what, when, where, why,* and *how* questions
2. Jotting down random questions that come to mind as you reflect on the passage

Some of the questions you ask may have immediate answers; others may not. Asking the questions becomes a way to think through a passage.

On the lines on pages 17-18, please jot down some of the questions and answers that come to mind as you meditate on Hebrews 10:24-25, using the translations and paraphrases that follow to help you. You might begin by asking *who, what, when, where, why,* and *how* questions.

VARIOUS TRANSLATIONS AND PARAPHRASES OF HEBREWS 10:24-25

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (NIV)

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the

refer to something Christ said in one of the gospels. You could make a brief statement about praying for someone or something. Be direct enough to be understood. Be confident yet gentle. Avoid sounding defensive.

A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people. Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will learn the truth.

—2 TIMOTHY 2:24-25 (NLT)

It is good to identify with Christ early in a friendship. The longer you go in a friendship without identifying with Christ, the harder it becomes to share your faith with that person. Pray for wisdom and boldness, make a plan, and carry it out in a gracious manner.

You may remember the conversation between God and Jeremiah in Jeremiah 1:6-8. Jeremiah spoke first.

"Alas, Sovereign LORD," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am too young."

But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD.

You, too, may sometimes feel fearful or uneasy, but God will give you the courage and wisdom to say what needs to be said. Later, you can build on this brief spiritual conversation.

ASSIGNMENT FOR SESSION 2

1. *Scripture Memory*: Study and complete "Scripture Memory Guide—Week 2" (pages 21–22). Memorize the verse(s) on "All Have Sinned": Romans 3:23 and Isaiah 53:6 (recommended but optional).
2. *Quiet Time*: Continue reading, marking, responding back to God in prayer, recording on *My Reading Highlights*, and using a prayer sheet.
3. *Evangelism*: Perhaps you will be one of those to tell "My Story" in class with or without notes in less than four minutes.
4. *Other*: Complete "Ways to Meditate on Scripture: Part 2" (pages 22–24). Meditation should not be hurried; take your time and enjoy the exercises.

