

Sermon Notes

“Who is a God Like You?”

Micah 7:11-20

August 19, 2018

3. As an example, let's try memorizing Micah 7:18-20.
 - a. Select a translation. I like studying from the NASB, but for a smoother translation to memorize I may use the NIV.
 - b. Phrase or line out the text. Here is what v. 18 might look like, trying to limit to one thought per line:

¹⁸Who is a God like you,
who pardons sin
and forgives the transgression
of the remnant of his inheritance?
You do not stay angry forever
but delight to show mercy.

- c. Mark it up. I might italicize “pardons,” “forgives,” and “delight,” so that I emphasize those words when I read it. I might also color code “sin” and “transgression,” and another color for “pardons” and “forgives.”
- d. Read it aloud. On the first reading, I might emphasize and meditate on the opening word, “WHO is a God like you?” And think, “Can I think of any other god like Him?” Then read it again, emphasizing the next crucial word: “Who is a GOD like you?” And I might think, “He is God, and there is no other.” Read it a third time: “Who is a God LIKE you?” And think, “How does that word contribute? What if it weren't there? Without it, what would be lost in the meaning?” Keep going until you've read and emphasized each key word.
- e. Write it out. I might type it (since I can type faster than printing), word for word, without looking back at the previous attempt, trying to match the phrasing and indentions that I did in my previous step. Keep going until you can write it and speak it word perfect multiple times!

Now you try it on vv. 19 and 20!

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 08-19-18

The Value of Memorization

Memorizing a large chunk of the Bible (whole chapters or even whole books!) is a strategic way to grow in your understanding and use of God's Word. Here are some benefits:

1. It renews your mind with God's viewpoint.
2. It forces you to meditate on the text phrase by phrase – a recipe for illumination.
3. It helps you think about the tone of the text.
4. It helps you trace the argument for a whole passage or book.
5. It helps you see connections within a book.
6. It helps you kill sin.
7. It helps you counsel, teach, or preach more accurately and powerfully.
8. It enables you to recite the Bible while looking people in the eye.
9. It helps you refute error.
10. It infiltrates your prayers, enabling you to pray according to God's will.

(Adapted from Andy Naselli, "14 Reasons to Memorizing an Entire Book of the Bible," <http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/14-reasons-to-memorize-an-entire-book-of-the-bible>, accessed 10/22/15.)

Getting Started:

1. What has been your experience in Bible memorization? Has it been a positive experience, or negative? Easy or difficult? Rewarding or discouraging?

Digging Deeper:

2. Pray first. Psalm 1 rehearses the benefits of delighting in God's word, meditating on it day and night. One of the ways to do that is through memorization. Tell God about your previous experiences in memorizing. Ask for fresh enablement, and, if necessary, a renewed perspective.

Study Hint

Here are some hints for memorizing an extended section of the Word:	
Topic	Explanation
Translation	Choose a translation based on your purpose. Some translations are easier to remember because they intentionally utilize smoother English.
Phrase or line out the text	Type or write the text in phrases. This helps to visually trace a passage's argument. Simply indent to subordinate.
Listen to it	Listen to the text read by someone else. Be sure they are reading from the same translation! Or, you may consider listening to a recording of yourself reading the text. Read the text at a pace and with a passion that you might imagine the original author would have spoken this message. Figure out cadence, pace, volume fluctuation, tone, pauses, and emphasis.
Mark it up	Italicize words you want to emphasize when you say them. Perhaps you may want to color code certain terms or theme connections.
Add small portions	Select a passage to memorize for the day. One or two sentences may be about right, based on the time available.
Read it aloud	Find a place to memorize where you can speak aloud without concern for others. Sometimes I will repeatedly read the text, emphasizing and thinking about a different word on each successive reading.
Write it out	I have found that writing (or typing) the text out the same way every time is helpful. As you write (or type), say the words aloud.
Word perfect	Repeatedly work on a portion until you recite it word perfect 10 times.
Study the book	The better you understand what you're memorizing, the more deeply the words will take root.
Review regularly	As you add more verses, it will be necessary to review verses previously mastered. Don't be discouraged! The further you get into a passage or book, the longer it will take to add new verses while also rehearsing previous verses.
Recite to others	Seek opportunities to recite what you've memorized to other people. It may be friends or family. You will edify them, and it will give you extra motivation to memorize well.

(Adapted from Andy Naselli, "11 Steps to Memorizing an Entire Book of the Bible," <http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/11-steps-to-memorizing-an-entire-book-of-the-bible>, accessed 10/22/15.)