

Scripture Memory

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Have you ever heard the story of Ezekiel and the captives of Tel Abib? God was preparing Ezekiel to bring His Word to these people and in the process he discovered something about God's Word that should encourage us in our efforts to fill our homes with the precious promises of God.

Ezekiel 3:1-3

1 Moreover He said to me, "Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel." 2 So I opened my mouth, and He caused me to eat that scroll. 3 And He said to me, "Son of man, feed your belly, and fill your stomach with this scroll that I give you." So I ate, and it was in my mouth like honey in sweetness.

Ezekiel discovered the sweetness of God's Word. This teaches us that when we fill our hearts and homes with the Word, we fill them with sweetness. I believe this is one of the "rare and beautiful treasures" referred to in Proverbs 24:3-4.

Scripture memory as a family is the spreading of sweetness.

I have six elements to my scripture memory plan for the family:

1. Identification:

I have identified passages that I want us to have in our hearts. I keep them in a file. By the time my children leave our home, I want them to be able to recite all of them.

2. Daily Group Recitation:

We have it as a goal to recite the passages out loud at the morning or evening meal, and the last thing in the evening before bed. We don't always succeed, but this is the goal.

3. Daily Personal Meditation:

Each day my wife Deborah tries to have the kids do ten minutes of silent review during the school day.

4. Daily Time Redemption:

We try to redeem the time when driving or doing some "mindless" thing, by reciting together.

5. Bedtime Recitation:

When I tuck each child into bed, I will recite one of the passages we have worked on as part of my prayer for them. One important thing I have learned by doing this is that if you recite a passage for two or three months, your children will have it memorized without working on it. So a great opportunity to put them ahead of the game and to provide a very tender and personal ministry to your children is to recite a passage to them each night.

6. Formal Guidelines:

We use some of the techniques and guidelines in Andrew Davis' article on scripture memory on the Hope Web site. In my mind, this is the best thing written on the subject.

Like Ezekiel, we have a golden opportunity to discover the sweetness. In so doing, we will fill our homes with rare and beautiful treasures. These eternal treasures are sweet to the taste, spreading joy and confidence in the midst of the hard things of life.