



## Tips For the Journey

So you've joined **iRecite**...now what? Here are some suggestions to get you started. Keep in mind that even though we believe the practice and review elements are universal, each personality is different. So, by prayer and practice, you will likely discover methods that accomplish the same goals, suiting your unique lifestyle and preferences.

\* **What Scripture Should I Choose?** - Just like any "potluck," the signup sheet includes different categories of food that you could bring to share with the group. You select a category, then choose and memorize a new passage\* each month from within that category. And, since everyone reports their passage at least 2 weeks prior to each meeting, you will know what others are bringing to the potluck too! So, here are the suggested categories:

1. OT - History (Genesis - Esther)
2. OT - Poetry (Job - Song of Solomon)
3. OT - Prophets (Isaiah - Malachi)
4. NT - Gospels (Matthew - John)
5. NT - Acts & Letters (Acts - Jude)
6. NT - Prophecy (Revelation, *Daniel could fit here too*)

\* **What Version?** - The only rule we have is that members must use an official translation. We believe there is strong evidence that the KJV and NKJV use the most trustworthy Hebrew and Greek manuscripts; however, we feel this is a personal choice for each person to pray about and study for themselves. Paraphrases (*The Message, Clear Word, etc*), although good for devotional exercises, are not considered appropriate for memorization purposes.

\* **How to Memorize & Practice?** - Start with the first 2 or 3 verses at a time. Spend 10 minutes a day to commit them to memory. When you have those down, add the next 2 or 3 verses. But, here's the key: ALWAYS begin at the starting verse, so that your memorizing is cumulative. This is all about repetition! Repetition is critical so that your mind begins to "see" the words on the page as you practice OUT LOUD. This is the 2nd vital principle - you must speak the words out loud. A related benefit is that this practice can become part of your prayers back to God! You should memorize the 10+ verses in 3 weeks, so you can use the final week to practice the passage. The words will NOT have power and conviction in your own heart unless you practice them!

\* **How often to Review?** - This is vital in order to retain everything we memorize throughout the year. Our suggestion is to use your worship time and drive time to review/recite (speak out loud) passages you've memorized in the past. Again, speaking God's words back to Him is the maximum honor and praise to His ears. As you are memorizing new passages, you will notice the Holy Spirit bringing other passages to mind, like "connecting dots," where your intimate knowledge and understanding will deepen in surprising and life-changing ways.

\* **What about Audio Bibles?** - Using audio Bibles is a great advantage to accelerate the memorizing and long-term retention of passages. If you use an iPod, it's a great way to easily and quickly rewind certain words and phrases that have been challenging to grasp. Here is the key: use a version that matches the written version you are memorizing from. If you are memorizing from KJV, there is a free version you can download (Amazon.com) called *Faith Comes by Hearing*. If you plan to memorize from KJV, ESV or NIV, Max McLean is an excellent narrator.

\* **Passage = A minimum of 10 Bible verses**

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"His divine power has given to us...exceedingly great and precious promises, that **through these** you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." - 2 Peter 1:3, 4