

# Seven Keys to SUCCESS

## Lesson 4—Continually Study God's Word

**Series: “Seven Keys to Success: Habits for Christian Living”**

Surrender it all to God

Unite with God Every Day

Confess Your Sins

Continually Study God's Word

Encourage Others to Know Christ

Stay the Course

Share Your Resources

### OVERVIEW

Bible Passages: 2 Peter 1:19-21, 2 Timothy 2:15

Key Verse: Psalm 119:11—“I have hidden Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against You.”

*NOTE: This lesson is a great chance to share about how and when and where you are reading or studying in the Bible. Share with your students how God has used His Word to recently bless or guide you, verses you have recently memorized, etc.*

### BEFORE CLASS

**Preparation:** *Your preparation will determine the direction your class will go.*

- Consider the importance that reading, studying and memorizing God's Word has played in your own life and relationship with Christ.
- Consider the reason you spend time in God's Word.
  - Study and prepare your lesson so that you are familiar with the teaching outline.
  - Pray for each student by name.
  - Use the Contact 1-2-3 system to follow up on students who have recently missed Sunday School.
  - Pray for each student by name.

## OPENING ACTIVITY

- *On a scale of 1 to 10, 10 being great and 1 being poor, how well do you know God's Word?*
- *Do you think you know more or less than the average Christian?*

SAY: Let's find out...

### Activity: Quote It!

See how many Bible verses your class can quote, telling you both the verse and where it is located in the Bible. Keep a list of what verses they know. This activity will be somewhat time-consuming but can be an eye-opening experience and a great challenge.

### Discussion

- *Were you surprised at how many or how few verse you know?*

SAY: Here are some things to think about as we take a look at today's lesson:

- *How often do I read God's Word?*
- *How often do I study God's Word?*
- *How often do I memorize God's Word?*

## BIBLE LESSON

### Read the Bible

Choose a volunteer to read—Read 2 Peter 1:19-21

- *What does Peter say we have? (The word of the prophets.)*
- *What do you think he was talking about? (God's written Word, given by the prophets.)*
- *What does Peter say to do with it? (Pay attention to it.)*
- *How does a person pay attention to Scripture? (By not neglecting it—Read it, study it, and memorize it. Spend time in God's Word each day and then don't just know it—live it.)*
- *What two things does Peter teach about God's Word in verses 20-21?*
  - (1) The Scripture did not originate from man.
  - (2) The Holy Spirit inspired Scripture
- *How else would you describe God's Word? (Sharper than a two-edged sword, the sword of the Spirit, without error, God-breathed, inspired by the Holy Spirit, incapable of failing or not coming true, good for encouragement, correction, instruction, and training in righteousness, a love letter from God, and instruction manual for life.)*

- *How important is it to you that you get to read God's Word every day? Do you miss it when you don't read it?*

## KEY VERSE

### Study the Bible

#### Choose a volunteer to read—2 Timothy 2:15

**SAY:** "Be diligent" can also be translated as "Do your best" or even "Study."

- *Would you say that you are "doing your best" to handle God's Word correctly?*
- *Does this verse imply that some will stand ashamed before God because of how they have handled His Word?*
- *What does it mean to by "handling accurately the word of truth"? (It means that you don't neglect it and that you don't water it down or cheapen it. The truth will often offend people and sometimes the truth hurts; you don't rationalize it or try to find "loop-holes" around what God says. You accepted the Bible as the ultimate truth in everything for life and live by this truth on a daily basis.)*
- *How do you think a person "studies" the Bible? (He digs in, not just to read it surface-level, but to know it deeply and in-depth.)*

### Memorize the Bible

#### Choose a volunteer to read—Psalm 119:11

- *Why did this man hide God's Word in his heart? (To keep him from sinning.)*
- *How can God's Word guard you from sinning against the Lord?*
- *How else could hiding God's Word in your heart be beneficial? (Imagine being able to read God's Word in your mind, to know verses without having to look them up, to have God's Word as a constant companion in your thoughts.)*

#### Consider the following story:

Retired missionary Hubert Mitchell memorized the entire New Testament. In his sixties, he spent his days downtown Chicago, going from office building to office building. He would ask a secretary if he could have five minutes with the boss to discuss a personal matter. Frequently he would be ushered into the executive's office, where he would say, "I only have five minutes, but I want to ask you—did you read your Bible before you came to work this morning?" The astonished man would usually respond, "No." Mitchell would smile and answer, "Sir, you sure missed a blessing, didn't you? I'd like to share with you what God spoke about to me in the Bible this morning." He would open a New Testament, hand it to the boss and say, "Let's start right here." Then Mitchell would sit back and start quoting it word for word! Most people listened in amazement. After five minutes, the old missionary would say, "My time's up and I've got to go. Wasn't that a

blessing?” On many occasions the businessman would ask him to stay longer, and they would talk. Hubert Mitchell led men to Christ all over downtown Chicago because God’s Word will burning in his heart. <sup>1</sup>

### **WRAP IT UP**

*SAY:* Nothing is impossible to you. You *can* memorize Scripture. You *can* study God’s Word. You *can* read it daily. The question isn’t *can* you do these things but will you?

KEY: Let God give you a burning passion to know Him and His Word.

### **Prayer Time**

*Pray that your students will have a longing and a willingness to read, study and memorize God’s Word.*

List prayer requests below and on the back of this page and pray for your students throughout the week. *Ask if any of your students want to pray today.*

### **Prayer Requests**

<sup>1</sup>*One Thousand Illustrations: Stories for Life*, (Texas: Student Discipleship Ministries, 2000) CD-Rom, #418.