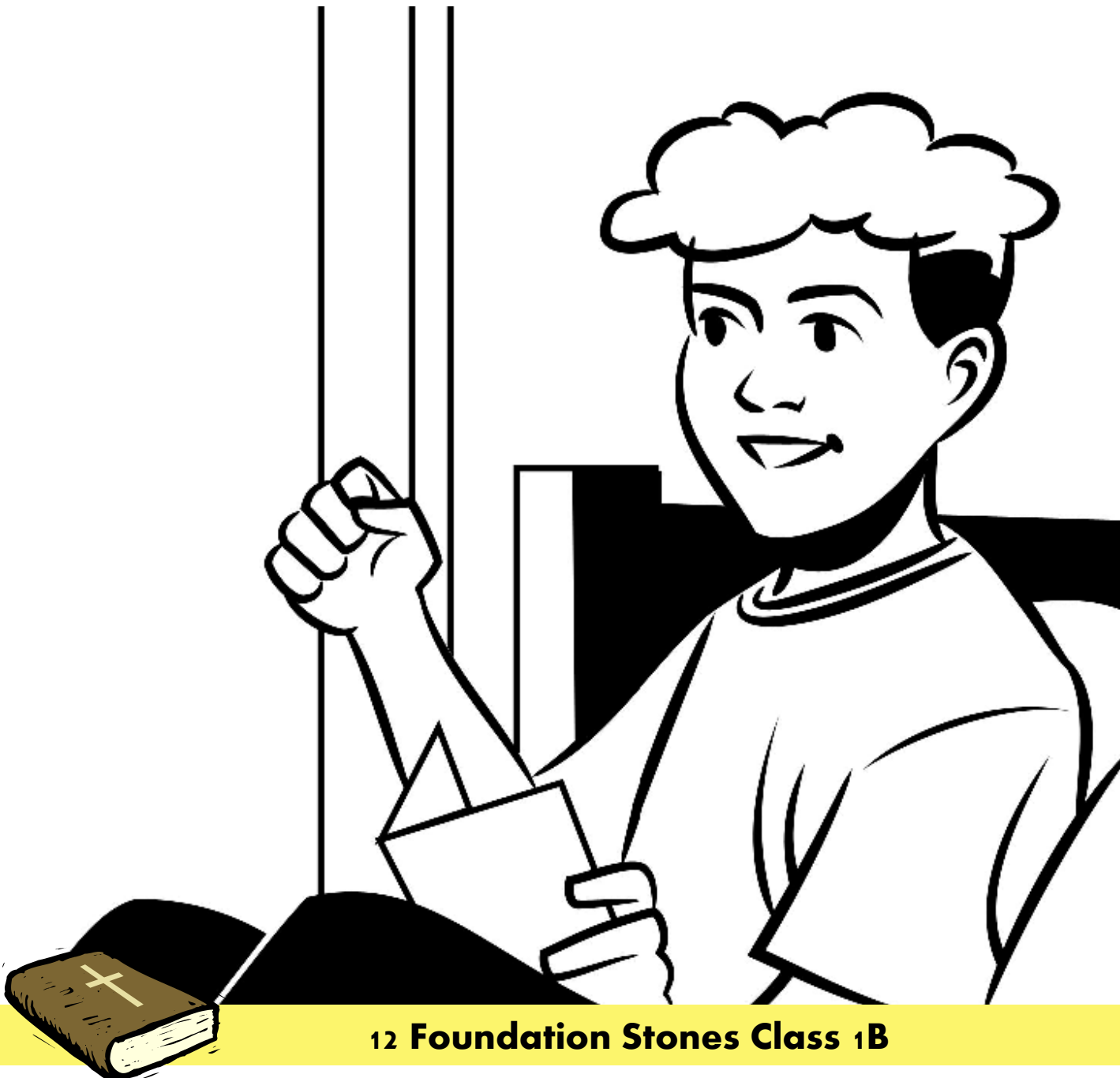
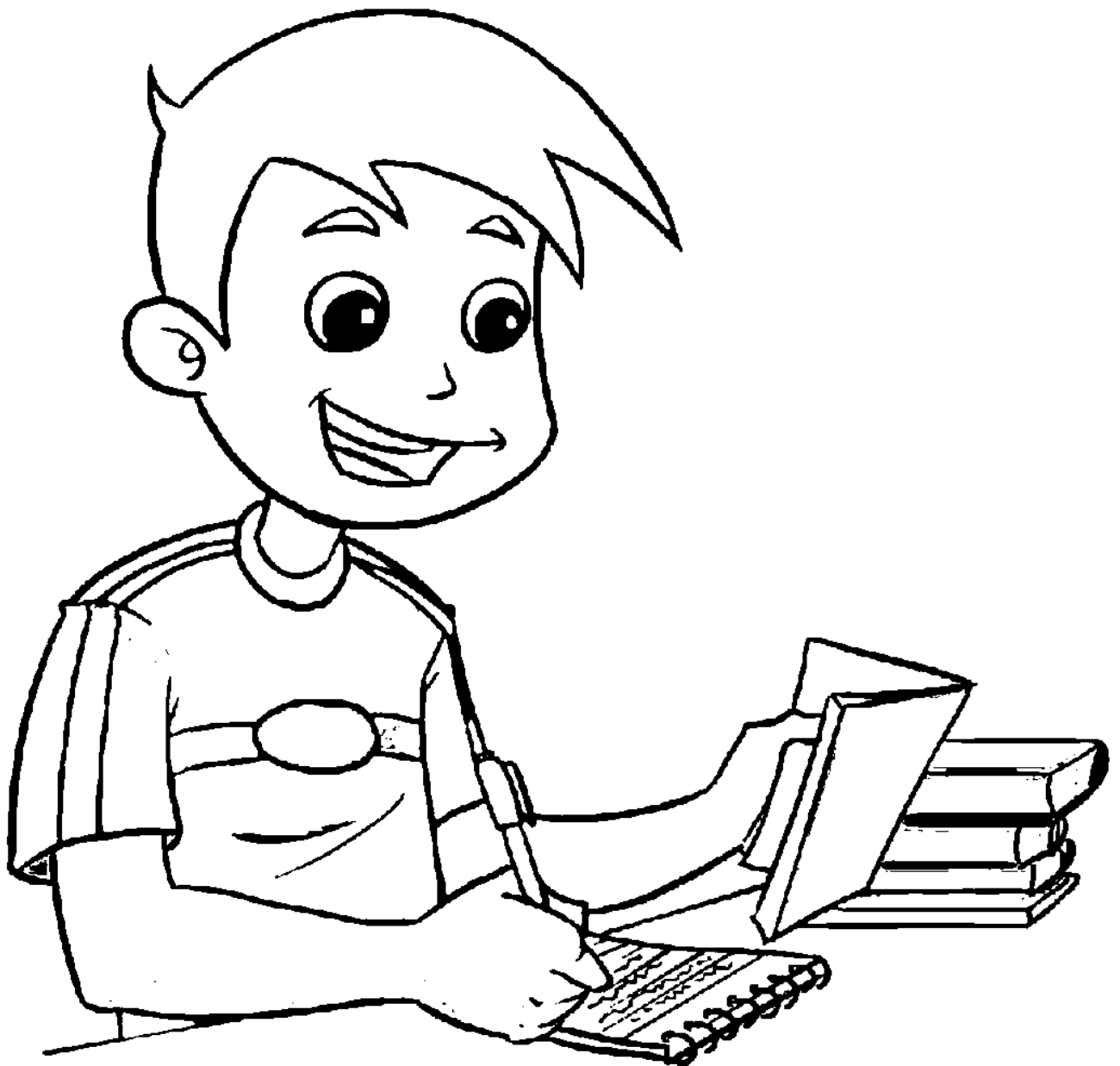


Memorization



God's Word has the power to transform lives. It encourages and comforts us in time of need. The Word of God is the foundation of the faith upon which we stand.

In our [last class](#) we talked mostly about how to read the Word. We touched briefly on memorizing, and now we'll look at it closer.



Why Memorize?

1. For your own spiritual strength and encouragement in the present—renewing your mind in Jesus

The mind can be compared to a computer database: It has to be filled with something, good or bad. Our reflexes are mentally conditioned to react in a certain way according to what we have been taught or experienced. Jesus, by His Word, spiritually cleanses us and gives us something positive with which to fill it.

Ephesians 5:26b—... with the washing of water by the Word.

Romans 12:2a—Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Psalms 37:31—The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide.

Look at the previous verse. If the Word isn't in his heart, his steps will slide, and he'll get off the right track.



Fill your mind and heart with positive, encouraging, strengthening, and faith-building thoughts from God's Word, remembering, memorizing, and quoting to yourself.

2. God speaks to you through His Word that you have learned

The Lord speaks to us by bringing to mind the passages we have memorized.

John 14:26—But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

God knows His own Book better than anybody, and He can bring verses to your remembrance by His Spirit when you need it. If you've faithfully read, studied, and memorized, He'll pop the verses up in your little computer (mind) whenever you make the right connection in your programming. He's the best computer programmer I know, and He's given you the best computer ever constructed!

One reason that memorizing is important is because it isn't always possible to read. Maybe you wake up in the night and you can't turn on the light without disturbing someone. Or maybe you find yourself in a place or difficult situation without your Bible handy. Or maybe you are too sick to read. The only Scriptures you'll have at those times (which could well be the time when you need them most) are the Scriptures you have committed to memory.

It is also easier to claim in prayer the promises that the Lord has made in His Word when we know these promises by heart.

2 Peter 1:4—By which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature.

3. To help you share God's Word with others

Knowing specific passages and Scriptures also helps us in sharing our faith with others, as Peter advised:

1 Peter 3:15b—Always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you.

The Lord's Word says that you should be prepared to give answers to those who ask and that you should know the Word:

2 Timothy 2:15—Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing [dissecting] the Word of truth.

There are times that you need to know the Bible and be able to quote it and find Scriptures in order to show them to the person you are speaking with.



4. A weapon in your walk of faith

Hebrews 4:12—For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

As we're going to talk more about later in the course, a follower of Jesus' teachings will find that his life is not always easy. Jesus Himself suffered opposition—spiritually from the Devil (Matthew 4: 1-10) and physically from His enemies. God has given us His Word to use as

our spiritual weapon to fight the battles that beset us. It's up to us to memorize and use it.



Class Section 2: How to Memorize

These points can be applied to anything you are memorizing and studying, not just Scripture memorization.

*** Your memory can be developed like a muscle**

The more you use it, the stronger it gets, but lack of use causes it to weaken.

*** The more you concentrate, the easier it is to memorize**

Finding a quiet place, free from distractions, will help a lot.

An unfocused camera gives an unclear picture, and a wandering mind, easily distracted, doesn't get a clear picture of the things it observes, finding them hard to remember. If you give your full attention, then you'll get a good, clear picture of that verse printed on your mind.

*** Find the best time for you**

In the morning when you're fresh after waking up is usually best. All you need is 5-10 minutes when you can concentrate without distraction, if possible. Or, try the evenings. The important thing is to find the best time for you. Some people like to start the night before by reading over the verses they want to memorize the next day, so that when they wake up, they're already familiar with them.

*** Sight, sound, and action**

Most people remember best what they see, while others remember best what they hear, and another portion best what they do in actual motions. By using all three of these faculties, you can increase your ability to remember. For example, by reading, you use your sight. If you quote your memory work out loud, you hear it too, as well as use your mouth to speak it. Then by writing the same verse to be memorized, it is often better remembered.

Simply, the more involved you become with your memorization, the better you remember it.

*** Memory work is work**

It does take a certain amount of determination and self-discipline on your part. Make hiding the Word in your heart a life-long habit! When it becomes a habit, it will get easier.

Don't worry if it seems to take quite awhile, especially at first, to memorize a verse. It's not a contest to see how quickly you can learn. The goal is to get it down, and keep it in your heart.

The law of memory is repeat, repeat, repeat!

*** Set a goal or memory project for each week**

So you don't have to decide each day what you're going to learn that day.

Class Section 3: Advice For Memorizing Scriptures

Much of what we've shared until now could apply to anything you want to memorize or study. Now we want to look at a few specifics regarding Scripture memorization.

*** Our decision to memorize shouldn't be based on our feelings**

A poor memory can be caused by constantly saying your memory's poor. But "know that you can!" and claim this verse:

Philippians 4:13—I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.



Another reason we may not get around to memorizing may be simply that we don't always feel like it, but we should memorize no matter how we feel.

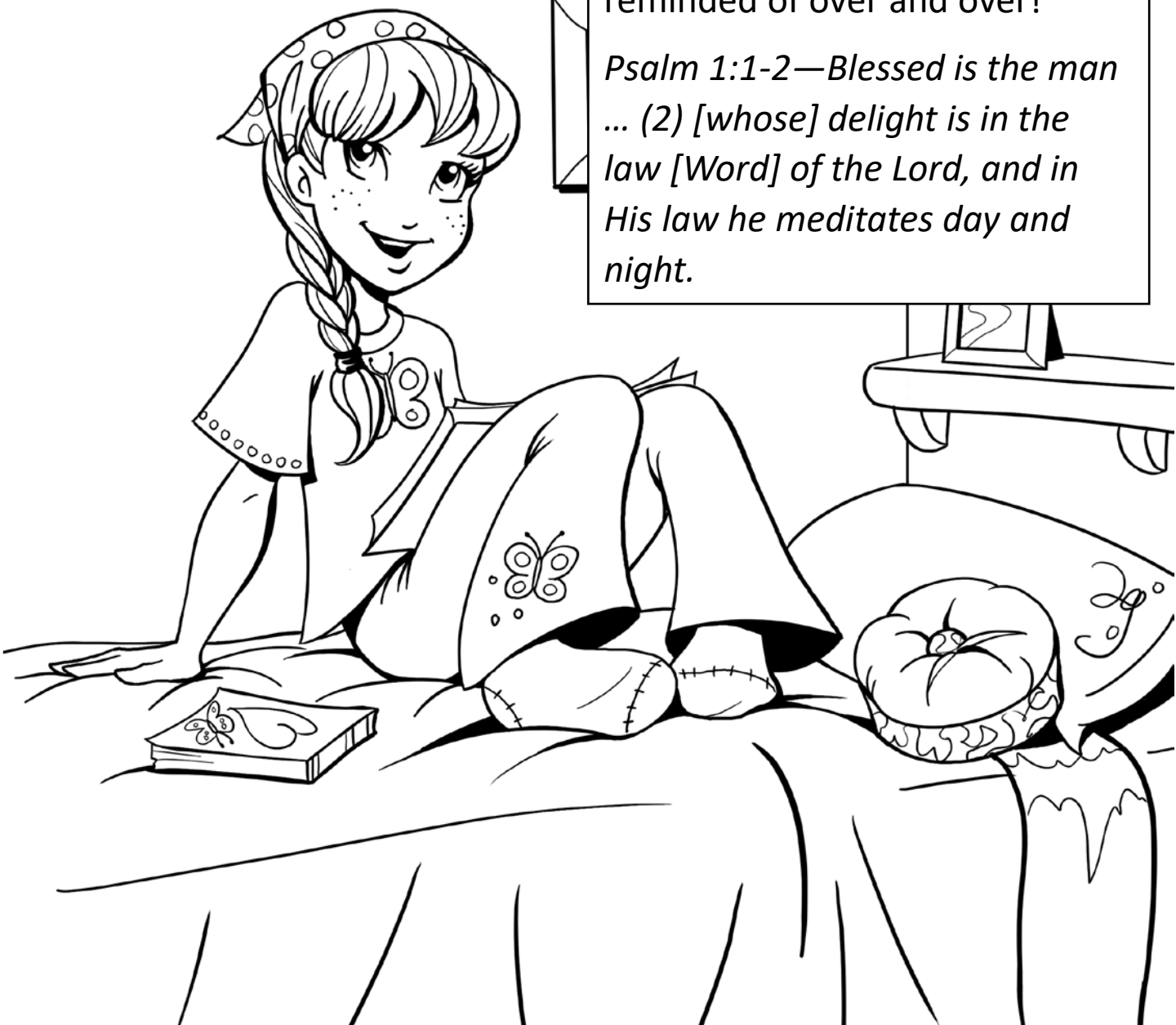
Feeling enthusiastic about memorizing verses is great, but it's not a good enough motivation because those feelings may not last or be consistent. Feeling enthusiastic about doing something is a motivation that comes and goes—mostly goes! The motivation that we need to hang on to comes from the facts, not the feelings.

What are some of the facts about memorizing upon which we should base our decision?

- God's Word tells us to hide the Word in our heart.
- It helps us in our spiritual walk with the Lord.
- It helps us to help others.

All those facts are the consistent motivation that we need to be reminded of over and over!

Psalm 1:1-2—Blessed is the man ... (2) [whose] delight is in the law [Word] of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.



Selecting verses to memorize

Two important keys to memorizing are:

1. To understand *why* you are memorizing a certain verse; in other words, what is the purpose for memorizing it? To what practical use can you put it?
2. To make sure that you understand the meaning of all the words in the verse you are memorizing.

Often there is a story or supporting passage behind each individual verse you want to memorize, and if you know the context of the verse, you will understand the verse better and be more likely to remember it.

If a verse answers a question you've had, comforts you or helps you through some time of testing, this is the best kind of verse to memorize, as it has special meaning and interest to you and will therefore stick with you the longest.



How precisely do you need to remember the wording of a verse?

If you can get the exact wording, that's best, but it's much better to learn something than not learn anything. You don't have to worry too much about having the exact words all the time, as long as you get the general point of the verse.

Don't get stuck with details. If you're going to have the attitude that you haven't learned the verse until you can quote every word exactly right without one mistake, then you're going to spend lots more time memorizing than you need to. You might progress faster if you're a little less precise but learning a greater variety of verses. And eventually, as you review the verses, you'll probably get the wording correct too.

Learning the references?

If you can learn the references, that is a good thing. However, if having to learn the references is going to discourage you from learning the verses, then it's better not to worry too much about the references.

One thing you can do to learn references is to repeat the reference at the beginning and at the end of a verse each time you quote it.

Another possibility is to at least remember the book that it's in. Then it's fairly easy to find the verse if you need to.

Reviewing

If you plan on memorizing a number of verses, you will need an organized system of review. If you don't have a plan and method for regularly reviewing what you have memorized, you will eventually forget the verses.

- You can write out your memory verses in a small, sturdy notebook. If you carry it with you wherever you go, you can pull it out to review in spare moments.
- In a notebook, you can write down the references and first few words of each verse you memorize and then use this for reviewing.

For example:

John 1:12 As many as

John 3:3 Except a man

John 3:16 For God so

John 3:36 He that believes



Putting your verses into use

Use the verses you memorize by sharing them with others, through your prayers or witnessing (telling others about your faith).



Thank You, Lord, for Your Word and its power. Please do help us all to be faithful to memorize Your Word, so we can quote it for our own benefit and for the sake of others. Help us to meditate on Your Words as we go about our daily lives. Please bring Your Words to our remembrance, so that we never forget You, but keep Your Presence close. Amen.



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