
BIBLICAL NONVIOLENCE: LEARNING IT BY HEART

ASSIGNMENT:

Learn some scripture (verse, passage) by heart *before the Biblical Nonviolence training session* begins. Each person will be invited to share your scripture with the training group.

WHY LEARN SCRIPTURE BY HEART:

There are times when it is particularly useful to have the core of what we are about well kneaded into our minds and hearts. If we have committed to memory words of vision, challenge and hope, they can become accessible to us when we need them. In the work of peace we can find guidance and strength by calling the precious word from scripture to rise up powerfully within us. I have found my meager storehouse of learned passages particularly useful in CPT-like work (for instance: in jail, when planning actions and worship, when on my way to a particularly dangerous setting, in a village setting with nothing to do but wait, in conflict with team members, when held for interrogation, when tired to the bone or discouraged...). In my experience, having scripture inside me has proven helpful even when I have not reviewed a particular passage or story for years. You may well have times when you also will be very glad to have some scripture learned and accessible without book, light, or searching any further than your heart.

WHAT PASSAGE(S) TO LEARN DURING THIS TRAINING:

You may choose one verse or take a chapter or two. Please choose a passage that you have not committed to memory before. Consider the way that CPT work is likely to challenge you. Ask God what word you need. Following are a few scriptures that might be useful in CPT work. This list is NOT to limit your choice. But if you don't know where to start, check it out.

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOW TO LEARN SCRIPTURE:

- Use your strengths (Consider; Do you learn best by seeing, listening, speaking or singing aloud, by dramatically acting something out, through repeated writing...?)
- Choose a Bible version. Make adjustments for inclusive language, etc., as needed...
- Write it out so that you have something to refer to that you can carry around in a pocket. I find using outline form helps me in the learning process.
- The learning can be a prayerful process. It can also be something done in minutes snatched between things or on a long bus ride.
- Repeat the passage to yourself. Try to see how much you can remember. Check your attempt. Try again.
- Find a partner who will listen to you, cheer you on and prompt you when a word or phrase is forgotten.
- Notice how the learning process is for you and any ways that it effects you to be this intimate with a portion of scripture.

POSSIBLE SCRIPTURES TO MEMORIZE:

- ▶ **Psalm 23** – Note that "shepherd" is a term for God as an alternative political leader for the faithful.
- ▶ **Psalm 46** – God destroys weapons
- ▶ **Isaiah 58** – True fasting (Praying faster?)
- ▶ **Matthew 5-7** – Sermon on the Mount
 - ▶ Matthew 5:1-12 – Beatitudes;
 - ▶ Matthew 5:43-48 – love your enemies;
 - ▶ Matthew 6:9-13 – the Lord's Prayer;
 - ▶ Matthew 6:24-33 – being like the birds; if you prefer Luke's version check out Luke 6:20-49.
- ▶ **Acts 4:1-31** – Bold speech to authorities and prayer for more boldness (vs. 29-30)
- ▶ **Esther 4:13-14** – For such a time as this. Esther called to bold civil disobedience
- ▶ **Isaiah 43:1-2** – Through fire and high waters
- ▶ **Isaiah 62:10-12** – Clear the way for the people
- ▶ **Mark 10:28-31** – For those who leave home
- ▶ **Isaiah 51:1** – The rock from which you were hewn
- ▶ **1 Corinthians 11:23-26** – Lord's Supper
- ▶ **Mark 5:1-20** – Jesus kicks out a piggy Roman legion
- ▶ **Ephesians 2:8-10** – Saved by grace, made to do good
- ▶ **2 Corinthians 6:1-13** – Our heart is open wide to you
- ▶ **Philippians 4:11-13** – Content in what I have
- ▶ **Proverbs 14:31** – Kindness to the poor - worship
- ▶ **Psalm 146** – Trust in God who watches over strangers
- ▶ **Exodus 23:9** – You were a foreigner once too.
- ▶ **1 Samuel 2:2-8** – Hannah's prayer: weapons broken
- ▶ **Micah 4:1-4** – Swords to plowshares
- ▶ **Micah 6:8** – What was good
- ▶ **Romans 8:18-25** – Creation groans/hope
- ▶ **Revelations 21:1-6** – Wipe every tear
- ▶ **Isaiah 55:1-3a** – ...all who thirst
- ▶ **Luke 4:16-21** – Jesus' mission statement
- ▶ **Isaiah 12:2-3** – Draw the waters with joy
- ▶ **Matthew 25:31-46** – What you do to the least
- ▶ **Isaiah 42:5-9** – New things
- ▶ **Luke 7:18-23** – The oppressed are freed
- ▶ **Isaiah 61** – Spirit anoints us to...
- ▶ **Deuteronomy 6:4-5** – The Lord is one
- ▶ **Luke 3:7-11** – Brood of vipers
- ▶ **Job 5:11-16** – God saves the oppressed
- ▶ **Luke 12:32-34** – Wallets that don't wear out
- ▶ **John 13:1-17** – Foot washing
- ▶ **Acts 4:32-35** – Model of our life together
- ▶ **Romans 12** – Feed hungry enemies
- ▶ **1 Corinthians 13** – Do it in love
- ▶ **Hebrews 13:5** – Never leave you
- ▶ **Luke 1:46-55** – Mary's revolutionary song