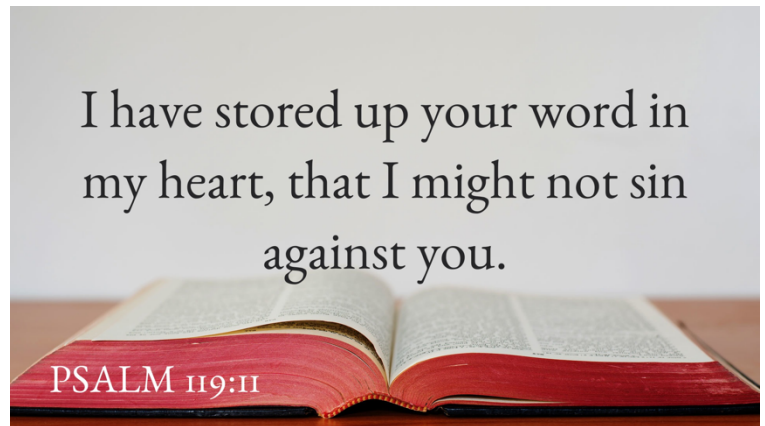


resource of the month

Hide the Word Bible memory music Mark Altrogge

For more than ten years I have used the Hide the Word CDs by Mark Altrogge to help me memorize God's Word. I strongly commend their use to you, especially if you—like me—think you aren't good at memorizing the Bible. Music is naturally memorable; we memorize song lyrics without even trying. Hide the Word has proven itself to be a very effective tool to memorize God's Word, in a way that you will find yourself daydreaming with God's Word running through your mind.

Each CD averages 20 songs, each with nothing but the Biblical text (ESV) set to music. The tracks follow the same general pattern: Sing the text of the verses twice to music, then just music so you can test yourself, and then the words return for a third run through. With this pattern, in my experience, you will have the Bible verse deeply memorized after just a week or two of listening. The albums are generally organized by topic.



I have found these CDs helpful in a variety of ways:

- **Personal study:** This has probably been the most fruitful use of all the methods I will discuss. I listen to the song for a single verse each morning for a week. Then each day for a week I study the verse in its context, seeking to fully and accurately understand its meaning. By the end of the week, I am well prepared to use the verse to care for my own heart or to care for others. Over the course of 20 weeks, you will complete an entire album. Then as you listen to the tracks you have memorized during your commute, workout, or other time you will call to mind the lessons you learned from your study, reinforcing the lasting effect of that study. In one year, you can finish more than 2 CDs, 50+ passages deeply study and deeply memorized. That is time well spent!
- **Family study:** Similar to personal study, you can pick one track at a time to memorize and study as a family. Do one verse a week or one verse every few days to sing together as a family, read, and discuss. Fathers, this would be best done after you have led yourself in personal study. This is a wonderful way to lead your family, to memorize Scripture together, and engage children of all ages. Even very young children can memorize the words. Older children (and adults) engage in conversation about a Biblical text better and with more long-lasting effects when they are in the process of memorizing that text. Then as you re-listen to the songs on road trips or just drives around town, you can enjoy singing God's Word together as a family and have good conversations recalling what you learned as a family when you were studying the passage.
- **Drive-time:** On your personal commute or just running around town with the family in the car, it is easy to just let music become background noise. . . and how easily we end up getting these words stuck in our heads! Consider putting these CDs on instead and letting God's Word become the background to your drive. You will find yourself thinking on God's Word, "accidentally" learning God's Word, and even talking about God's Word together. You can easily memorize multiple verses without much effort this way.
- **Workout/Chore Music:** This is one of my favorite uses of these albums. When I am running, working out, or finding myself lost in thought while doing chores around the house, these are amazing opportunities to guard and guide my thoughts which are prone to wander in these moments. I will either just listen to an entire album or a single verse on repeat. Either way, at the end you will have spent the time thinking on and repeating God's Word and you will know it better, even deeply memorizing large chunks with little effort.

Mark Altrogge has generously worked with Grace Bible Church to provide these CDs to us at a cost below what you can get them from anywhere else. They are \$6 each. If you subscribe to a streaming service like Spotify or Apple Music, you can stream most of the music from there as well. Please consider making these a part of your personal and family heart shepherding tools.

~*Jacob Hantla*