



OCTOBER 2022 – HBC Women’s Ministry Letter

Growing up, my grandparents lived on beautiful Whidbey Island in Northwest Washington, and each summer, I was invited to their church’s Vacation Bible School. One summer in particular stands out as the one where my Grandma was also my VBS leader. She told our group of kids on day one (Monday) that there was a bible memorization challenge – whoever could recite the most from the book of John by Friday would win a big prize. They told us what the prize was as an encouraging carrot but I actually don’t remember that bit. I do remember my ever sweet, patient with everyone, loving Grandma closing the door to her house after VBS that day, looking me square in the eye and telling me clearly, “You will win that challenge.” That was also the day I learned Grandma was competitive. 😊

However much of the book of John I forced into my short-term memory for that week unfortunately didn’t stick well enough to hold in my long-term memory. I’ve wished many times since then to have those words with me on-going, “stored up in my heart” as the Psalmist says.

As an adult I’ve felt the Lord’s prompting several times to pause on a verse (or a chapter...or multiple chapters!) and memorize it. While there are times of reading the bible as a whole or books at a time, there have also been days or months where pausing – meditating – and memorizing His word has been of great value. After all, the Bible tells us in Colossians 3:16:

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Without your bible in hand, how much of God’s word do you carry in your heart?

In our country at this time, we are immensely blessed to have easy access to a bible pretty much anytime we make the time to pick one up. Thank the Lord for that gift! But I am convicted at times by how little of that gift would be left to me if I had only my own memorized verses to hold onto. Memorization does not come naturally to me. It is a challenge but like Paul, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13).

I encourage you today to commit a bible verse – or several -- to memory. You can practice any time – ALL of the time. For instance, while doing dishes, driving in the car, or lying in bed at night – and you will be immeasurably blessed by the effort. In memorizing and learning more of His word, we are putting on His armor and His belt of truth (Ephesians 6:13-20). If we make a point to learn His words and think about them on-going, we are assured they will be “a lamp to my feet and a light for my path” (Psalm 119:105). What a promise!

Let us be those who delight in the Lord’s statutes by not forgetting but remembering His words (Psalm 119:16). With the help of His spirit, I pray this gift of committing the Lord’s teachings to your heart will bless you each day – both in the learning and the keeping of something so precious.

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 that I have said to you. John 14:26

With love from your HBC Women’s Ministry Team
Jody, Karen, Laurie, Kelli, Lori, Andrea, Daryn, Cindy & Michele