

*Maybe I Can Do It!*Today's Reading
Psalm 136:1-26

"I could never memorize Scripture!" Many make that claim and then cite evidence to support it. "I never have had a good memory." "I am getting older and things just don't stick with me any more." "I don't know a single Bible verse." As a result, they give up before they try.

Now, hold on while we shift gears. What was the main message that the Psalmist wanted to communicate in Psalm 136? Wasn't it, "His love endures forever"? Chances are, you nailed it...even word for word. Truth be told, you memorized it! Although memorization may come easier for some than for others, I am of the opinion that virtually all of us have the capacity to commit Scripture to memory. In fact, let's look at three important tips that will help:

1. **Choose wisely.** Instead of selecting some verse with words you don't know how to pronounce and a message that doesn't connect with you, memorize something that you are able to say and that resonates

with your heart and soul. The author of this Psalm recounted many ways in which the eternal love of God had been revealed...from creation through the time of the conquest of the Promised Land. He was motivated to write! What are you motivated to memorize?

2. **Use repetition of small portions.** Let's face it, the fact that the author repeated those words "His love endures forever" twenty-six times helped you to hang on to that phrase. As you break a longer verse into smaller portions that you repeat, you will find that you are able to add more and more to your growing memory.
3. **Add melody and/or rhythm.** The Psalms themselves originally had a poetic/musical element to them. In more recent years, Michael W. Smith put some of this Psalm to music in his song "Forever." Pastor Randy and Matt do much the same for us in some of the original songs they write. Even if you are not musically inclined, you can add a tune or simple beat to a verse and make it easier to memorize.

So, get rid of any excuses you may have and start memorizing!