



Trying to Get THE WORD in Edgewise

By Vincent M. Newfield

Life seems to be so busy. There are so many things to do and not enough time to do them. Most of us are moving at breakneck speed Monday through Friday—juggling our job, relationships, bill paying, housekeeping, grocery shopping, car maintenance and everything else. In the midst of this vortex of activity, it seems we can't get THE WORD in edgewise.

In other words, it's hard for us to find time to feed our spirits the life-changing truth of Scripture. In an effort to combat this widespread dilemma, here are some proven practices that may be just what you need to get THE WORD in edgewise.

Turn your car into a university on wheels. For many of us, our commute to and from work each day takes up a large chunk of time. We can catch up on the news, listen to some tunes or take advantage of the time by feeding our spirits. One Bible "food group" we can choose from is the Scripture on CD or cassette. This is an excellent way to saturate our soul and renew our mind with truth. Another option is to listen to audio teachings from an anointed Bible teacher. (May I highly recommend my boss, Joyce Meyer. She's got some great stuff!) It is estimated that listening to a recording five times enables us to retain up to 80 percent of what has been said. Imagine the difference this could make in your life.

"Pocket-size mine please." Another wonderful way to get the Word in is by carrying a small, pocket-size Bible that fits either in your purse or your pocket. You can get either a New Testament or the entire Bible for anywhere from \$10 to \$20. This is a tremendous investment that will allow you to make the most of every moment you have. How many times do we find ourselves having to sit and wait five, ten or fifteen minutes with nothing to do? I'm not saying we have to have our nose in the Bible every free moment of the day, but having a pocket-size Bible gives us another option of getting THE WORD in. It also prepares us for opportunities to share our faith when God opens the door.

Have notebook will travel. You could also carry a small notebook or a "sticky" notepad with you wherever you go—especially at church and during your time of study. As Joyce mentioned in the article on how to study the Bible, we need to write down the verses that come alive and stand out to us. If you're at church, in your car or in conversation with a friend and you hear a scripture that hits you right between the eyes, write it down. If you can't write down the whole verse, write down the address—the book, chapter and verse where it's found. Later on, write the entire scripture down in a notebook or type it out on the computer so that you can meditate on and memorize it. I suggest developing a notebook or binder (or data base you can print out) that has your "power passages" written out and grouped by topic. This can be a tremendous resource for you and others in time of need.

Make it a "Family Affair." Want some cool ways to hide the Word in your kids' hearts? There are numerous DVDs, videos, CDs and cassettes for children that take God's Word and put it to song. Kids latch on to catchy tunes and before you know it, they are singing the Scripture. Another fun way to learn the Word is to write out a scripture on a dry erase board and prop it up in full view during dinner time. Let each child take a turn reading it out loud (even little ones who can't read yet can learn the scripture by repeating it sentence by sentence). Don't rush through. Spend a week or two on the same verse, erasing words along the way. You'll be amazed at what you all remember!

Be creative! There are so many different ways to get the Word into our hearts. These are just a few examples. God is the great Creator, and His creative nature lives in YOU! Take time to ask Him how these or other ideas will help you get THE WORD in your spirit. You will be glad you did!