Ep169 - Final Mix Comp

[00:00:00] **Shelby:** Welcome to daily grace We believe the Bible is true trustworthy and timeless and we want to help women like you know and love God's word The Bible shows us who God is and who he is changes everything My name is Shelby and I want to invite you to come join me and a few of my friends as we chat about the truth of God's word in our everyday lives Today on the podcast Krystal and I are joined by hunter Beless to talk about knowing and loving God through scripture memory And can I be honest with you Scripture memory is an area of my life that I'd like to grow in I want to better understand the benefits and methods of memorizing scripture and hunter is the woman to teach you And I both about all of these things Hunter is passionate about helping women know and love God more especially through his word Hunter is the founder and the host of the journey women podcast The author of read it Say it sing it and a homeschooling mama who loves doing ministry in her local church context hunter and her husband Brooks have three amazing kiddos who memorize scripture way faster than their mama When they're not reading seeing sane or singing the Bible you can find the Beless family camping riding bikes or snuggling up with a good book You're going to find that hunter is real honest and down to earth She makes scripture memory and growing in your relationship with God simple and her tips and encouragement are really practical Come join my co-host Krystal and I in our conversation with hunter on how to grow in knowledge and love for God

[00:02:01] Hey everybody I am just thrilled to be here with you today On another episode of the daily grace podcast And with me today I have my co-host Krystal

[00:02:12] **Krystal:** Hey everybody

[00:02:13] **Shelby:** and our new friend hunter Beless

[00:02:17] **Hunter:** Hey guys Thanks for having me

[00:02:19] **Shelby:** Yeah hunter is a wife a mom a podcast host a theology lover and a follower of Jesus And she's here today to share her life and wisdom with us on growing in knowledge and love for God and especially growing in those areas through scripture memorization So we know that many of our listeners enjoy and benefit greatly from scripture memorization but we also recognize that some people listening may be really intimidated by the idea of that Or maybe even struggled to see the benefits of scripture memorization If that's you I just want to encourage you to stick around Get to know hunter and her story and her passion for this spiritual discipline I know this is going to be a very encouraging and practical conversation And I believe everyone whether you've never before memorized scripture or you've been memorizing scripture for a long time is going to benefit from it Well hunter just to get us started I'm wondering if you can share with us and with our listeners a little bit about yourself and about the journey women podcast

[00:03:26] **Hunter:** Sure Well I'm hunter Beless good to be with you guys today I am the happy wife of Brooks We've been married for 10 years We did eight years of military service and we've just landed in our first civilian location where we hope to plant down roots with our three kiddos who are Five and three and I homeschool them So I spend a lot of time just doing homeschooling instruction with the kiddos And then sometimes during the afternoons we have a friend who comes and takes care of them and I get to hop on podcasts and things like that you mentioned my podcast It's called journey woman It's something I've been doing since I was a young military spouse about five years now And I host conversations that we hope will come alongside women to move them to know and love God and his word to find their hope in the gospel and to invest deeply in their local churches for the glory of God So it's a real blessing to get to be mentored by the guests that we have on the show And I'm so happy to get to share those mentoring conversations with so many people all over the world

[00:04:28] **Shelby:** yeah love the journey women podcast And I don't think you mentioned this but you're located in Northwest Arkansas Is that correct

[00:04:36] **Hunter:** That's right We are now located in Northwest Arkansas to our surprise and delight We've been here for almost a year which has been a crazy year So it still kind of feels like I just moved to me

[00:04:46] **Shelby:** Well and so this is funny One week ago today my family we took a short weekend trip We live only about three and a half hours from Northwest Arkansas So we were in Rogers and Bentonville We did like crystal bridges trails and the amazing Liam And I thought I would think hunter is from around here I wish we could have like met up in person while we were there

[00:05:05] **Hunter:** Oh you should've reached out to me That's awesome Where do you live

[00:05:09] **Shelby:** So I'm in Kansas city Missouri So

[00:05:12] **Hunter:** Okay very cool Well you'll have to let me know next time you come

[00:05:15] **Shelby:** I will for sure I will for sure

[00:05:18] **Krystal:** So the last time you were on the daily grace podcast was back in March of 2020 So a lot of life has happened since then can you just update us on what's been new with you since last time you were here

[00:05:31] **Hunter:** I know don't these feel like the two longest years of our lives So many things have been condensed down into these two years And you know when I last chatted with the former host of the daily grace co I was in New Hampshire and my husband was attending tuck business school where he was getting his MBA And so this is again like I said we've transitioned it away from military and academic life into civilian And we bought our first house and I think let's see I had Bo but he was a baby So now I have a toddler and no more babies in diapers and that I've also written a children's book which I think you referenced Shelby So that's really fun I think I started writing that in 2020 and it's finally being published here in a couple of weeks And I'm really excited about that

[00:06:19] **Shelby:** Great love to hear that update on you and how you're doing And yeah I want to talk about your book and we'll dive into it a little more deeply later on in the conversation but just quickly can you tell us what is your new book that's coming out And what's kind of the story behind it

[00:06:35] **Hunter:** Yeah One of the things that social media has become for me is a way to share just my passion for God and for his word And that's what Journey Woman is That's kind of what my personal kind of profile on Instagram has become And so through that I receive a lot of questions about some of the things that we do to just help Ourselves me and the kids just saturate ourselves with God's word And one of those questions is well how do you get your kids interested in memorizing scripture Because one day as we often do and we're you know sharing stories organically on Instagram something happened to pop through my stories in which my kiddos and I were memorizing a passage of scripture And um it seemed to really stick with a lot of the followers And so they wanted to know how do we do this So I started to kind of share about our process of scripture memory and people were asking like could you encapsulate it in kind of a method or something And I thought you know we really can't because this is just something that I've been doing Pretty much ever since realizing that I wasn't going to be able to sit down and open up my Bible and feast on God's word Like I'd done in seasons past before becoming a mom So I began to try and encapsulate what we do in scripture memory into a method And that's where read it see it say it sing it The title of my book was born and I sat down and just looked at scripture particularly verses about what scripture is and what it does for us and began to write And if you follow me you know that I love to write poems And so of course it came out in the form of a poem about what God's word is and why we need it how he meets us through it And then it you know the rest is history It became a children's book that I hope will encourage both parents and children to really get excited about hiding God's word in their hearts

[00:08:24] **Shelby:** That's amazing You know you just touched for a second on your passion for what God's word is in why we need it I'm wondering if you can share with us I know that many of our listeners have an idea of those things but some maybe don't or just can be encouraged by by your takeaways in that area So can you speak to that for a moment

[00:08:42] **Hunter:** Absolutely I mean there's so much that I could say and I think scripture itself speaks best to why God's word is important And I wish I had a whole list of verses that I could just pull out here off the top of my head but you know a few that come to mind are 2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is breathed out by God and is useful for teaching correcting rebuking and training and righteousness Like this is useful for us Hebrews 4:12 talks about it being living and active how it's sharper than any double-edged sword It has the power to divide a soul from spirit And I really experienced that in my life where Man you can read lots of helpful books but no other book has the power to change you And then you know at the center of the word we find Christ I know you guys are so passionate about the good news of the gospel and how that's really the central reality of of scripture And so we want our kiddos to memorize God's word because it helps them see Jesus It also helps them see their need for Jesus And it helps them too to fight sin in their life And it just comforts their heart like when they're in a bad mood and helps them to know and love God more But I think predominantly we learn what it looks like to walk in the life that Christ offers us

[00:09:54] **Krystal:** Hmm

[00:09:55] **Shelby:** yeah

[00:09:56] **Krystal:** that's good So we know scripture memorization is something that you're really passionate about It's something you share a lot about through social media and now through your new book so how did memorizing scripture become just that great of a passion

[00:10:09] **Hunter:** Oh yeah Well you know when I was a young mother I was used to having sat down and study the word for as long as I wanted prior to having kids And then uh when I had my first I just came to the realization that even if I have a well-planned quiet time it never seems to play out exactly the way that I'd hoped And um so I had a really Rocky transition coming off of you know being able to schedule and plan my day the way that I wanted to to also caring for a little person who had needs that I could not control So I love to sit down and feast on God's word but I realized man I'm not going to be able to sit and and feast on the word like I used to So I've kind of got I figured out a way to kind of stick it in my pocket I'm on the go If you will it's kind of like a protein snack or something like that Like I need to eat I know that Matthew 4:4 says man doesn't live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God I know that this nourishes me and that this is going to offer me life throughout the day But I just am not able to reference it as as readily as I would like So I began to look for ways to try and equip myself to be able to reach for it whenever I could And that's really where scripture memory became so important to me really out of my own desperate need for God's word So I would think about his words as we were walking to the park and as I pushed my first kiddo around in a stroller for miles and miles I kind of miss those days You remember that whenever you just had one kid you used to take those really long walks Nobody's taking long walks over here anymore but that was where it first started And then I realized man if she can say little tunes and things like that like twinkle twinkle little star then of course she could begin to memorize some of these passages with me And so That's where Deuteronomy 6 really came into play for me I don't know if you guys know those verses but it's the Shema the famous passage that says you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart with all your soul with all your might and then Moses is instructing the Israelites like the commands of the Lord should be on your hearts So what does it mean for scripture to be on our hearts like for it to be on our hearts Like we really it's got to be deep down in there And then he says you shall instruct your children with these commands and you shall talk about them when you sit when you rise when you walk by the way you shall put them on your doorposts I mean basically he's trying to say these are supposed to be like with you all the time And I think what better way to keep them with us all the time ready on our hearts and on our minds then through scripture memory

[00:12:50] **Shelby:** So can you share with us you talk about like having a scripture in your heart and in your mind what are like things in your daily life where you realize that that scripture is coming to mind or is just present And you're like wow I am so glad that in this moment I have God's word hidden in my heart Like how does that benefit you just throughout your everyday life

[00:13:09] **Hunter:** Absolutely I can think of so many things One that I referenced often is a passage that I was memorizing a couple of years ago I remember it was Romans 8 and it took me like three years Okay but the predominant verse that comes to mind from that entire chapter is Romans 8:11 And it says if the spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also bring life to your mortal bodies through his spirit who dwells in you And I can't tell you how many times throughout my day And I say this was such humility it's so hard to admit our limitations as mothers but I often feel dead I just feel like I cannot continue to move forward towards this conflict that the kids are continuing to engage in despite ample like instruction correction and training in these areas Like I just I feel exasperated I feel so discouraged I feel like the life has been drained out of me Like this child is still waking up I've been going up there like all night long and you know I mean and that verse just thinking that man the same spirit that raised Christ Jesus from the dead dwells in me If he gave life to Christ's body after he was crucified on the cross how much more can he give life to me as I go about my day I'm like oh okay God I can do this Like by your power by your spirit in me I can do this I can continue to move towards my kids in love even though I don't want to You know and then thinking about Instruction with the children Scripture memorization has been so beneficial for us collectively as a family because I can't tell you how many times I forget what it looks like to move towards them in love but also they forget how to move towards one another in love And so instead of Coming upon two siblings who are squabbling with each other and saying why do you guys keep doing this Or you guys have to stop which is what often my flesh like how my flesh wants to respond I'm able to say because we've memorized first Corinthians 13 Okay guys What is love and they automatically know because they've referenced verses four through seven like okay Love is patient love is kind love does not envy It doesn't boast It isn't arrogant or rude It does not insist on its own way Well Hey we're insisting on our own way When it comes to this block tower what does it look like to respond to the love And so giving us words to instruct our children's hearts With the very words of God I'm like there's no better investment for me in the way I mean you couldn't read parenting books Sure That'll be great but you really only need one book

[00:15:55] **Shelby:** Yeah

[00:15:56] **Hunter:** and we need to be investing the amount of time just keeping in mind that again it's the only book that actually has the power not only to change our hearts but also to change the hearts of our

[00:16:07] **Shelby:** Yeah I love that because as parents I feel like there are always and this could apply to any other situation even if you're not a parent but there's so much information out there saying Hey here's your situation and here's how to improve it But it's actually God's word that we can go to And that has the best Most foundational wisdom on all of those areas And so I love that you're sharing that And I think something that's amazing about children is their capacity to memorize scripture too When we first started doing it even you know my four year old I thought I don't know if he's going to be able to do this but he absolutely can And so it's been so sweet to see him repeat little phrases and verses and it really does come back to mind for them to just like you're saying it's

[00:16:54] **Hunter:** Yeah Yeah for sure And every kid memorizes at a different rate I mean for my oldest she memorizes so easily And my third I always tell people I'm like he you know I don't really know how much is going in Like there's there's not a lot of output when it comes to their the amount of recitation and memory work that we're doing but I always encourage people Cause I think a lot of people get really discouraged Like the fact that it took me three years to memorize Romans 8 you know it takes Us different amounts of time You may have a child that has a developmental difference That's why oftentimes my kids and I will do motions we we did some little videos with Lifeway and I thought man we really need to be incorporating motions for kids who are non-verbal for kids who are just have a different pace of learning or maybe they learn in different ways And so just to remember it's not about the amount of verses that you have memorized It's about reflecting on the truth of God and knowing him more through his word And we know his word will not return void So you may only have one verse It may take you months to memorize a verse but listen if you memorize Romans 8:11 let me tell you I've been going on that one for years So take heart to those of you who have kiddos who just have you know are a little bit slower when it comes to learning or maybe you yourself feel like that you're not alone and it's still a worthy investment of your time even if it takes a really long time or longer than you'd hope to commit something to memory

[00:18:24] **Shelby:** Yeah absolutely And that kind of brings us to our next question I think many of us want to memorize scripture but we might struggle to just actually do it And there's some common barriers that we see come up with people who are having a hard time getting started or keeping continuing on memorizing scripture And so I'm wondering if we can talk through how you personally have overcome some of these So let's first talk through this one People say I just don't have the time What would you say to that

[00:18:55] **Hunter:** Oh I mean I think about that I is it a Martin Luther quote that says like I have so little time that I need to spend three hours in prayer I feel like that. I think the more desperate I become, the more readily I need to be reaching for God's word And I would also say take an honest inventory of your time Ooh That one hurts because ouch I don't want to look at my screen time on my phone every week when that notification pops up I ignore it because I don't want to know because let's be honest If we don't have time to be meditating on the truth of God's word we don't have time to be scrolling around on Instagram We don't have time to be on social media you know And so take a really honest inventory of your time and you may be really busy And if that's the case and I would encourage you to ask God to give you eyes to see How can I redeem pockets of time that I may not otherwise be acknowledging And that might look like being in the pickup line man I homeschool but I have heard those pickup lines last forever at school And so you know maybe you could redeem the time in that way Maybe you can redeem other time by listening to it repetitively dwell is one of my favorite ways to do that There's also a host of other free audio Bibles that you can have access to And so I would just say look for ways to redeem the time and if you can't think of any Maybe be so bold as to ask someone who's close to you Hey do you see me wasting any time And if so be humble enough just to say thank you because in these words you will find life And so oftentimes I think we're scrolling around on Instagram looking for something life-giving but really this book is the only thing that is going to offer that to us because in it we find Christ

[00:20:40] **Shelby:** Hmm that's really good So let's talk through another barrier Someone might say I'm intimidated by the Bible It just doesn't make sense to me I just don't know that I'm ready to memorize it What would you say to someone who has that objection

[00:20:55] **Hunter:** Yeah I often feel intimidated by God's word and and you want to treat it rightly too so you're like oh just the reverence that I have for God's word I mean it's I understand that I would say if you find yourself intimidated by God's word number one find someone else to come alongside you who has maybe a little bit more experience navigating the study of God's word and maybe memorization of it and then ask for their help I think that's what the beauty of doing life together under the word is And you're going to be redefined by the word Don't be fearful The Lord has given you his spirit If you are in Christ and he will help you to discern the truth of God's word because he has given it to us for life and godliness He wants us to understand it So ask him ask for his help I mean you look at Psalm 119 That's such an encouraging chapter It's the longest chapter in the whole Bible And even the psalmist too says the things that we want to say we yearn to say sweeter than honey to my mouth We want to say these things we think oh how precious the Lord's instruction is to the Psalmist here But he also says help me to understand your instruction He also says open my eyes that I might be ho hold wondrous things in your law So that means there's gotta be some point when he's feeling like man I don't fully understand but he's asking God to help him do that

[00:22:20] **Shelby:** Yeah I love that And that's I love that you pulled that out of Psalm 119 I love to point out that same thing because I think that that saw I'm talking about his love for God's word could get lost on us If we don't also see his desperation for God's help in that

[00:22:36] **Hunter:** Give me life pull my life up from the dust I mean if you're feeling down a lot of times we see those high points in Psalm 119 I would encourage people to read through it and ask the Lord to use it to massage their affection for God's word and also to be encouraged by this person whose life was so characterized by the word And yet they often had experiences that we can really identify with feeling down in the dust Feeling like they don't understand and to use those as a guide for your prayers

[00:23:06] **Shelby:** Yeah absolutely So one more I'm actually going through the study growing in grace with the group of women for my church And it's a study all about growing in spiritual disciplines And so when we got to the scripture memory portion several of them said I'm afraid to memorize scripture because I think I'll become legalistic about it I think it'll become something that I have to check off or I feel like I'm failing And so I just don't even want to do it at all because I'm afraid that my heart will begin to get legalistic about it How could you maybe speak to that

[00:23:37] **Hunter:** that was a tough one for me I think really examine what does it mean to be a legalistic Are you genuinely like trying to earn your salvation by memorizing Portions of God's word And then I would just say go back and examine the gospel afresh you know like the gospel is Ephesians 2:8 9 it's by grace you've been saved So you know just remind yourself of the truth of the gospel Like I I'm not earning brownie points with God here by memorizing scripture but because of what he's done for me in Christ I get to reflect on his truths And as I reflect on his truths then I get to walk more fully in a life that Christ has offered me And so we're not trying to gain favor with God here but instead we're walking in the favor that we've been extended through the person of Jesus Christ

[00:24:28] **Krystal:** Yeah And I think too with that struggle of like will it turn me legalistic or will I view this in a checkbox mentality I think the more we memorize scripture and meditate on the truth of scripture It really humbles us and it reminds us of our dependence on the Lord And so it almost combats it by doing it Like you combat that fear of of legalism by actually going through and meditating and memorizing scripture And so let's get just really practical here What are some tips that you could give us to start memorizing especially for those that are like I have never done this before because I've had some of those obstacles what practical advice would you give us to start

[00:25:05] **Hunter:** Absolutely I think you just put that so well by the way and you know I think remembering why we memorize as we were just discussing remembering why we do it that's really important because we don't want to be doing it out of you know duty or obligation we want to be doing it out of delight And so I think even memorizing and selecting passages that can remind you of the truth of the gospel uh will really refresh your heart I would also say find a buddy to do it I have never been as consistent with scripture memory as I have been with my kids And again that's probably partly due to my own desperation because I don't have as much access to my physical tangible Bible because little hands will be like ripping its pages out That's actually happened to me

[00:25:47] **Shelby:** Yeah for sure

[00:25:49] **Hunter:** they have been the best accountability partners for me And so I know many of your listeners do not have children but find someone in your local context or find someone remotely who shares your passion to memorize God's word You may not have anybody in your local context but you might be surprised too by who would be willing to do it If you would initiate When I was in New Hampshire I had the most random group of ladies Many of them older than me which was super humbling They had never memorized God's word And they just said Hey we want to do this And it was during COVID times in 2020 so we couldn't even get together in person but we would do it on zoom And so you can utilize technology use zoom use Voxer use Marco polo use whatever it is that you have That you read readily or referencing already in your life and redeem it like take it and repurpose it as a scripture memory tool That's what I've done with social media feel free to do that Tag me I'd love to see you I love it I cry whenever people tag me memorizing scripture with their babies it just delights my heart so much So find a buddy and ask God to give you eyes to see people in your life who might be able to come alongside you in this discipline and then just really practically That's what my book was written for It's like read it repetitively read it see it say it sing it put it in front of your eyes I mean this is all kind of derived from that Deuteronomy 6 passage Like if you can put it up somewhere then you're going to be that much more likely to remember to reference it as often as you can And that's why people stick like a note card on their bathroom mirror or You know little panel of their car while they're driving or you put it next to your sink or you're spending so much time washing dishes and things like that Like put it places where you can see it so that you remember to regularly rehearse its truths say it over and over and over It's supposed to be on our lips And also if it's on our hearts is going to be on our lips like out of the heart the mouth speaks So that's the beautiful thing Is that the more you You know continue to do this As Krystal mentioned the more you're going to continue to do this It's just it's so wonderful how it does that And then really I mean,sing it Sure you can create like a fun beat like we do but that's not really the point of sing it The point is that uh Theo has strong theology and understanding of who God is which you're going to develop as you continue to reference his word because that's what he's given us One of the means by which he's given us to know him like our theology leads to doxology or worship or devotion And so as we continue to grow in our knowledge Of who he is our lives should sing and testify to his grace So I just would encourage people to do that Find a buddy you know remember why you memorize and then to read it see it say it sing it as much as you can Whenever you can

[00:28:29] **Krystal:** now I remember seeing on your Instagram stories I believe it's on your highlights now how you had memorized scripture with like a notepad Yes and I remember the first time I saw it it Blew my mind because it seemed so practical It was really sustainable and it hits on my biggest weakness when I'm memorizing which is reviewing verses that I've already memorized could you elaborate a little bit on that I don't know if you still use that method or not but I just thought it was really helpful for me And so for those that haven't seen that can you just explain that method a little bit

[00:28:59] **Hunter:** Absolutely I love that method and I used it for years but again I think when it comes to like having something like tangible it's hard for me just to keep track of things these days But back then I used note cards and what I would do is I would memorize for as long as it took And then I would review for 50 days and then I would review for 50 weeks and then I would review for 50 months and then I would review Semesterly for the rest of all time And it was wonderful because it keeps scripture on your mind And so you may have verses as we all know that you've memorized in times past but that are harder to reach for like I've even been doing in this conversation just because they're they're in there but they're not at the top of your mind And so I think it really helps actually as you mentioned Krystal Donald S.

[00:29:45] Whitney talks about having like a pertinent kind of a scriptural truth ready access to it for the holy spirit to be able to help you kind of employ it in your time of need like which is often for us when we're combating sin or when we're in the midst of evangelism Like that is such a wonderful way to just be ready for the battle that we engage in every single day So yeah I I actually took that method probably it was originally like a navigators thing in college Um I wasn't involved in nav It's a on-campus ministry but I think I derived it from them and then use it to memorize something called the topical memory system which is just a list of great verses to memorize And so if you're wanting to just somewhere to start if you're not wanting to try and memorize contextually which is what we do now which means you don't just memorize one verse You try and memorize a passage then TMS is a great place to start and you can find it just by Googling it

[00:30:41] **Krystal:** Yeah that was actually going to be my followup question It was just like how do you go about choosing verses to memorize And so because I do the same thing where I would try to choose one verse to memorize but right before it kind of helps you to understand it then like right after it really ties it together So I was like well now I'm memorizing the whole chapter which honestly is a little bit easier In some ways it takes longer It's longer to review but it's easier to remember because you can get the flow of thought but how do you go about choosing verses to memorize And especially as you're memorizing with your children

[00:31:11] **Hunter:** Oh yeah for sure You know honestly I just memorize whatever it is that I feel like the Lord is like kind of leading us to memorize initially we started with the Psalms because the Psalms are the song book for God's people So they're actually really easy to commit to memory when you're looking at like something like a psalm versus what we're memorizing right now is Hebrews 11 It's a lot easier for me to memorize like a Psalm verses Hebrews 11 or even like a narrative or something like that So I would say start easy if you haven't ever done Like longer passages of scripture memory start with something that's easy and that's short and that's going to be like fueling your prayers and praise And so the psalms do that Psalm 1 is a great place to start It's six verses super easy to memorize and then you're going to be encouraged to continue doing it because you're going to keep reaching for it As you go about your day I remember in 2020 I keep referencing 2020 I haven't referenced it I've tried to kind of block that out but it was such a time of desperation for us all you know and I remember Psalm 121 during that season of life and every time I would drive by this mountain that was right by my house I would say man I lift up my eyes to the Hills from where does my help come My help comes from the Lord the maker of heaven and earth you know and just keep on going And then I think the greatest thing about being able to memorize a passage is if you are in a season where it's harder for you to sit down and study You can start to mull over the questions that you have about that text as you go throughout the day So for example like back to Psalm 121 he will not let your foot be moved He who keeps you will not stumble behold He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep The Lord is your keeper The Lord is your shade on your right hand The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night The Lord will keep you from all evil Oh but He doesn't keep us from all evil How does he keep us from all evil If bad things happen to people in the world what does that mean How is God keeping them from evil you know And so then you begin to really think about what does it mean that God keeps us from all evil and then those kinds of questions will be things that you can kind of dive into deeper when you do have a moment to sit down and study and then you're going to be like oh he keeps us from all evil because He's kept us in Christ He's kept us from the ultimate evil you know and you're able to just begin to kind of make gospel connections in the text and be able to see and understand the text more deeply And then you're going to be able to apply it better to your own life You're going to be able to use it to edify and encourage the people that are around you and you're going to be able to use it to pray And that's one of the things that I'm learning right now scripture memory is really what we use to wield God's word in prayer And so it's so powerful to be able to pray over my friend who is you know lost her baby Oh my God Would you be as near to her as your shade on your right hand You know those kinds of truths that's the word that that's fitly needed in the moment you know especially when it's employed in prayer

[00:34:11] **Shelby:** absolutely And because we're thinking about something all the time right So I feel like just throughout this conversation what I hear you saying is that When we memorize scripture it's top of mind and top of heart And so in every situation that we're in whether it's comforting a grieving friend or just hanging out with our kids in a moment of discipline you know it's scripture that's top of mind And so um I'm loving this conversation um and you've given us some great tips so far I'm wondering if we can talk specifically about scripture memorization in kids So like what does that really look like for you Like I know you have younger ones I'm a mom of four some of mine are younger And so what does it look like to help those young ones memorize scripture

[00:34:54] **Hunter:** Absolute chaos Delightful Chaos I think probably a lot of women feel discouraged in this area because they just want it to look a lot more put together for us it looks like banging on the table It looks like using a silly monster voice It looks like yelling and screaming It looks like helping my children understand that we get to delight In the words of God Yes We come to them as reference but also there's so much joy to be had And as you know childlike joy is a little bit messy It's a little bit chaotic a little bit crazy Uh and so for us I'm always looking for ways to make it fun and we do it however we can whenever we can But also if you can Pair it with another routine that you're already engaging in Like I referenced if you're sitting in the pickup line dropping kids off for school for a long period of time maybe that's a great time to redeem the time together as a family and to be able to practice the discipline of scripture memory together Yeah That sounds like a lot of fun yelling in the car doing whatever verse is coming to mind or even utilizing some of the helps that are out there If you're just feeling stuck like slugs and bugs Those are some of my favorite I love Randall Goodgame corner room has a kid's album There's so many different ones that I can't honey for the heart that one's so good The Lockwood's look them up I mean they're so great And so easy I can't tell you how many verses I have memorized because of Randall Goodgame but for us it looks like sitting down around the table because we do homeschool We are able to have breakfast together That's not super rushed And then in the evenings we try and prioritize eating together as a family And the beautiful thing about that is that my husband also gets to be involved And I remember when we got married I really wanted to be employing some of these spiritual disciplines together that we just didn't really ever figure out like how are we going to do that But the kids have been such a blessing to us As we eat together as a family sit around the table and remember God's provision for us Right We remember his provision for us through the food that he's given us And then we remember his ultimate provision for us Through the person of his son Jesus And then we remember the provision that he's extended to us through his word And so what we do is we just kind of rehearse whatever passage we are memorizing at the time And the other wonderful kind of outpouring of this is that it's also become a means for evangelism And I'll never forget hearing Rosaria Butterfield talk about how she and her husband Every time they have someone at their table they do a devotional And so when they have outsiders come in which they often do because if you know Rosaria Butterfield she is all about hospitality She literally lives with her door open she's always evangelizing at her table and I thought oh I would love to do that but I just can't do it I just am not that bold Like Hey do you guys want to do a Divo over dinner I can't do it But the fact that we are already memorizing God's word Kind of after we pray and reflecting upon the provision that God's extended to us through the word by reciting it together has given us such ample opportunity to transition into gospel conversation with the guests that we have on our table because you better believe my three-year-old is not going to forego an opportunity to bang on the table So we continue to see the fruit of this in the lives of the families that we have we don't have as many non-believing friends here in Northwest Arkansas as we did up in new England but it's been so wonderful to get to see how we can begin to practice evangelism together as a family And that's something I always wanted to do And scripture memory has helped us do that

[00:38:32] **Shelby:** I love that And I love that your book that you've written has just flowed out of what you're naturally doing with your kids And I'm so glad for our listeners that they're going to be able to grab that book and employ some of these same things with their families as well you maybe touched on this already a little bit but what are like some specific ways that you have just seen scripture memorization benefit your children

[00:38:59] **Hunter:** Yeah I think it making us all ready for instruction in the moment Like I've referenced with the first Corinthians 13 piece that's been huge but additionally to comfort their hearts I mean how often as mothers do we have kids that are just hurting Whether it's like unkind words that have been spoken or if your child is struggling with fear to be able to reference scriptures that we've memorized together or maybe they're scriptures that you as a mother have memorized independently And again to be able to Utilize those in prayer that's been such a gift So we have a child that struggles with fear And every time I hear her little voice I know she's gonna come and ask me mommy would you pray for my fear She always says will you pray for my fear Like you always do

[00:39:45] **Krystal:** Hmm

[00:39:45] **Shelby:** Oh

[00:39:47] **Hunter:** And I have a whole host of verses now memorized on fear Isaiah 41:10 comes to mind fear not for I am with you So I'm going to turn it into a prayer And this is an example of how you can pray biblically Lord would you help her not to fear knowing that you are with her Would you help her not to be dismayed knowing that you are her God would you strengthen her Would you help her Would you uphold her with your righteous right hand You know again the Psalm 121 passage would you remind her that you're as near as your shade on on her right hand these types of things are such an encouragement and I can literally see them Giving her life-giving encouragement as I'm praying them over her And so that's been another really wonderful thing Um and then I think too just with evangelism I mean being able to speak to them and about oh cultural moments you're walking through target and you see a message on a t-shirt you know Hey mom what does that mean Or Hey you know we've got this book in the library Wait a second then to be able to be ready to reference scripture even if you don't have it off the top of your mind but to know where to go in the text That's another thing you may forget Some of these verses that you're memorizing That's okay It's not a big deal you know where to go And so you can reference those more readily when you need them and that should be a real encouragement to us

[00:41:09] **Krystal:** And I love too that you're creating this foundation for them When they have a question where do they go They go to God's word because we're so tempted to go Like I want to go to Google Like I want the answer right now Then went like what's going to immediately benefit me but it's not long-term And so being able to teach them like oh we see something in Target We have questions Well what does God's word say Like that's just a rhythm that I mean we need as you know adults but our kids need them too And so I think it's just such a counter-cultural way of parenting that like we have a source of truth to go to and it's not in our strength and it's not in society or on the internet but like it's in God's word that never changes Um and so I love that even in those like everyday moments like that scripture memory can benefit us in our parenting and how we we lead them to truth So I love that

[00:41:58] **Hunter:** that's a good word Krystal

[00:42:00] **Krystal:** So I know we've kind of hit on this a little bit already but can you just speak to the women listening who maybe as they're hearing this conversation they're thinking man this isn't something that I do personally or even with my family And so maybe they're feeling discouraged or maybe even battling shame in this area And since all of us are mothers and in a similar season of life with young kids I'm wondering too if you can share encouragement for the mom listening who you know they want to memorize scripture but they feel totally overwhelmed with life And they're just not sure how to add maybe one more thing to her plate

[00:42:34] **Hunter:** Yeah well sister I just want to say that I have been there there was a whole season of my life where I didn't readily reach for God's word and it took coming to my own point of desperation to realize I really can't do life Without this And so maybe just consider it a grace like the Lord Has you listening to this conversation right now If you've made it this far you already have some easy ways to begin employing the discipline of scripture memory in your life And then again I would just say Be encouraged You're not saved by the number of verses that you have memorized You are saved solely based on the performance of God's son Jesus Christ So continue to hope for him And then I'm telling you if you just find one verse that points you to him and it takes you two years to memorize it you don't even have to say it perfectly but rehearsing Reflect on it meditate on it because in it you're going to find the life that Christ offers And so I want to encourage you that if you feel discouraged you don't have to hold your practice up against another person and say man I'm not even going to do it because I can't do it You know to that degree just ask the Lord to give you a humble heart and to have eyes to see when you can reach for his word throughout your day And he's going to bless that He's going to bless you as you reach for his word and practice humility And then you may not even have the capacity to be teaching it to your kids right now You may just need to develop a practice of regularly reaching for God's word And there is benefit and value in them seeing a mother who's walking in humility and who's saying man I need God's word So I'm going to find a way to prioritize it You know however I can whenever I can that may just be keeping your Bible open on the counter every day Underline the verse that you want to commit to memory at some point and just to Take little tiny steps of obedience and knowing God's commanded this of you He has he's told us keep these words on your heart So how can you do that today Just ask him to give you eyes to see how you might just take one little tiny step to do that today

[00:44:47] **Shelby:** Yeah everybody starts somewhere you know and we all start at zero initially So I love the encouragement that you just gave And I think one more thing I just want all our listeners to know is that the Bible is for you It's not just for someone else It's not just for the people who appear to be you know two or three steps ahead of you The Bible is for you God will speak to you and transform your life through his word there's no doubt about that at all hunter we have got one more question for you It's a question We ask every guest on the podcast and at the daily grace Co we often say that the gospel changes everything And so we just want to ask you what has the gospel changed for you

[00:45:25] **Hunter:** Well I love that question And I'm so glad that you guys continually kind of ask it because it causes me to ask it of myself Like how is the gospel change this situation that I have here And that's just such a wonderful thing for me to be reflecting on but I would say just in relation to this conversation today when God made my dead heart alive he by his grace gave me taste buds for the word And it's because of the work that he did through my heart in Christ that I can say with the Psalmist sweeter than honey to my lips How sweet is your word to my tastes sweeter than honey in my mouth and so I'm so grateful that he made my dead heart alive and cause me to desire his word and for anyone who's listening that you know just doesn't desire God's word again I would encourage you just to ask him to cause you to give you new taste buds give you a taste for truth And I'm so grateful that he has done that for me in Christ

[00:46:26] **Shelby:** Mm that's so good Well hunter thank you so much for joining us today This has been incredibly encouraging conversation and we're so glad you made the time to be here

[00:46:37] **Hunter:** Ah thank you It's an honor to get to just interface with your listeners I'm so grateful for what you guys are doing at the daily grace co and we'll continue to be praying for you in the work that the Lord set before you

[00:46:49] **Krystal:** Well thank you all for joining us for today's conversation on the daily grace podcast Don't forget to subscribe to our weekly newsletter to receive free resources related to the podcast and it'll come straight to your inbox and you can click on the link in the show notes to subscribe

[00:47:03] **Shelby:** we'll be back next week with another great episode talking about how the truth of God's word impacts our everyday life But until then We hope that you will continue this conversation with us over on our Instagram at daily grace podcast We'll see you next time