Why Have a Scripture Journal?

“We often leave the most precious personal direction of the Spirit unheard because we do not record and respond to the first promptings that come to us when the Lord chooses to direct us.”

ELDER RICHARD G. SCOTT

“Get a notebook, my young folks, a journal that will last through all time, and maybe the angels may quote from it for eternity.”

PRESIDENT SPENCER W. KIMBALL

“I’ve found, as I’m sure you have, that when you’re trying to learn from the Lord and you feel an impression from the Spirit, it’s important to make a note so it will not be forgotten. The more you not only hear but abide by what you’ve been told, the more the Lord will give to you. It will come more and more rapidly and you will begin to hear and feel those impressions of the Spirit more quickly than you have previously done.”

ELDER GENE R. COOK

“The prompting that goes unresponded to may not be repeated. Writing down what we have been prompted with is vital. A special thought can be lost later in the day through the rough and tumble of life. God should not, and may not, choose to repeat the prompting if we assign what is given such a low priority as to put it aside.”

ELDER NEAL A. MAXWELL

Tips for making your journal uniquely your own.

❤ Highlight, Enlarge, underline, frame or Bold words that stand out to you as important.

❤ Draw illustrations to clarify doctrine or to add your personality to your studies.

❤ Add color to your journal. You can create a color coding system (like green for promises, red for warnings, yellow for commandments) or just use color for visual appeal.

❤ Keep a supply of pencils, pens, highlighters and colored pencils near your journal for easy access.

❤ When applicable add images, stickers, and lesson handouts to your journal.

❤ Include any questions or promptings you may have as you study in your journal.

❤ Record references (chapter, verses, authors, etc.) for future reference and further study.

❤ Keep a copy of conference talks you study next to your journal page to refer to. Don’t be afraid to mark them up.

❤ Hear a story that perfectly illustrates a point of doctrine? Don’t forget it. Record it in your journal. You’ll be glad you did!

❤ Keep plenty of paper in your journal so you’ll be ready for unexpected side paths in your learning. Go ahead and title some pages with topics of interest so you can add info to it as you come across related gems in other studies. Print the blank page (lines only) on the back side of your study pages for continued writing space.
Make it special!
Make it YOU!

This scripture journal is going to become very special to you and your posterity. Show it some LOVE! Use scrapbooking paper or fabric to make it look nice. If you have a difficult time getting your idea from your head to your hands, find someone with that talent and let them help you. You should feel happy when you see it. Don’t fret over your “imperfect” handwriting; your family will cherish the letters made by your own hand some day.

Ways to Organize

There are basically 2 ways to organize your scripture journal - alphabetically or by page numbers.

Page numbering can get a little complicated, which is why I prefer going the alphabetical route. If you can use a dictionary, you can organize your journal alphabetically.

Divide your notebook alphabetically by using notebook dividers or other means. File your pages behind their proper letter. For example - Agency, Adversity and Angels would all go behind the “A” tab. Of course topics behind each tab would need to be alphabetized as well with Adversity being first, then Agency, followed by Angels.

When you have a handout or a talk you want to study, just store it right by your note taking page for reference. You can store conference talks under “conference talks” behind the “C” tab or under the specific subject matter, which is my preference.

My journal has outgrown my notebook!
Now what?

My first inclination is to say “Pat yourself on the back for a job well done”. BUT if you’ve filled your notebook, you are already aware of the blessings that have come into your life from studying those things of eternal significance.

Once your journal is full, you’ll need to decide how you are going to finish it. You can simply keep your journal in your binder (as is) and start a new one; which is always fun.

OR you can take your pages out of your notebook and have them bound at an office supply store; in this case you can continue using your same binder.

OR you can scan each page and make it into a book through an online publishing company.

Pick up your journal. What you hold is a legacy that you will leave to your family and others you love. It’s valuable. Priceless. You need to save your hard work from moisture, heat and dust. Search out your options - This is important.

Ideas to Study


Many of these ideas came from Shannon @ TheRedHeadedHostess.com - particularly the genius idea of the comparison study page on pride and charity, and quotes about scripture journals. I owe her a huge “THANKS” for inspiring me and getting me excited about my scripture journal again. – Dana Cockrum
Comparison Study  
Become enlightened by comparing topics. (Charity/Pride, Early Church/Restored Church, World View/Lord’s View, etc.)

Liken the Scriptures  
Record ways to liken and apply scriptures to your life.

Character Analysis  
You’ll be amazed at the things you’ll discover while studying the prophets and others from the scriptures.

Timeline Study  
Discover the hand of the Lord in all things, as you study chronologically.

My Ponderings  
Record your thoughts and questions about various things, and then record the answers you find through study and prayer.
General Conference Studies
Write down impressions you receive as you study the words of the prophets and how you can apply their message to your life.

Favorite Scriptures & Quotes
Record your favorite Scriptures & Quotes and how they encourage & strengthen you.

Topic Study
Record your findings on a specific topic. Include scriptures, quotes and promptings. Some examples of study might include Prayer, Motherhood, Priesthood, The Sacrament, Relief Society, Scripture Study, Charity, etc.