

10 Methods of Number Association

- 1) Already known due to prior exposure
- 2) Position or content is obvious
- 3) Number already used in material
- 4) Sounds like the number (Rhyming Associations)
- 5) Looks like the number
- 6) Number Substitutions
- 7) Bracketing / Series Associations
- 8) Proximity (events around an existing association)
- 9) Rote memorization
- 10) Translate the number into a word

When making an association, ask yourself each of the following questions to help determine which method is best to use:

- 1) Do I already know the location of this material? Do I have a scripture memorized in this chapter?
- 2) Is the location obvious (first or last chapter in a book, a continuation of a scripture you already know, etc.)?
- 3) Is the number used somewhere in the material, or are there a number of items mentioned in the story which equals the chapter number?
- 4) Does the number rhyme with something in the material, or can the number-rhyme be used to trigger the content of the chapter?
- 5) Does the number look like something in the material (a pillar for “1”, a sail on a boat for “4”, a person bent over for “7”, glasses for “8”, a club or cane for “9”, 2 people standing together for “11”, etc.)?
- 6) Can I substitute something that already represents a number in my mind for the chapter or verse number and insert it into the story? See “Number Substitution List”.
- 7) If the material covers several verses or chapters, and you don’t want to create a separate, stand-alone association for each chapter/verse, then you have two choices. First, associate only the first and last items in the list (Bracketing) and ignore the intermediate chapters/verses. Second, create a Series Association where, **a)** you use the first topic to trigger the second, the second topic to trigger the third, etc. Such a chain is typically started with a traditional association for the first item of the list; **b)** classify the material into some kind of logical order (Logical Progression) which makes sense in your mind; or **c)** where a single image is looped through each topic to create a common storyline for the chapter/verse of the series (Thread Method); Watch the video on “Preach My Gospel” in the website for detailed examples of Series Associations, or see the “**Series Memory Techniques**” link on the website.
- 8) Is the new material next to something I already know? If it is, then the proximity to the existing association is usually sufficient to bring the new material to mind once the proximity is consciously identified.
- 9) Rote memorization is essential to the learning process, and is not inferior in any way to any of the other association methods. Use the “Rote Memorization” sheet on the website for specifics on how to memorize material correctly and efficiently.
- 10) Translation is a very powerful system which requires a little effort to master. See the “Translation Method” link in the website as well as Lesson Four for more information on how this system works.