

The Gospel and You
Working Out Your Own Salvation

By

Andrew Roberts

How to Use This Material

The purpose of *The Gospel and You: Working Out Your Own Salvation* is to build faith in teens through daily Bible study and prayer. In this way they'll be instructed, convicted, and motivated to become Christians.

It starts with a survey that participants fill out and give to the instructor. This brief survey allows the instructor to see where the teens are in their walk of faith. When the material is completed, a second survey will demonstrate what the teens have learned as well as create an opportunity for the teens to take action and obey the gospel.

The material is divided into thirteen weeks for easy use in a Bible class setting. However, the key is to get the youth to develop a habit of daily Bible study and prayer. Their faith is founded each day. To achieve this, every day of the work week has a short lesson with guided reflection and prayer. That might sound intense but it only requires ten to fifteen minutes for the typical teen to complete. Thirteen weeks of daily Bible reading and prayer is a sure beginning for a lifelong habit.

The importance of doing it daily should be stressed to the youth. One way to achieve this is to write up a pledge and post it on the classroom wall. This creates accountability and both the leader and the class can encourage each other through the process to keep their word. At the first meeting have all the teens read it and sign it. The wording can vary but should include:

- I will do the lesson every day.
- I will pray about the things I'm learning every day.
- I will ask my parents (and/ or the instructor) about anything I don't understand.
- I will come to our discussion times prepared.

Each week presents more than enough material for a leader to teach either one or two classes. Using the first survey and prior knowledge of the group, the teacher should highlight and bring out the points that are most pertinent to the teens' knowledge and abilities.

God bless the leaders and teens that explore His word and found their faith. His word never fails and the gospel is the power of salvation!

Author's Note

Thank you Irene Acuff for planting the seed that became this book.

Thanks go to my brother Jonathan for his collaboration and the Spiritbuilding team that was so excited about the project.

I'm very grateful for Christian parents who labored and prayed to instill the faith in their sons. They always involved us in Bible classes and the life of local churches wherever we lived growing up. Because of their dedication, I benefited from the efforts of countless women and men who did their best to teach the Bible on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. I consider all the various teachers and gospel preachers that I have listened to over the years and know that their voices and instruction have greatly shaped my own understanding and study. I'm so glad they made the effort.

Finally, I'm thankful for my wife Julie. She is sweet, creative, encouraging, and honest. Her love for God and commitment to following the Bible inspires me.

Andrew Roberts, January 2009

The Gospel and You

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The Gospel and You
Survey 1

Name _____

Circle or Write in the Answer

Do you believe in God? Yes No

Do you believe the Bible is inspired by God? Yes No

In your own words, what does “inspired” mean? _____

Do you believe in the Bible’s account of creation (6 days)? Yes No

Do you believe there is a heaven? Yes No

Do you believe there is a hell? Yes No

What does faith come by? _____

Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God? Yes No

Do you understand what the Bible teaches about how to become a Christian?
Yes No

According to the Bible, what must a person do to be saved? _____

What is the gospel? _____

Check One Circle That Best Describes You:

- I know nothing about the gospel. This is all brand new to me!
- I’ve heard about the gospel, but I’m not interested in learning more about it right now.
- I’ve been thinking about my relationship with God, and I have a sense that I’m not right with Him, but I haven’t done anything about it.
- I know what I must do to be saved, but I haven’t done it yet. Something is holding me back.
- I’m already a Christian. I live for God and am looking forward to going to heaven.

If you checked the last circle, explain here what you did to be saved from your sins.

Week 1 - There's More to You than Meets the Eye

Day 1 – There's Only One You

Do you know the story of David and Goliath? It is one of my favorite accounts in the Bible. Please read 1 Samuel 17, so that the story is fresh in your mind for today's study.

One of the reasons that David's battle with Goliath is so compelling is that David was physically overmatched by his opponent.

Get the picture! (You may want a calculator.)

1 cubit = approx. 18 inches.

1 foot = 12 inches.

According to 1 Samuel 17:4, about how many feet tall was Goliath? _____ ft.

1 shekel = .0319670335 pounds.

According to 1 Samuel 17:5-7, about how many pounds was Goliath's coat of mail? _____ lbs.

About how many pounds was Goliath's iron spearhead? _____ lbs.

Would you have had much confidence in David if you'd been standing in Israel's army? Remember, Goliath's spearhead was bigger than a bowling ball (bowling balls are only 16 lbs)! And what was David armed with (1 Samuel 17:40)? _____

I can't help but notice how several people in the account looked at David, sized him up, and decided he had no business being at the battle – let alone the *champion* of Israel (1 Samuel 17:8-10)! Think about it:

- David's father, Jesse, didn't think David should be fighting in the war. David didn't join the army like his brothers. He was sent to carry supplies and bring back news. Jesse wanted David to be a shepherd, not a soldier (1 Samuel 17:12-14, 17-20).
- David's oldest brother, Eliab, said David had no business there. He accused David of being irresponsible, immature, and desiring the spectacle of battle (1 Samuel 17:28).
- David's leader, King Saul, discouraged David from facing Goliath because of the giant's skill and experience (1 Samuel 17:33).
- David's opponent, Goliath, disrespected David and cursed him (1 Samuel 17:42-44).

These critics all looked on David's youth, inexperience, and small size (compared to a giant) and said, "You can't – you shouldn't be here." Now put yourself in David's shoes for a minute. If your dad, your oldest brother, and the president of the United States warned you against a job (because of danger or some other reason), wouldn't that discourage you from volunteering? Aren't those the people that we listen to and trust? But what if you knew that volunteering was the right thing to do? And you were the only one who understood that it was the right thing to do?

That's the position David was in. And it's at such critical moments that we are impressed with this truth: there is only one you. What will one person do? One person can make a huge difference in this world. But first that person has to give their heart over to God.

We've noticed some people who looked at David and discouraged him from facing Goliath, but there was One who looked on David and knew there was more to him than met the eye. Notice what God

Week 1 - There's More to You than Meets the Eye

said of David: “The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own _____, and the Lord has commanded him to be commander over His people...” (1 Samuel 13:14). That was David! God knew the heart of David: “For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward _____, but the Lord looks at the _____” (1 Samuel 16:7).¹

The Bible is full of accounts of one person giving their heart to the Lord and the Lord using them mightily.

- There was only one David who said, “Let no man’s heart _____ because of him; your _____ will go and fight with this Philistine” (1 Samuel 17:32).
- There was only one Isaiah who said, “Here am ____! Send _____” (Isaiah 6:8).
- There was only one Esther whom Mordecai told, “Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a _____ as _____?” (Esther 4:14)

There is only one you! One person in God’s service makes the difference!

- One person prays for another and accomplishes so much (James 5:15-18).
- One person carries the gospel across the street and the world (Mark 16:15-16).
- One person stands up to speak out for truth and righteousness (Ephesians 5:8-11).
- One person shares a cup of cold water (Matthew 10:42; 25:31-40).

The Gospel and You emerged from the inspired words of the apostle Paul recorded in Philippians 2:12: “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.” As we’ll learn together, these words do NOT mean that everyone has a personalized way of salvation. The verse does NOT teach that what works for one person doesn’t work for another person, so to each his own. What it does say is that each and every individual (including you) has a personal responsibility in their own salvation.

Only you can believe and obey the gospel for yourself. Only you can give your heart to the Lord. Only you have control over your conversion. There are many things in this life that you have no control over: where you were born, who your family is, physical features—the list goes on and on. But when it comes to the most important thing—whether or not to become a Christian and follow the Lord—you do have the choice!

If you choose the gospel, then you may find yourself in dilemmas like David’s from time to time. Family members may not understand or agree with your convictions. Society’s leaders might try to discourage righteousness and truth by their conduct or policies. The enemy you face seems greater than you. And at those moments *you* will be the one tested.

The Scriptures teach us that there is much more to ourselves and the world around us than what we can observe. But God knows you, loves you, and will lead you through it all. Will you follow Him? Will you be the one? Only you can decide. There’s only one you.

Reflection Time

1. What difference did David make for his family, his nation, and himself?
2. What difference could you make in the world around you by standing up and doing right?

The Gospel and You

3. What are some situations you might run into and be made to feel like David when he faced Goliath?
4. In those situations, how will you remember to do what is right, even if you're all alone?

Pray Today

In your prayer time today, ask the Lord to use this daily Bible study time to help you see and do His will for your life. Ask for the courage to do what is righteous even in times when it may be difficult or you are alone.



Week 1, Day 2 – Made in the Image of God

The universe is not an accident. Never let someone trick you into thinking that it is. There is an almighty God who spoke the universe into existence in six days. As future lessons will show, trusting the biblical teaching of creation is an informed conviction, not blind faith.

The pinnacle of God's creation is mankind. As you read Genesis 1:26-28 and fill in the chart, you'll see that God designed and treated humans differently.

Get the picture! Read Genesis 1:26-28

God Said (verse 26):

“Let Us make man in Our _____...”
“According to Our _____...”
“Let them have _____ over...all the earth...”

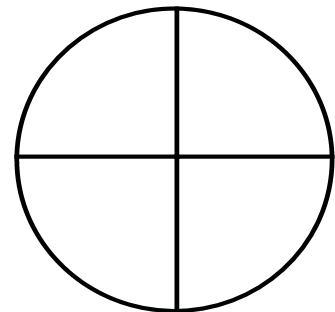
God Created (verse 27):

“God created man in His own _____”
“_____ and _____ He created them”

Then God blessed them (verse 28)!

Do you see the difference between you and all other life on earth? Human beings are unique because we were fashioned in the image of God. You are not just a bi-ped mammal; you are made by God (Genesis 2:7; Psalm 139:14)! But what does it mean to be made in God's likeness? Mark 12:30 directs people to love the Lord with the fullness of their being. And so we get a picture of what constitutes the image and likeness of God.

Read Mark 12:30 and write the four aspects of a human being in the circle.



What do these terms mean?

- **Heart** – You have free-will as well as affections.
- **Soul** – You have a soul; a part of you lasts forever. Death isn't the end of existence – it's simply the separation of body and spirit (James 2:26).