

you, me and the **Bible**

A reading guide to the six central ideas of the Bible

based on
Two Ways to Live 

background notes

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You, Me and the Bible: background notes

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Background notes

1. What is *You, Me and the Bible*?

You, Me and the Bible is the result of two good ideas coming together:

- the six-part *Two Ways to Live* gospel outline is an excellent way of explaining the biblical gospel to someone
- sitting down and reading the Bible one-to-one is an excellent way of explaining the biblical gospel to someone.

You, Me and the Bible combines these two insights into a six-part Bible reading guide built around the general framework of *Two Ways to Live*.

2. What is the content of *You, Me and the Bible*?

Each of the six parts contains two shortish Bible passages that participants read and discuss, as follows:

Part 1 (God as loving ruler and creator)

Genesis 1:26-28, 31

Revelation 4:6-11

Part 2 (Humanity rebels)

Genesis 3:1-6

Romans 1:18-25

Part 3 (God's judgement)

Deuteronomy 29:16-20

2 Thessalonians 1:6-10

Part 4 (The cross)

Isaiah 53:3-6, 9-10

1 Peter 2:22-24; 3:18

Part 5 (The resurrection)

Acts 2:22-24, 36

Acts 17:22-31

Part 6 (Two ways to live)

Matthew 6:24; 7:13-14, 24-27

John 3:16-18, 36

For each of the passages, two kinds of discussion questions are provided:

- questions to get you talking about the content and meaning of the passage
- questions to get you talking about the implications and significance of the passage.

Each session concludes with a ‘Pulling it together’ section that has four components:

- the relevant *Two Ways to Live* diagram as a basis for discussion
- a link to an optional video that summarizes the main ideas
- some discussion questions to kickstart further conversation
- other Bible passages to look up.

After the final session, a short ‘Where to from here?’ section provides some next steps.

3. What need does *You, Me and the Bible* meet?

You, Me and the Bible is a simple, easy-to-use resource to help Christians read the Bible with others, either one-to-one or in a small group of three or four people. It is ideal for:

- inviting an interested non-Christian friend to find out what the Bible really says
- explaining to friends and family what you believe (by showing them the central message of Christianity from the Bible)
- reading the Bible with a newcomer or fringe member at church to clarify and explain the gospel
- following up someone who’s been to an evangelistic event or program, helping them to understand the gospel clearly by reading it in the Bible for themselves.

4. How to use *You, Me and the Bible*

A. Invitation

To help you invite people to work through *You, Me and the Bible* with you, we have produced some lighthearted shareable video clips to break the ice. (You can find these online: matthiasmedia.com/ymb)

How you issue the invitation will obviously depend on where the relationship or conversation is up to with your friend. Your invitation could be along the following lines:

“You know that I’m a Christian, and we sometimes talk about spiritual or moral questions. But I wonder whether you’ve ever had the chance to actually read the Bible for yourself and see what Christianity is really about. I’ve got this resource called *You, Me and the Bible* that helps you do that in six parts. I could do it with you, if you like.”

B. Working through the material

- If your reading partner wants to read the passages and consider the questions in advance, feel free to encourage them to do so. It will probably help the discussion to flow—but it is not a requirement.
- In terms of your meeting time together, you’ll need to put aside around an hour to work through each of the six parts of *You, Me and the Bible* (i.e. 20 minutes for each of the two passages, and 15 minutes to pull it together at the end).
- Generally speaking, start the discussion of each passage with the questions in bold type (if you’re reading the web version on GoThereFor.com, these are the numbered questions), and then move on to the questions in the circles (the bullet-point questions in the web version). Don’t feel constrained by these questions. The idea and goal is to talk about what the passage says—what its key points and main messages are—and then to consider what these mean for us. The questions are a stimulus to this process, but not a set of tasks that have to be completed. (This is why we haven’t provided a set of ‘correct answers’ to these questions.)
- As you get to the ‘Pulling it together’ section at the end of each session, talk in a general way about how the diagram might illustrate the key points that have emerged from the passages—don’t feel you have to insert the standard *Two Ways to Live* summary statements (if you know them) into the conversation at this point if it would feel forced.

The summary videos can be used in one of two ways:

- you can watch them together and use them as a neat way to pull together the main ideas and provide a ‘landing’ for your time together
- or, if you don’t feel this would be appropriate or practical, you can watch them yourself in advance and communicate the key points yourself.

C. Follow-up

Part 6 closes with some challenging questions that set the parameters for what happens next in your relationship and discussion, and these are covered in the ‘Where to from here?’ section that concludes the booklet.

If the person is not ready to admit that they are ‘living their own way’, or is not ready to ‘live God’s way’, then provide some options for them to keep seeking and learning:

- Invite them to come to church with you.
- Give them a good book to read (e.g. *A Fresh Start* by John Chapman, or *Naked God* by Martin Ayers).
- Invite them to keep reading the Bible with you (e.g. read through Mark’s Gospel together, or work through *Tough Questions* from Matthias Media).

If they do wish to turn back to God and put their trust in Jesus, help them do this! Pray with them, and then work out how you’re going to follow them up and establish them as a new believer. As a start:

- Take them along to church with you.
- Work through the *Just for Starters* basic Bible studies together (and use *Preparing Just for Starters* to help you do this).
- Ask your pastor to coach and/or train you in discipling this new believer.

Feedback on You, Me and the Bible

We really appreciate getting feedback about our resources—not just suggestions for how to improve them, but also positive feedback and ways they can be used. We especially love to hear that the resources may have helped someone in their Christian growth.

You can send feedback to us via the ‘Feedback’ menu in our online store, or write to us at info@matthiasmedia.com.au.