



two ways to live

know and share the gospel

PARTICIPANT'S MANUAL

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Preface

In the opening chapter of Colossians, Paul writes of “*the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth*”.

The gospel itself is a growing and dynamic power, according to the Bible. It gets into people’s ears and minds, and changes them. It bears fruit and spreads and grows, throughout the whole world. This gospel cannot be contained or kept hidden, like a lamp under a bowl. It begs to be shared. The seven-week course you are about to embark upon, for which this book is the Participant’s Manual, has two simple aims:

- *to help you know and thoroughly understand this powerful gospel for yourself; and*
- *to equip you to share it with others, as you have opportunity.*

In doing so, the course doesn’t envisage that many of us will be ‘Billy Grahams’ preaching to thousands, or even that we will ‘preach’ at all. What it does aim to do is equip every Christian with a clear understanding of the key points of the gospel, so that we can share it clearly with others—whether in a particular conversation at work or after church, or in a relationship with a friend over months and years.

The *Two ways to live* gospel outline that is the basis of this course was first developed in Sydney, Australia, in the early 1980s by Phillip Jensen. Somewhat like the gospel itself, *Two ways to live* has now spread all over the world, and is used in a variety of resources, including this training course. A debt of great thanks is owed to the many people who have worked on, and improved, this course over the years—people like Colin Marshall, Owen Chadwick, John Chapman, Steve Abbott, Bronwyn Partridge, Dominic Steele, and many others.

Tony Payne

Revising editor, April 2003



session

one

1. Introductions...

Take some time to get to know the other people doing the course with you. You might like to jot down their names, so that you can remember to pray for them.

Course participants:

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2. About this course

Two ways to live: Know and share the gospel is a seven-week course that aims to equip you:

- *with a clear understanding and knowledge of the gospel of Jesus Christ; and*
- *with the basic skills of how to explain that gospel to others in your own words.*

To achieve these goals, you'll be doing a number of things over the next seven sessions:

- *Thoroughly learning the content of the biblical gospel as it is expressed in the Two ways to live outline.*
- *Receiving additional input about the inner logic and meaning of the gospel, and how the different truths of the gospel fit together.*
- *Learning how to adapt the basic Two ways to live outline to your own patterns of speech, so that you can explain your faith clearly and naturally in your own words in a variety of situations.*
- *Deepening your understanding of the principles of sharing the gospel with others.*
- *Learning prayerfulness for your non-Christian friends and family.*

Each session of the course should take around one hour to complete, depending on your group circumstances. There will also be some assignments each week to be done at home. Obviously, the benefit you receive from the course will depend to a large extent on how much effort you put into completing these assignments.

3. How well do you know the gospel?

If, in the course of conversation, an opportunity arose for you to explain your beliefs to a friend, where would you start? How would you go about explaining the Christian faith in a clear and simple way?

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4. *Two ways to live* in action

Two ways to live summarizes the main points of the biblical gospel in six simple points. Pause and have a quick look at the outline. You'll notice that the six points not only provide a brief summary of the story of the Bible, but fit logically together to explain the Christian message:

1. *God the creator; humanity ruling under his authority.*
2. *Humanity rebels, wishing to run things its own way.*
3. *God judges (and will judge) humanity for this rebellion.*
4. *In his love, God sends Jesus to die as an atoning sacrifice.*
5. *In his power, God raises Jesus to life as ruler and judge.*
6. *This presents us with a challenge to repent and believe.*

You'll be learning the *Two ways to live* outline thoroughly by heart over the next few weeks, and thinking about how the different parts relate together. However, in conversation with someone, it's hard to imagine ever just repeating the outline word for word—it's a framework upon which you hang your own words and patterns of speech.

Both steps are important:

- *learning the material thoroughly, so that it's second nature to you; so that it penetrates your thinking;*
- *and then adapting it to your own style of speaking, so that you can communicate the ideas naturally to others.*

Once the gospel is clear in your mind, and you have gained some practice in explaining it to others, you'll be equipped for the wide variety of situations that might arise in which you could say something about the gospel—whether that's an opportunity to present the whole *Two ways to live* outline to someone, or just making a couple of relevant points in an ongoing conversation with someone. (More about that in our next session.)

5. Assignment

- a. Pray about your own life and your attitudes towards sharing the gospel with others.
- b. Write down the names of two people you know who aren't Christians.

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c. Learning *Two ways to live*:

In this assignment, you'll begin the process of learning the *Two ways to live* outline off by heart.

Step 1 is to learn the drawings, not only because it's a simple place to start, but because with the drawings firmly in your mind, it's easier to learn the words that are associated with them.

Here's how we suggest you learn the drawings:

- i. Listen to the presentation on Track 3 of your Participant's CD. It has someone reading out the text of *Two ways to live*, with another voice indicating how the drawings are done at the same time. Listen to this presentation, while looking at the drawings on page 12. (NB. writing out the verse reference is considered part of 'the drawings'.) Alternatively, watch the QuickTime movie called 'Rote presentation.mov' on the CD-Rom section of the CD.
- ii. Listen to Track 3 again, or replay the movie, but this time do the drawings yourself, tracing over the 'dotted' version on page 13.

- iii. Listen to Track 3 again, or replay the movie, doing the drawings yourself on the blank template on page 14.
- iv. Listen to Track 4 (which doesn't have the prompts) and do the drawings yourself on the blank template on page 15.

Repeat steps iii and iv on some scrap paper until you can do all the drawings.

Step 2 in memorising *Two ways to live* is to begin learning the Bible verses that accompany each box. We've provided a set of 'memory cards' to help you do this inside the back cover of this Participant's Manual. (Just tear out the perforated sheet and cut along the lines.) We suggest you carry these cards around with you, so that you can review and revise what you're learning during the day whenever you get the chance.

To learn the Bible verses, we suggest you follow a procedure like this:

- i. Read the verse from your memory card two or three times aloud, starting with the reference, and repeating the reference at the end.
- ii. Now read just the first half of the verse aloud, turn the card over, and attempt to repeat the first half from memory. Repeat this process until you can say the first half of the verse from memory.
- iii. Do likewise with the second half of the verse. (Obviously, if the verse is quite short, such as Hebrews 9:27 in Box 3, you might not find it necessary to divide it in half.)
- iv. Now try it with the whole verse: read it aloud, and then turn the card over and repeat it from memory.
- v. Revise the verse often. A brief revision every day is the best way to lodge the verse firmly in your memory.

For this week, memorise Revelation 4:11.