

GOD IN ACTION



ONE ARMY: We see a God-raised, Spirit-filled Army for the 21st century - convinced of our calling, moving forward together

We will...

- deepen our spiritual life
- unite in prayer
- identify and develop leaders
- increase self-support and self-denial

ONE MISSION: Into the world of the hurting, broken, lonely, dispossessed and lost, reaching them in love by all means

We will...

- emphasise our integrated ministry
- reach and involve youth and children
- stand for and serve the marginalised
- encourage innovation in mission

ONE MESSAGE: With the transforming message of Jesus, bringing freedom, hope and life

We will...

- communicate Christ unashamedly
- reaffirm our belief in transformation
- evangelise and disciple effectively
- provide quality teaching resources

God In Action Bible Study Course

We have produced this ‘God in Action’ Bible study manual for the Swift Current Corps of The Salvation Army, September–December 2012. This course is comprised of a look at various pericopes through which one can become convinced of the truth of the doctrines of The Salvation Army. This study guide is not meant to be a complete Soldier preparation course. It will however augment any Salvation Army course: Soldier preparation, Soldier training, Local Officer training, Candidate training, new believers’ course, etc.

Because of the necessary inherent structure of topical studies, so many good training courses use proof-texting, a peppering of Biblical quotations, or a synthesis of similar passages to support the Biblical truths that they extol. It is equally valuable however to see that what we do believe can and indeed is actually derived from comprehensive, contextual study of the Scriptures themselves. With this in mind we have created the ‘God In Action’ Bible study course, which we hope will be useful to augment many Salvation Army courses. Each lesson of this 11-part Bible study will look at one or two – or in some cases three - passages of Scripture that we believe can be summed up (at least in part) by the statement of belief placed at the forefront of that lesson. In each Bible study we will be looking at different ways in which God is active in our world today. We will look at various Scriptures and we will be encouraged to ask ourselves, ‘what are we going to do about it’?

-Captain Michael Ramsay

January 10, 2013

In this Bible Study we will be looking at different ways in which God is active in our world today. We will look at various Scriptures and ask ourselves, ‘what are we going to do about it’?

Lesson 11: Matthew 7:13-27 and Chapter 25

We believe in the immortality of the soul; in the resurrection of the body; in the general judgment at the end of the world; in the eternal happiness of the righteous; and in the endless punishment of the wicked.

Background and context: This gospel was most likely written by Jesus’ disciple, the former toll-booth operator/ tax collector, Matthew (AKA Levi). It was written in and for a church predominantly composed of converts from Judaism ca. 80 CE. By the second century, Matthew was the most quoted of the gospels. Its careful structure made it suitable for use in the growing churches. Its wide-ranging collection of Jesus’ teaching on the ethics of Christian discipleship contributed its popularity.

Read Matthew 7:13-27

1. Does everyone spend eternity with the Lord?
2. What is the difference between a true and a false prophet?
3. Will everyone who calls Jesus, ‘Lord’ enter into his kingdom? If not, who will?
4. What are some of the things that people who are not a part of His kingdom but still call Jesus ‘Lord’ can do?
5. In light of verses 21-24, what is it that we must do instead of, besides, or even beyond calling Jesus ‘Lord’ and the aforementioned list of verse 22.

Read Matthew 25:31-46

1. Who does the Father bless?
2. What happens to those who are blessed?
3. Who does the Father not bless? What happens to them?
4. Into which category do we fall?

Read Matthew 25:14-30

1. Who does the master reward?
2. Who does the Master not reward and why?
3. What is the unfaithful servants reason? Is it a legitimate and acceptable excuse?
4. What happens to the unfaithful servant?
5. What happens to the faithful?

Read Matthew 25:1-13

1. Who is it that gets to be a part of the glorious eschatological party of Salvation?

What does all of this mean for us today?

Further Reading:

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Doctrines of The Salvation Army

1. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God; and that they only constitute the Divine rule of Christian faith and practice.
2. We believe that there is only one God, who is infinitely perfect, the Creator, Preserver, and Governor of all things, and who is the only proper object of religious worship.
3. We believe that there are three persons in the Godhead - the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost - undivided in essence and co-equal in power and glory.
4. We believe that in the person of Jesus Christ the Divine and human natures are united, so that He is truly and properly God and truly and properly man.
5. We believe that our first parents were created in a state of innocence, but by their disobedience they lost their purity and happiness; and that in consequence of their fall all men have become sinners, totally depraved, and as such are justly exposed to the wrath of God.
6. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has, by His suffering and death, made an atonement for the whole world so that whosoever will may be saved.
7. We believe that repentance towards God, faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and regeneration by the Holy Spirit are necessary to salvation.
8. We believe that we are justified by grace, through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ; and that he that believeth hath the witness in himself.
9. We believe that continuance in a state of salvation depends upon continued obedient faith in Christ.
10. We believe that it is the privilege of all believers to be wholly sanctified, and that their whole spirit and soul and body may be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
11. We believe in the immortality of the soul; in the resurrection of the body; in the general judgment at the end of the world; in the eternal happiness of the righteous; and in the endless punishment of the wicked.