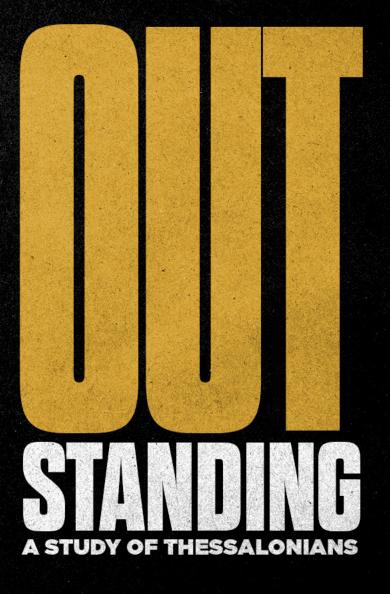
| ORDER OF SERVICE | April 23, 2023 | Who's your human "parent" in God's family? A little background | 5-12 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Worship in Fellowship Worship in Music Worship in the Lord's Supper Worship in Message Worship in Giving | Jared Coe Wayne Braudrick | The one who labors for you | |
| Walk Worthy of God | | The one who sacrifices for you | |
| 1 Thessalonians 2 | Outstanding Series | , | |
| Life Change: We live for an audience of One | | | |
| Family reunion conversations | | The one who spurs you on | |
| Who's your real Daddy? The Giver of boldness | 1-4 | The point: walk in a manner worthy of God Imitate our Daddy | 12-16 |
| The One whose approval matters | | Be directed by God's word | |
| Paul learned that to keep you in line with the spirit of the age the world will bribe, seduce, slander, beat, and even chase you away. But even while experiencing this, Paul lived boldly, pleasing God. He allowed friends and enemies alike to, in John Eldredge's phrase, "feel the weight" of who he was in Christ. His enemies dealt with it by violence against his person. But many Thessalonians dealt with it by believing the message he was living out, and by becoming imitators of him in action (1:3-6) and imitators of the churches in | | Stand strong against the opposition Confidence in atheism was quick to evaporate with the coming of intellectual | |
| Judea in suffering (2:14). Having accepted the word of God, they in turn were letting the people around them feel the weight of who they truly were. – Randall Satchell | | freedom. – Paul Froese, <i>The Plot to Kill God</i> | |



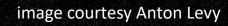






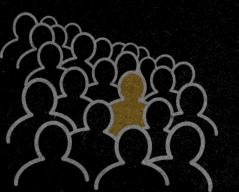






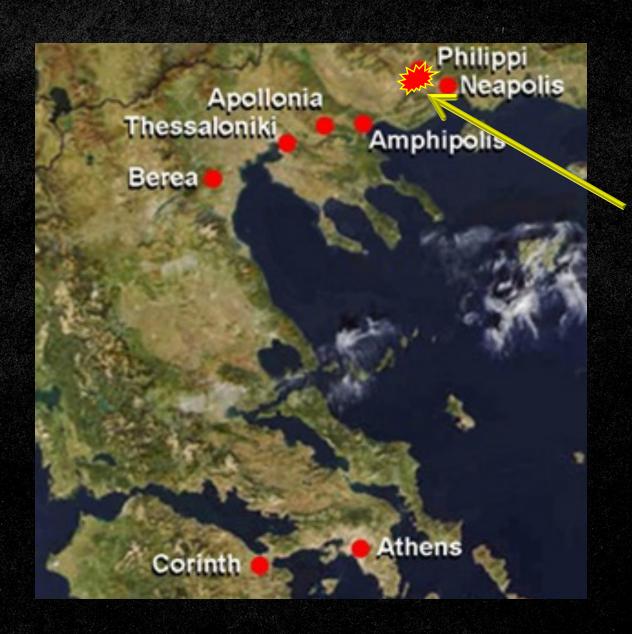


- Deeper & wider familial connections.
- Greater appreciation for those who went before you.
- Gratitude for family acceptance.
- Determination to do well. (By the way, this one's true even if your family is a collection of complete losers. You walk away determined to <u>not</u> be like them and do good instead!)
- A sense of strength that you aren't alone in life's battles.

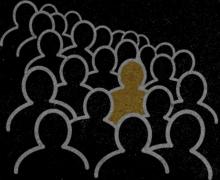


¹ For you yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our visit with you was not without result. 2 On the contrary, after we had previously suffered and were treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, we were emboldened by our God to speak the gospel of God to you in spite of great opposition. ³ For our exhortation didn't come from error or impurity or an intent to deceive. 4 Instead, just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please people, but rather God, who examines our hearts.





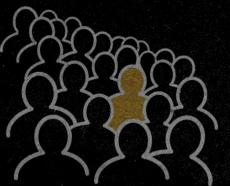
Persecution here



Philippi Neapolis Apollonia Thessaloniki Amphipolis Berea Athens Corinth

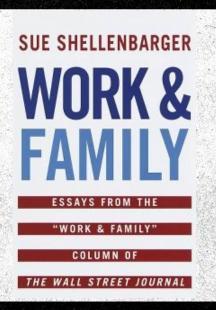
Persecution here

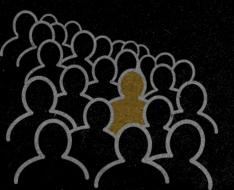
And more here



¹ For you yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our visit with you was not without result. 2 On the contrary, after we had previously suffered and were treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, we were emboldened by our God to speak the gospel of God to you in spite of great opposition. ³ For our exhortation didn't come from error or impurity or an intent to deceive. 4 Instead, just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please people, but rather God, who examines our hearts.

The way dads tend to interact has long-term benefits for kids, independent of those linked to good mothering. – Sue Shellenbarger, "Dad Matters" in *Work & Family*





Dads have a reflexive tendency to distract the child by directing her attention to another activity or carrying her to

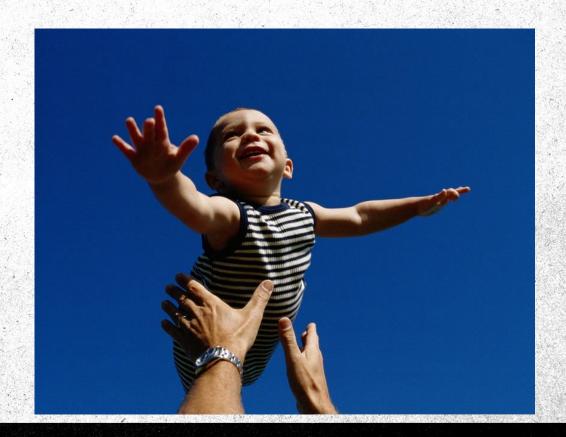
another part of the playground. This can help kids develop the resiliency needed to shake off small setbacks and move on.

Anna Sarkadi,Acta Paediatrica Volume 97



"Fathers' impact on kids' behavior may begin as early as infancy" Behavioral and Brain Sciences





brothers and sisters...after we had previously suffered and were treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, we were emboldened by our God to speak the gospel of God to you in spite of great opposition.

brothers and sisters...after we had previously suffered and were treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, we were emboldened by our God to speak the gospel of God to you in spite of great opposition.

1 Thessalonians 2 CSB

Whatever kind of parent you had as a child, we have the perfectly engaged, loving, strong Father in God. He is the Giver of boldness. He helps us develop the resiliency needed to shake off setbacks and move on.

⁴ Instead, just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please people, but rather God, who examines our hearts.





⁴ Instead, just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please people, but rather God, who examines our hearts.



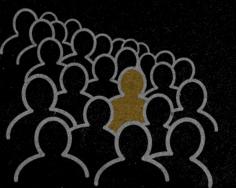
Paul learned that to keep you in line with the spirit of the age the world will bribe, seduce, slander, beat, and even chase you away. But even while experiencing this, Paul lived boldly, pleasing God. He allowed friends and enemies alike to, in John Eldredge's phrase, "feel the weight" of who he was in Christ. His enemies dealt with it by violence against his person. But many Thessalonians dealt with it by believing the message he was living out, and by becoming imitators of him in action (1:3-6) and imitators of the churches in Judea in suffering (2:14). Having accepted the word of God, they in turn were letting the people around them feel the weight of who they truly were. - Randall Satchell

⁵ For we never used flattering speech, as you know, or had greedy motives—God is our witness—⁶ and we didn't seek glory from people, either from you or from others. ⁷ Although we could have been a burden as Christ's apostles, instead we were gentle among you, as a nurse nurtures her own children. 8 We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. 1 Thessalonians 2 CSB

⁹ For you remember our labor and hardship, brothers and sisters. Working night and day so that we would not burden any of you, we preached God's gospel to you. 10 You are witnesses, and so is God, of how devoutly, righteously, and blamelessly we conducted ourselves with you believers. ¹¹ As you know, like a father with his own children, ¹² we encouraged, comforted, and implored each one of you to walk worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory. 1 Thessalonians 2 CSB

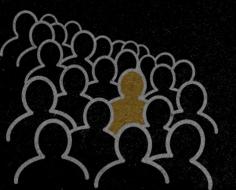


Sir William Ramsay proved that the first Christians were disproportionately wealthy.



- The apostles are just in it for the money.
- This movement is a rebellion against Rome.
- The apostles are just brainwashing people. No one would freely believe the goofiness of salvation by God's grace.





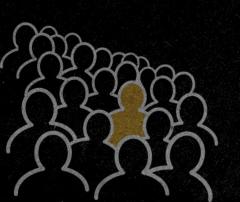
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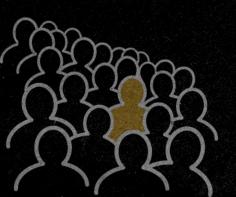
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1 Thessalonians 2 CSB



Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Matthew 20:27 NIV















⁷ Although we could have been a burden as Christ's apostles, instead we were gentle among you, as a nurse nurtures her own children. ⁸ We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.

1 Thessalonians 2 CSB

pagan thinking: children are for the adult's pleasure

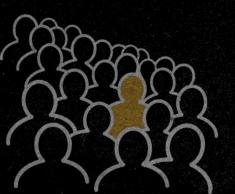


biblical thinking: adults are to serve children





Child sacrifice
Stora Hammars I stone
ca. 9th century



This is why Vikings killed babies, why Canaanites burned kids to Molech, why parents take their children to gay pride parades, why abortion is deemed "health care", and why

predatory priests abuse children. The child is sacrificed to whatever makes the adult feel better.



Child sacrifice
Stora Hammars I stone
ca. 9th century

⁷ Although we could have been a burden as Christ's apostles, instead we were gentle among you, as a nurse nurtures her own children. ⁸ We cared so much for you that



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pagan thinking: children are for the adult's pleasure



biblical thinking: adults are to serve children



The enforcement of criminal law...may not be linked to the sex/gender of participants or age of consent to marriage. Moreover, sexual conduct involving persons below the domestically prescribed minimum age of consent to sex may be consensual in fact, if not in law.

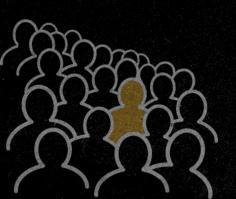


– United Nations,"8 March Principles"

⁷ Although we could have been a burden as Christ's apostles, instead we were gentle among you, as a nurse nurtures her own children. ⁸ We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of

God but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.

¹¹ As you know, like a father with his own children, ¹² we encouraged, comforted, and implored each one of you to walk worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.







Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not forsaking the assembly as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10: 24-25 NAV

Many of us are in need of a breakthrough regarding apathy. Scripture invites us to experience the healing power of honesty. Confession to others helps remove the burden of our sin sickness. [See James 5:16.] It also empowers others to help us avoid sin through prayer, their positive example, and practical interventions. Apathy, like other sicknesses, thrives when dwelling in the dark alone. According to one sixth-century writer OVERCOMING APATHY [John Climacus], apathy "is a constant companion Gospel Hope for Those Who Struggle to Care

of the hermit." In honesty, we are dragging our

apathy into the light.

available in FBC Book Nook



Read by Donald Gadson Jr.

Honesty is not about being self-hating and self-deprecating; it's about embracing the truth of our situation. Honesty is about owning our true selves – including sins – before God and other people so that we can experience healing. All this points to the necessity of living in community with other Christians...God is



the only one who has no need of community outside himself. Our disconnection from community is an implicit pretense of deity, a claim to a sort of divine self-sufficiency.

- Uche Anizor, Overcoming Apathy

Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not forsaking the assembly as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10: 24-25 NAV

¹² we encouraged, comforted, and implored each one of you to walk worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory. ¹³ This is why we constantly thank God, because when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you welcomed it not as a human message, but as it truly is, the word of God, which also works effectively in you who believe.

¹⁴ For you, brothers and sisters, became imitators of God's churches in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, since you have also suffered the same things from people of your own country, just as they did from the Jews 15 who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and persecuted us. They displease God and are hostile to everyone, ¹⁶ by keeping us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. As a result, they are constantly filling up their sins to the limit, and wrath has overtaken them at last.

12 we encouraged, comforted, and implored each one of you to walk worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.



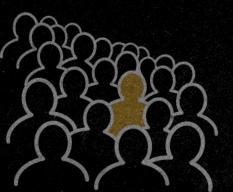


...a man after God's own heart.

1 Samuel 13:14 CSB







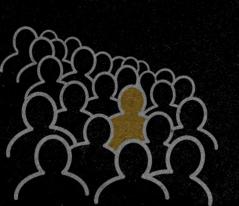
David stands up to Goliath Natasha Ruddock 2017





David E. Davis, Jr.

I gave a speech to a large group of GM executives. The speech appeared to go well, and the applause felt genuine. I went home pleased and thought no more about it until I received the following letter:





Dear David: You asked for feedback on your remarks at our recent conference. The data is just now available. The rating scale was zero to ten with ten being "best." The five non-GM speakers had scores ranging from zero to ten. Yours ranged from three to ten. The five "outside speakers" average scores ranged from 5.25 to 8.25. Your average was 7.35. Two speakers had higher scores than yours. Your standard deviation from the mean was 1.719 and ranked second among the variances, showing that most people had a similar opinion about your remarks. Thank you for your participation. Signed: Outside Speaker Effective Analysis Group

Bob Lutz – another car guy – shared this insight about that story: An "outside speaker effective analysis group?" This was the result of too much money and too many overly educated, almost academically-oriented people focusing

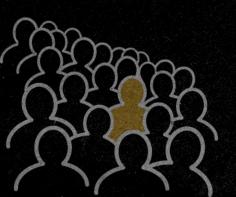


their ray guns of unbridled excellence on <u>targets of</u> <u>complete irrelevance</u>.

- Bob Lutz, in *Car Guys vs. Bean*Counters: The Battle for the Soul
of American Business

We make it our aim to be pleasing to him.

2 Corinthians 5:9 CSB



¹³ This is why we constantly thank God, because when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you welcomed it not as a human message, but as it truly is, the word of God, which also works effectively in you who believe. 14 For you, brothers and sisters, became imitators of God's churches in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, since you have also suffered the same things from people of your own country, just as they did from the Jews









Am I going the right way, Daddy?



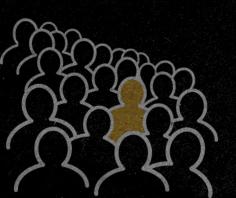
1 Thessalonians 2 CSB

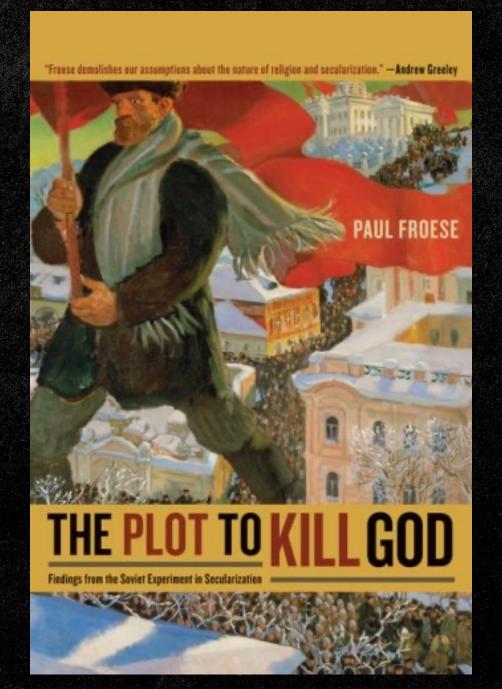
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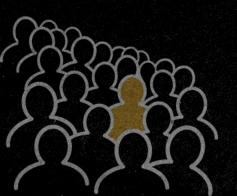




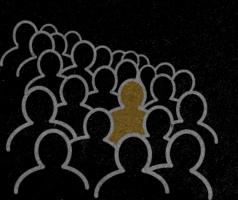
courtesy University of California Press, which seems rather ironic

Through the Committee on the Execution of the Decree Separating Church and State, which called itself "The League of Militant Atheists," [Soviet officials] spread the message that religion was scientifically falsifiable...they used universities to educate a new generation of antireligious intellectuals.

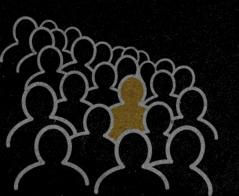
- Paul Froese, The Plot to Kill God



Schoolchildren were taught that religious belief was just plain stupid, and Soviet citizens encountered daily statements about the falsity and dangers of religion in the media and in their places of work. These propaganda tactics were intended to not only alter behavior but also to convert the population into convinced atheists. – Paul Froese, *The Plot to Kill God*

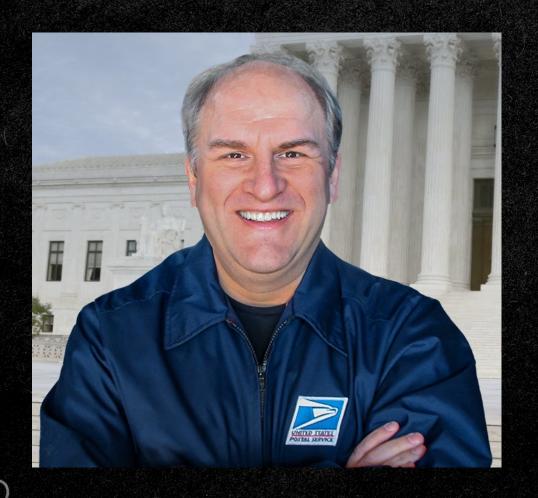


[These] ideas of Marxist-Leninists fit firmly within an ongoing movement within the sociology of religion which asserts that modern economies, technologies, and cultures naturally dispel public religiosity. – Paul Froese, *The Plot to Kill God*



Soviet policies that destroyed religious institutions and eliminated religious leaders followed the basic logic of sociological theories, which state that religious persistence is simply a process of socialization. In theory, without churches and religious activists, religion would go away. – Paul Froese, *The Plot to Kill God*





Gerald Groff:
postal worker
wrongfully forced to
quit his job because of
his religious beliefs

...the Jews ¹⁵ who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and persecuted us. They displease God and are hostile to everyone, ¹⁶ by keeping us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. As a result, they are constantly filling up their sins to the limit, and wrath has overtaken them at last.

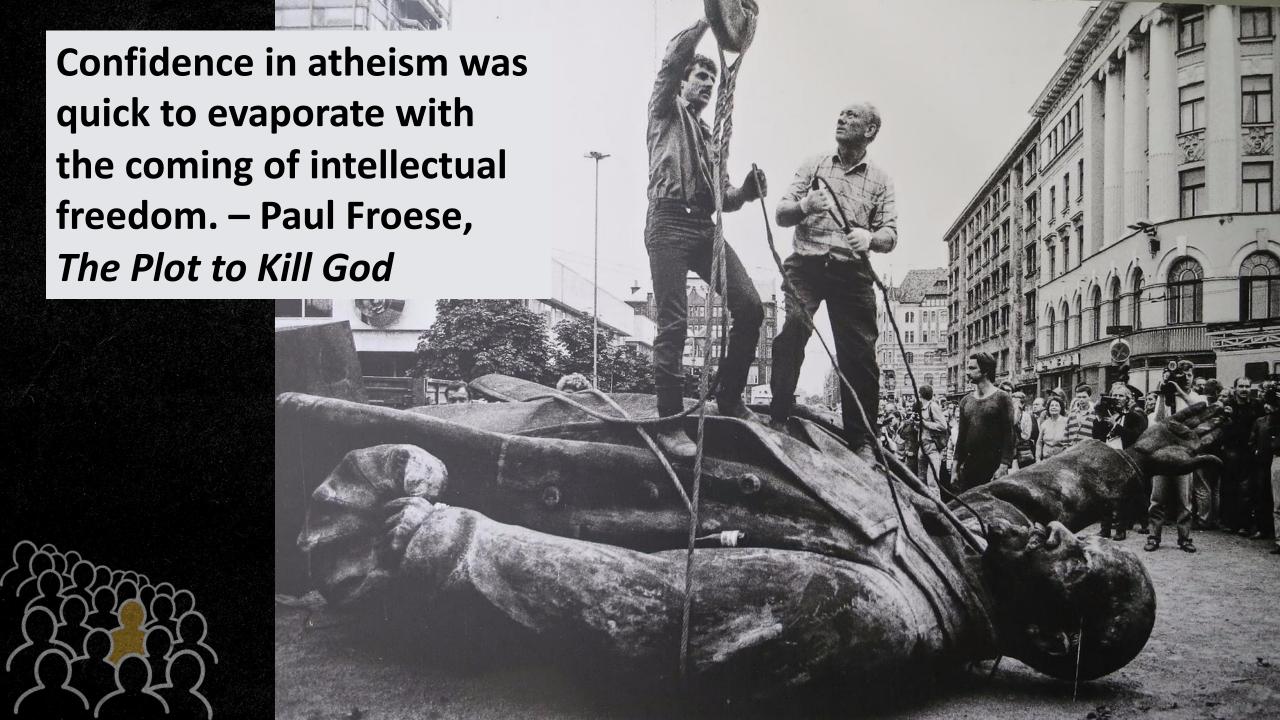


Memo (from archives of the CCCP opened to study in 1991)

Day (blurred) Year: 1937

To: Yosef Stalin, General Secretary, Communist Party of the Soviet Union From: Yemelyan Yaroslavsky, Chairman, League of Militant Atheists

Comrade Chairman, religion is like a nail, the harder you hit it the deeper it goes.



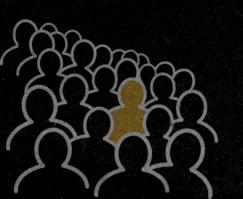
1 Thessalonians 2 CSB

..the Jews 15 who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and * persecuted us. They displease God and are hostile to everyone, 16 by keeping us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. As a result, they are constantly filling up their sins to the limit, and wrath has overtaken them at last.



Slaying Goliath
Robert Leinweber
1900

I don't usually give a lot of specific applications because it can be limiting & even insulting. You Christians have the Holy Spirit inside and you surely don't need specifics from me about how to apply His word.





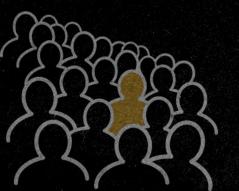
God the Father **Artus Quellius the** Younger 1620

- 1. Be bold in God.
- 2. Do your best!





- 1. Be bold in God.
- 2. Do your best.
- 3. Serve the family of God!

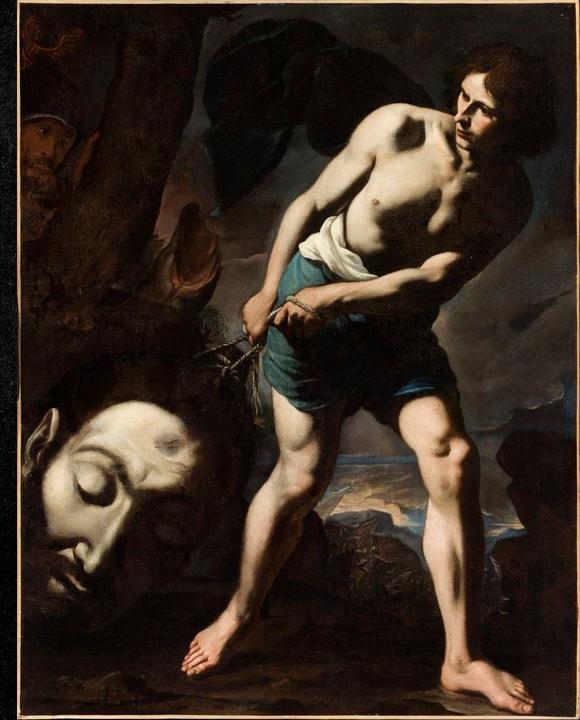




- 1. Be bold in God.
- 2. Do your best.
- 3. Serve the family of God.
- 4. Stop fearing defeat from enemies!

David with head of Goliath
Andrea Vacarro
1635





Audience of One 1. Be bold in God. 2. Do your best. 3. Serve the family of God. 4. Stop fearing defeat from enemies! 5. Work for God's approval only! courtesy Audun Bakke Andersen

We make it our aim to be pleasing to him.

2 Corinthians 5:9 CSB

