

The Gospel Project for Adults, Summer 2016  
Extended Instructional Approaches for Session 2

**Introduction:** *Stimulate the group's thinking.*

Ask your students to evaluate the following statement: “*Partial obedience is total disobedience.*” Have them give examples.

**Part 1:** *Stimulate your group with a musical example.*

Frank Sinatra is internationally known for his musical ability. One of his most famous songs was “My Way.” Write the following verse on the board from that song:

*For what is a man, what has he got?  
If not himself, then he has naught.  
To say the things he truly feels;  
And not the words of one who kneels.  
The record shows I took the blows—  
And did it my way!*

Ask your students to comment on the sentiment in this verse, especially lines 4 and 5. As an alternative, you can have your students listen to the song instead of displaying the verse. If you choose to use this option, the song is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1t8kAbUg4t4> (4 minutes, 34 seconds).

**Part 2:** *Check for understanding using the “Think-Pair-Share” technique.*

The main precept we focus on in this section is rationalization of our disobedience. Have your group members view the video clip “Grown Ups Lie” from the movie *Liar Liar*. This clip is available on WingClips at <http://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/liar-liar/grown-ups-lie> (2 minutes, 51 seconds).

**Think-Pair-Share:** As your group members watch the video, ask them to listen to the rationalizations that the father, Fletcher, gives to his son, Max. “**Think** for 30 seconds about the excuses and rationalizations given. What are your impressions? Now I want you to discuss this in **pairs** with a person on your left or right who is not your spouse.” Pause for 60 seconds. Call on 3-4 pairs to **share** one idea.

**Part 3:** *Engage group to examine their attitude in regards to approval.*

There is a tendency in all of us to crave human approval, even at the expense of God's approval. Divide your class into 2-3 groups. Give each a copy of the poem "It Makes Me Wonder." After about five minutes, have them each give their impressions.

*Lord, sometimes I wish I was the one who always had the stage,  
That people thought I was wonderful and always gave me praise.  
I'd love to get the glory; I'd love to steal the show.  
I'd love to watch them standing when I look into the rows.*

*But what if tonight when I walked on stage I found I was alone,  
And all the seats were empty and everyone else was home?  
Can I honestly say that I would stay and do my best for you  
If no one else were there to notice all the things I do?  
It makes me wonder...*

*Would I give it my all if I were always standing on an empty stage?  
Would I still go the distance if no one gave me praise?  
Would I want to shine so brightly if I was only in Heavenly light?  
Lord, would I care to share if it was just You here tonight?*

*What motivates my actions in everything I do?  
Am I really just serving me while I'm pretending I'm serving You?  
Lord, you know how much I need to hear that everyone knows my name.  
But if they don't know yours, how much have I really gained?*

*So if I should ever stand on stage and listen to the cheers  
Remind me that's just noise unless Yours are the claps I hear.  
Whatever I do in this life may I always long for Your praise.  
Whenever I look to the world for esteem, may Your blood humble me back  
into place.  
And if I ever should get angry for not receiving the credit I'm due,  
Lord, remind me that instead of a pat on the back, they gave a cross to You.*

[Source: Laura R. David, "It Makes Me Wonder," Anita's Christian Oasis [online], 2002 [9 May 2016]. Available from the Internet: <http://www.christianoasis.com/wonder.html>.]

**Conclusion: Challenge through a moment of conviction.**

"Pride comes before destruction, and an arrogant spirit before a fall" (Prov. 16:18). The root cause of Saul's failure was his pride; he thought too highly of his opinion that caused him to devalue God's word.

Ask your students to spend a few minutes examining their own view of both themselves and God. Exhort them confess sin, if necessary. The goal of this exercise is to follow the admonition of John the Baptist: “He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30).

### **Teaching Tip of the Week**

“If we have learned anything else, it is that the ideas of the poets and artists penetrate where everything else has failed,” writes Norman Cousins in *Human Options*. We have a tendency as teachers to focus primarily on the facts and ignore the imagination. If we can engage the imagination of our group members by painting word pictures, using music, or something else that appeals to their imaginations, we will not only affect their heads but their hearts. And isn't the goal of all good teaching life change? Think about what you can do this week to implement this in your lesson.

[Source: Norman Cousins, *Human Options* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1981), 100.]