

# SAM119

## ISSUE 3 STUDY NOTES

We're reaching the crux of the story, the bit where things are coming to a head, and getting set for a dramatic climax. So how did you find this issue? Did you find the way the story continues the way you expected it to? Or were there any surprises? The big surprise in this comic was the revelation that Dog was the traitor, did you guess it was him before hand?

How do you react when people let you down? As Christians we are told to love our enemies – but most of us have our limits if we are honest. Where is your limit? What wouldn't you let someone get away with?

Read Luke 6:27-31.

These are really tough words, but lets be real, this is what Jesus has told us to do! So what does it mean to love your enemy? How can we actually do that? Give concrete examples from your life.

Given that the world of Bridge city is a bit different to our world, what do you think should happen to Dog for the sake of justice? (Answers on a post card please.)

How did Jesus treat those who betrayed him (Judas being the classic example)? Is the same level of behaviour expected of us?

Risk – as you get older life is more and more about risk. The flipside of risk is faith – can you trust God enough to do something that seems so risky that other people say 'don't do it!'

Can you think of situations where God has placed you in a position that requires you to take a risk? What about in the future – are there things that you might choose to do with your life that would seem too risky for non Christians?

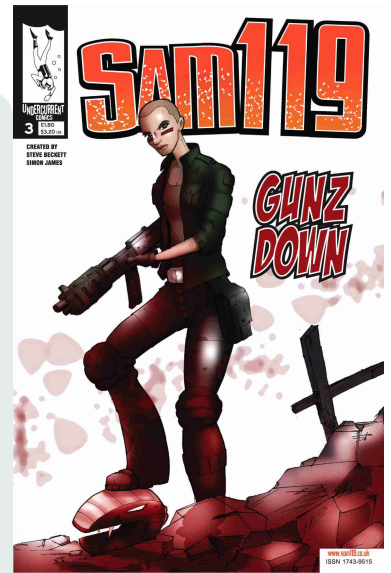
If you think more widely about Christian lifestyles, can you think of other risks people take that go against the wisdom of the world?

Examples... (could be: giving up jobs to do something they believe God is telling them to do, not having their own house, or living in a dodgy area so that you can reach out to people, or etc.)

Cyborgs – there's loads of them in SAM119, we talked about the idea of post humanism before, but in this issue Eli tells SAM that the hoods are: "pure artifice and therefore... soulless".

At what point would someone or something no longer have a soul? Would a clone have a soul? Could a robot have a soul if you were to integrate it with a human? What does that mean for people who are only kept alive by mechanical devices (the famous scientist Steven Hawking for example).

We got to meet the Remnant this time, can you think of countries where the church or missionaries are forced underground a bit like this? Do you ever pray for those places? Chinese, N. Vietnamese, some arab/N African countries etc. Can you take on the challenge of consistently remembering believers in a persecuted country in prayer?



Mole is such an engaging character he is probably more popular than SAM119 (quick poll – who prefers Mole to SAM119?) He even got his own little back up strip in this issue! But his attitude is very different from a Christian one, do you think he is right to be ready to wreak a death or glory style vengeance on the snakes? What do you think the solution is? Fight or hide? Or is there another option?

We hope you liked the Sherlock Holmes back up strip, there are lots of things in the world that point towards the reality of God's existence, and sometimes it is useful to think about them. When God seems very distant, or unreal, it can be great to think to yourself: 'hang on, is God really there? What are the alternatives? Could there really be no such thing as God?

The more we consider this stuff, the more we can understand how other people who don't know Jesus think, so lets have some points: what makes you believe that God really exists (no flakey stuff allowed)?

