The Adventures of Archie and His Friends

Meet Archie, Jughead, Veronica and the whole gang! They're all here in Spire Comics!

Plenty of fun... oodles of laughs... and a very special message. Archie is greater than ever—and Archie's got something no other comic has! You'll love his comic book adventures with all his old—and new—buddies. Read all of 'em—Archie is really something else!

Kids, you'll love my Comic Books!

All the Archie Comics, and other SPIRE COMICS, are at your local Christian bookstore.

This incredible story is true! It started yesterday! It continues today!

The Cross and the Switchblade

The Daily News

Seven teen-agers murder polio victim

Brutal stabbing in New York City

You can't go! Your baby is due!

You'd better watch yourself, David!

Those punks don't belong to the 4-H Club!

If the Lord is really leading you in this, you should go, darling.

You'll need money for the trip, pastor!

The congregation has taken a collection!

This crime turns my stomach.

And yet...

I've got to go to New York and help those boys!

They don't deserve help, David!
UH, MY NAME IS DAVID WILKERSON---I'M A PASTOR FROM A SMALL CHURCH IN PENNSYLVANIA.

SO WHAT DO YOU WANT?
A MEDAL?

I'D LIKE TO TALK WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE DRAGON GANG.

PROSECUTOR

NO WAY, BUSTER!

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

MY MONEY IS RUNNING OUT. I CAN'T STAY MUCH LONGER. THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO SEE THOSE BOYS.

TELL IT TO THE JUDGE!
HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN CLEAR YOU, PAL!

YEAH, THIS IS THE DRAGON GANG TRIAL! BUT THE JUDGE JUST CALLED FOR ADJOURNMENT!

OH, NO!
I'VE GOT TO SEE HIM!
YOUR HONOR, PLEASE!
I'D LIKE AN AUDIENCE WITH YOU!
WHO'S THAT NUT?
CAREFUL! HE'S GOT SOMETHING IN HIS HAND!
COULD BE A GUN! OR A BOMB!
IT LOOKS LIKE A --- A BIBLE!

HEH, REV'RIN' --- YOU ASHAMED OF THAT BOOK?
OF COURSE NOT!

WELL, HOLD IT UP SO WE CAN SEE IT!
They've made a fool of me!
How will I ever face my church?

Lord, you've promised that everything that happens to us will work out right when we really trust you... but I don't understand this???

Hey, Davie!

You're the preacher they kicked out of the dragon gang trial.

How did you know?

Your mug's been in all the papers. You're one of us!

Uh-- I'm one of you?

Sure, the cops don't like you and they don't like us!

We're in the same boat!

Why did I ever question the way the Lord works? He knew what he was doing!

Hold it, Davie!
YOU'RE OKAY NOW---
BUT IF YOU EVER TURN ON US---

COOL IT, JO-JO!

C'MON, DAVIE!
WANT TO MEET THE REST OF THE GANG?

WHEN THE LORD PLANS THINGS, HE DOESN'T MISS A SINGLE DETAIL!

THIS IS NEW YORK CITY AT ITS WORST!

AND IF I'M GOING TO RAISE MY SIGHTS---
I'LL HAVE TO LOWER MY EYES!

MARIA, I WANT YOU TO MEET A FRIEND!

SHE'S HIGH!

THIS IS THE PREACHER THEY KICKED OUT OF THE DRAGON GANG TRIAL!

WHAT'D YA COME FOR MISTER?
I... I CAME TO TELL YOU... GOD LOVES YOU!

AND HE KNOWS WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR WITH YOUR DRUGS AND DRINKING AND SEX...

AND HE WANTS YOU TO HAVE WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR!

BUT YOU WON'T FIND IT HERE!

NOT LIKE THIS!

I'M A MAINLINER, PREACHER!

THERE'S NO HOPE FOR ME!

NOT EVEN FROM GOD!

WHO ARE YOU WILLING TO BELIEVE, MARIA---

MAN OR GOD?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
MEDICAL EXPERTS SAY IT'S REALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO CURE A HEROIN ADDICT---
GOD SAYS NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE TO HIM!
IT'S LONESOMENESS THAT CAUSES THIS, DAVIE!
LONESOMENESS IN A CITY OF EIGHT MILLION?

YEAH! EIGHT MILLION PEOPLE ALL GOING THEIR OWN WAY!
WE'RE GROWING UP IN A VACUUM!
NO LOVE, NO DIRECTION, NO CARE!
WE'RE SCARED, AND THIS IS THE ONLY WAY WE CAN FILL OUR LIVES!

GOD HAS A MUCH BETTER WAY!
HE WOULDN'T TOUCH US WITH A TEN-FOOT POLE!
YOU'VE NEVER GIVEN HIM A CHANCE!
KEEP IT UP, PREACH!
YOU'RE COMING THROUGH!
GOD KNOWS ALL ABOUT YOU...  WHO YOU'VE HURT...  WHO YOU'VE BEEN LAYING AROUND WITH...  WHO YOU'VE RIPPED OFF...

THAT'S WHY HE SENT HIS SON...  FOR GOD SO LOVED...

KNOCK IT OFF, PREACHER!

YOU SHOT YOUR MOUTH OFF LONG ENOUGH!  WAIT, NICKY!  HE'S ON OUR SIDE!

I'M THE LEADER OF THE MAU MAUS, AND YOU'RE NOT GONNA BREAK US UP WITH THAT LOVE JAZZ!

THERE AIN'T NO LOVE IN THIS STINKIN' WORLD!  NICKY, I---

YOU'D BETTER SPLIT, MAN!  I'VE HAD A BELLY FULL OF YOU!

DO AS HE SAYS, DAVIE!
NICKY Cruz has knifed sixteen people. One more would mean nothing to him.

You'll never see that kind of a miracle.

Man says, "Seeing is believing." God says, "Believing is seeing."

Why does that fink preacher bug me?!

Why needs it? I've got wall-to-wall girls anytime I want!

All that talk about love?

I can't sleep? Why? Why?

That's gospel music! It's coming from this church.
WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE!

BUT THEY TRUST YOU, DAVID! THEY'LL LISTEN TO YOU!

WE MUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY THE LORD HAS GIVEN US.

WE'LL HOLD A WEEK-LONG MASS RALLY!

YOU'LL BE ABLE TO TALK TO ALL THE GANGS!

I... I DON'T THINK I CAN STAY THAT LONG.

I HAVE NO MONEY!

I'VE BEEN SLEEPING IN MY CAR!

YOU WILL STAY WITH US, DAVID!
You realize, darling, the rally is planned just when our baby is due.

I know, Gwen!

But I've got to try to change this world our child is coming into!

We've hired buses to bring gangs from all over the city!

But will they come?

I'm not gonna leave my turf and be jumped by another gang!

You're not going to bug me!

I don't need what you're selling!

That's only for weaklings!

If the boys want love, they can come to me!

It's going to take a miracle, David!

That's exactly what we'll pray for!

Maria!
WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO BREAK UP MY GANG WITH YOUR RALLY?

SHE'S HIGH ON HEROIN.

I'M GOING TO CUT MY THROAT.

I'LL STICK MYSELF LIKE A PIG AND YOU'RE GOING TO WATCH!

CAREFUL!

SHE'LL DO WHAT SHE SAYS.

DON'T DO IT, MARIA!

DON'T!

THERE'S NO OUT FOR ME!

I'M HOOKED!

GIVE GOD A CHANCE, MARIA!

IT'S TOO LATE---

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE FOR GOD!

TRUST HIM, MARIA!

TRUST HIM!

I --- I'VE TRIED EVERYTHING ELSE!

THANK YOU, MARIA!

PHONE DAVID!
GWEN DARLING! HOW ARE YOU?
I'M FINE DAVID! THE DOCTOR SAYS THE BABY COULD COME ANYTIME NOW.

I SHOULD BE WITH YOU!
I WISH YOU WERE, DEAR!

BUT THE DOCTOR WON'T LET YOU HOLD MY HAND... AND I'D MISS YOU EVEN IF YOU WERE IN THE NEXT ROOM!

BABIES HAVE BEEN BORN BEFORE WITHOUT THEIR FATHER'S ASSISTANCE! YOU DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO...

AND GOD BE WITH YOU, DAVID!

I WONDER IF I'LL HAVE NEW BIRTHS TO REPORT TO GWEN!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

JESUS SPOKE OF EVERYONE'S NEED FOR A NEW BIRTH... A NEW BEGINNING.

THAT SOUNDS GREAT! BUT LIFE ISN'T EXACTLY LIKE THAT.

LIFE IN CHRIST IS EXACTLY LIKE THAT, MARIA.

COME TO THE RALLY, MARIA!

YOU'LL HEAR HOW CHRIST CAN TAKE AWAY ALL THE OLD THINGS AND MAKE EVERYTHING NEW!

MAYBE...
65 CHURCHES ARE WORKING WITH US, BUT NOT MANY YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE RESPONDED.

I'M AFRAID THEY'VE COME MOSTLY FOR KICKS!

MY YOUNG FRIENDS, I'M GLAD YOU'VE COME...

ATTABOY, DUDE.

DO THE CHICKEN, DADDY!

HAH! LISTEN TO THAT MEATHEAD!

YOU CAN TELL HE'S FROM THE STICKS!

UH, I HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO SAY...

HAH! HA! HA!

I'M NOT REACHING THEM!

THIS IS A SHAMBLES!

RALLY DAVID WILKERSON

WHAT DID I DO WRONG?

WHAT ELSE COULD I HAVE DONE?
LORD, SHOW ME THE WAY.
I'VE GOT TO MAKE CONTACT SOMEHOW.

NICKY, I WANT TO TALK TO YOU.

WELL, I DON'T WANT TO TALK TO YOU, PREACHER.

I'M GOING TO STAY HERE UNTIL I FIND OUT WHERE YOU LIVE.

YOU'RE SITTING IN MY PARLOR!

WHERE DO YOU GO WHEN IT RAINS?

I MOVE DOWN TO MY SUITE IN THE SUBWAY.

LOOK, RICH MAN, IT'S ALL RIGHT FOR YOU TO TALK BIG ABOUT GOD CHANGING LIVES...

YOU'VE GOT IT MADE.

BUT TAKE A GOOD LOOK AROUND YOU.
IF GOD IS FOR REAL WHY DOESN'T HE DO SOMETHIN' FOR US?

THIS KID DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A DECENT PAIR OF SHOES.

HERE, LITTLE BO.

WHAT'S THE GIMMICK?

TRYIN' TO PROVE YOU'VE GOT HEART OR SOMETHIN'?

MAYBE HE DOESN'T WANT YOUR STINKIN' SHOES!

I'D LIKE YOU TO HAVE THEM!

I NEVER HAD NEW SHOES!

PUT THEM ON!

THEY'RE YOURS!

AND NICKY-- NO ONE HAS TO SETTLE FOR NEW SHOES--

THERE'S A LOT MORE AVAILABLE IF WE LOOK IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION!

SAY--

WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A BITE TO EAT WITH ME?

WE CAN TALK SOME MORE!

WHY WOULD I WANNA RAP ANYMORE WITH YOU, PREACHER?
ARE YOU AFRAID, NICKY?

AFRAID MAYBE YOUR WORLD CAN'T STAND UP AGAINST MINE?

WE'RE GLAD TO HAVE YOU WITH US, NICKY!

WAIT, NICKY!

BEFORE WE EAT, WE'LL THANK THE LORD!

LORD, WE THANK YOU FOR THIS GOOD FOOD AND FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF SHARING IT WITH NICKY——

---AND WE KNOW WE DON'T LIVE BY BREAD ALONE——

SO WE THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU PROVIDE FOR US——IN JESUS' NAME, AMEN.
WILL YOU COME TO THE RALLY WITH US TONIGHT, NICKY?

THAT'S NOT MY BAG!

BUT MAYBE I'LL COME...

JUST FOR THE LAUGHS!

ONLY A HANDFUL AGAIN, TONIGHT, REVEREND!

GOD LOVES EACH ONE OF THEM AS THOUGH THEY WERE THE ONLY ONE ALIVE!

DAVID JUST CAN'T SEEM TO GET THROUGH TO THEM!

TELL US HOW TO MILK A COW, FARM BOY!

HO-HO WHEEEEEE!

HOW ABOUT SOME MUSIC?

C'MON DOWN AND DANCE WITH ME, PREACHER!

HO! HO! HAHA!
DON'T BE DISCOURAGED, DAVID!  YOU TRIED YOUR BEST!

YOU'RE TRYIN', TOO HARD, PREACH!

THAT'S IT, NICKY!  YOU HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD!

I CAN'T CHANGE LIVES!

I'VE GOT TO STEP ASIDE... AND LET GOD'S SPIRIT COME THROUGH!

I DON'T FEEL NOthin'! NOthin' AT ALL! AND I DON'T EXPECT TO FEEL NOthin' EITHER!

LORD, PLEASE REACH THIS BOY SOMEHOW!
SAY, PREACH...
YOU GOT A KID COMING, RIGHT?
YES...

AND YOU SAY THERE'S A GOD WHO LOVES ME, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT!

AND HE HEARS MY PRAYERS, RIGHT?
OF COURSE!

OKAY... WHAT DO YOU WANT... A BOY OR A GIRL?
NOW WAIT, NICKY!

PRAYER ISN'T A SLOT MACHINE! YOU DON'T DROP A COIN AND CANDY COMES OUT!

OH, SO YOU AIN'T SO SURE ABOUT THIS GOD BUSINESS, EH?

I DIDN'T SAY THAT!
WHAT DO YOU WANT? A BOY OR A GIRL?
NICKY, THERE'S A LOT MORE TO PRAYER...
I'M GONNA PRAY FOR YA PREACH!

GOD, IF YOU'RE UP THERE...
AND IF YOU LOVE ME...
GIVE THIS PREACHER A BOY!

LORD, HE HAS NO UNDERSTANDING...
BUT TEACH HIM, PLEASE!

TELEPHONE, DAVID!

GWEN, IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?
YES, DAVID. I COULDN'T WAIT UNTIL MORNING TO CALL.
YOU'RE A FATHER!

DAVID? ARE YOU THERE?
DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW IF IT'S A BOY OR A GIRL?
YOU’VE GOT A BIG, STRAPPING, TEN-POUND SON, DAVID!

WELL, WHAT D’YA KNOW?

WHAT D’YA KNOW ABOUT THAT?

LORD, THANK YOU FOR MY HEALTHY SON!

AND THANK YOU FOR WHAT’S GOING ON INSIDE NICKY RIGHT NOW!

AHH! THERE WAS A FIFTY-FIFTY CHANCE ANYWAY!

STILL, I’VE GOT THIS FEELING INSIDE THAT I NEVER HAD BEFORE!

I THINK WE BOTH LEARNED SOMETHING LAST NIGHT, NICKY!

DON’T GO JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS, PREACH!

YOU TAUGHT ME SOMETHING, NICKY!

WE HUMANS CAN WORK AND PRAY FOR EACH OTHER AND WE SHOULD!

BUT ONLY GOD CAN PERFORM THE MIRACLES WE NEED!
AND I'M TRUSTING GOD FOR MORE MIRACLES, NICKY!

COME OFF IT, PREACH!

I'M GOING TO SAVE THE TWO FRONT ROWS AT THE RALLY TONIGHT FOR YOU AND THE MAU MAUS.

I WANT YOU TO BE MY SPECIAL GUESTS --- WITH THE BEST SEATS IN THE HOUSE!

I'LL THINK IT OVER.

REVEREND, WE'VE GOT TROUBLE TONIGHT.

THE MAU MAUS HAVE TAKEN ALL THE RESERVED SEATS.

GOOD.

THEY'RE FRIENDS OF MINE.
But they're the worst gang in the city!
They'll tear the place apart!

I don't like the looks of this!
There are rival gangs out there!
We could have a full-scale rumble on our hands!
We ought to call for more police!
Wait! Perhaps Mary can quiet them with a song!

Hey, babe! Watch out for the curves!

You got time after the show for a poor old sinner?

What's your name, honey?

Sob!

Shall we call the whole thing off?
Not yet!
I've got an idea!
We're going to do something different tonight! The gang members themselves will take up the collection! May I have six volunteers?

He's got to be kidding! That's one way to get their attention!

Sure! They wouldn't miss this! Nicky and his boys are going to take the country bumpkin!

Nicky's making sure everyone coughs up. Naturally! The more he collects the more he runs off with.

They all know what's coming! Listen to them! Watch out for your eye-teeth, Preacher! He'll steal them, too!
WELL, WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR, NICKY?
LET'S SPLIT!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE ANYONE EVER TRUSTED ME!

NICKY!
WHERE ARE YA GOIN'?
C'MON!
FOLLOW ME.

GASP! HE'S TAKIN' THE MONEY TO TH' REV'REN'!

AND NICKY LOOKS AS SHOOK AS EVERYONE ELSE!

HERE'S YOUR MONEY, PREACH!
THANKS, NICKY!

LISTEN TO THAT SILENCE!
YOU COULD HEAR A PIN DROP!

SHHH!

I SUPPOSE YOU THINK I'M GOING TO PREACH ABOUT HONESTY AND RELIGION NOW?
WELL, YOU'RE WRONG!
I WANT TO TALK ABOUT A MAN AND LOVE!

JESUS SAID WE SHOULD LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS HE LOVES US!

KNOCK IT OFF, PREACHER!

YOU WANT ME TO LOVE THEM SPICS?

ONE OF THEM CUT ME WITH A RAZOR !!!!

I GOT A BULLET HOLE HERE!

ONE OF THEM NIGGER GANGS DID IT!

I'LL LOVE THEM...

WITH A LEAD PIPE!

I'M TALKING ABOUT GOD'S LOVE!

JUST AS THE HEAVENS ARE HIGHER THAN THE EARTH...

GOD'S WAYS ARE HIGHER THAN YOUR WAYS!

I'M ASKING YOU TO TRUST HIM!

HOW CAN I TRUST SOMETHING I CAN'T SEE OR FEEL?

IF YOU COULD SEE IT AND FEEL IT, IT WOULDN'T REQUIRE ANY FAITH!

BUT GOD WANTS YOU TO LIVE BY FAITH!
AND LOVE ISN'T WHAT YOU FEEL...

IT'S WHAT YOU DO!

GOD WANTS YOU TO GET DOWN ON YOUR KNEES AND LET HIM TAKE OVER YOUR LIFE!

HE'S GOT A PERFECT PLAN FOR YOU!

DO YOU DARE TO BELIEVE THAT?

ARE YOU WILLING TO ADMIT THAT THERE'S GOT TO BE MORE TO LIFE THAN THE GRUBBY PART YOU'VE SEEN SO FAR?

I'M ASKING YOU TO STEP FORWARD IN FAITH!

WE'LL PRAY TOGETHER AND ASK GOD FOR A BRAND NEW START!

OKAY GUYS!
I'VE BEEN YOUR LEADER FOR THREE YEARS!

WHEN I GO, YOU GO!
I'm giving my heart to God, Davie!

I want what you've been talkin' about!

Lord, you know all about Nicky and his past...

Dear God, I'm the dirtiest sinner in New York!

This can be real, Nicky---

We're not praying to a God somewhere out there!

Thank you for the forgiveness of our sins and the new life in Jesus!

He's here and now. He wants to be involved in every part of your life!

Let him have his way, Nicky!
I WANT YOU TO TAKE THIS BIBLE AND READ IT!
YOU'LL LEARN ABOUT GOD...
AND YOU'LL LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF!

READ THE THIRD CHAPTER OF JOHN!
IT TELLS HOW A BRAND NEW LIFE IS POSSIBLE IN CHRIST!

I ... I DON'T FEEL ALONE ANYMORE!
I'M NOT AFRAID!
AND IF GOD IS GONNA FILL MY LIFE...
I DON'T NEED THIS GRASS ANYMORE!

HAVE YA HEARD?
NICKY'S GOT RELIGION!
HEH, NICKY! MEASURE US!
WHICH ONE OF US IS TALLEST?
KIDS USED TO RUN AWAY FROM ME!
YOU'RE DIFFERENT NOW, NICKY!
They say ya don't carry a blade anymore, Nicky!
That's right!
Well, then we can settle somethings!

You know how easy it would be for me to use this blade!
But God won't let me.

Man! He has changed!
AS BAD AS I WAS BEFORE...
I WANT TO BE THAT GOOD FOR JESUS!

I WANT TO BE A PREACHER, DAVIE!
YOU WHAT?

YOU HEARD ME, DAVIE!
THE WORLD IS FULL OF TOUGH GUYS, BRIGHTENED, ALONE, FILLED WITH HATE INSTEAD OF LOVE—JUST AS I WAS!

I WANT THEM TO KNOW IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THAT WAY!

IF YOU REALLY MEAN BUSINESS, GOD WILL USE YOU NICKY!
I'M READY! I WANT TO TELL THE WORLD!

THE CROSS IS MIGHTIER THAN THE SWITCHBLADE!
YOU AND I SHARE A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP THROUGH SPIRE COMICS! WE ENJOY ALL THE THINGS THAT MAKE COMICS EXCITING --- PLUS THE EXTRAS THAT FILL THE SPIRE SERIES --- PRAYER, FAITH AND A REAL DESIRE TO SEEK GOD'S BEST FOR OUR LIVES!

WE TAKE A SLICE OF LIFE IN EACH ISSUE AND PUT IT ALONGSIDE GOD'S WORD, AND WE SEE HOW PERFECTLY THE BIBLE FITS OUR LIVES!

GOD LOVES YOU! HE WANTS THE BEST FOR YOU!

- GOD CREATED YOU AND GAVE YOU FREEDOM OF CHOICE!
- YOU'RE FREE TO ACCEPT GOD'S LOVE, OR REJECT IT!
- ACCEPTING GOD'S LOVE BRINGS JOY, PEACE AND ETERNAL LIFE!
- REJECTING GOD'S LOVE BRINGS TROUBLE AND CONFLICT!
- GOD KNOWS ALL ABOUT YOUR LIFE STYLE AND YOUR MISTAKES!
- GOD SENT JESUS TO FORGIVE YOU AND TAKE AWAY YOUR GUILT!
- JESUS MAKES YOU THE KIND OF PERSON GOD KNOWS YOU CAN BE!

GOD'S PROMISE:

"WHEN JESUS COMES INTO YOUR LIFE, YOU BECOME A BRAND-NEW PERSON, EVERYTHING CHANGES FOR THE BETTER. A NEW LIFE BEGINS."

SEE 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

YOU CAN PRAY THIS PRAYER RIGHT NOW... AND KNOW HOW MUCH GOD WANTS TO BLESS YOU!

GOD, I WANT YOUR LOVE AND FORGIVENESS! (CONFESSION YOUR SINS TO GOD) PLEASE HELP ME TO LET JESUS BECOME MY LORD AND SAVIOUR! I WANT YOUR BEST FOR MY LIFE. AMEN

YOU'LL FIND IT HELPFUL TO READ THE BIBLE EVERY DAY. * WHEN YOU PRAY, GIVE GOD A CHANCE TO SPEAK TO YOU! ATTEND CHURCH AND JOIN A BIBLE-STUDY GROUP. THE MORE YOU KNOW ABOUT GOD'S PROMISES, THE MORE YOU'LL KNOW HIS BEST FOR YOUR LIFE!

* START BY READING THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Trust God and He will bless you! — Dr. Hartley