

Group 3: Handout  
Lyrics to "We Shall Overcome"

Source: <http://www.k-state.edu/english/nelp/american.studies.s98/we.shall.overcome.html>

"We Shall Overcome"

Lyrics derived from Charles Tindley's gospel song "I'll Overcome Some Day" (1900), and opening and closing melody from the 19th-century spiritual "No More Auction Block for Me" (a song that dates to before the Civil War). According to Professor Donnell King of Pellissippi State Technical Community College (in Knoxville, Tenn.), "We Shall Overcome" was adapted from these gospel songs by "Guy Carawan, Candy Carawan, and a couple of other people associated with the Highlander Research and Education Center, currently located near Knoxville, Tennessee. I have in my possession copies of the lyrics that include a brief history of the song, and a notation that royalties from the song go to support the Highlander Center."

1. We shall overcome  
We shall overcome  
We shall overcome some day

CHORUS:

Oh, deep in my heart  
I do believe  
We shall overcome some day

2. We'll walk hand in hand  
We'll walk hand in hand  
We'll walk hand in hand some day

CHORUS

3. We shall all be free  
We shall all be free  
We shall all be free some day

CHORUS

4. We are not afraid  
We are not afraid  
We are not afraid some day

CHORUS

5. We are not alone  
We are not alone  
We are not alone some day

CHORUS

6. The whole wide world around  
The whole wide world around  
The whole wide world around some day

CHORUS

7. We shall overcome  
We shall overcome  
We shall overcome some day

CHORUS