

# Ready to be **God's Soldier**



**Junior  
Soldiers**

loving • worshipping • serving God



# Ready to be **God's Soldier**



## **JUNIOR SOLDIER PREPARATION COURSE INSTRUCTOR'S MANUAL**

Prepared and Issued by:

**CAN  BDA  
YOUTH**

The Salvation Army Canada & Bermuda  
Children & Youth Ministries Department  
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# Course Overview

During this six week course your young people will discover what it means to be a soldier for God and how they are called to be one of God's Soldiers. The following chart shows what the aim is for each week's lesson and where the key verse for each week can be found.

LESSON	AIM	KEY VERSE
Lesson 1 <b>GOD'S PURPOSE</b>	We are made in God's image, and God has a purpose for each of us: to love, worship and serve Him.	Genesis 1:27
Lesson 2 <b>GOD'S PLAN</b>	God has a plan for us. He has an ABCDE plan - it's a plan of salvation.	John 3:16
Lesson 3 <b>GOD'S PROTECTION</b>	God provides us with protection from Satan's attacks (the Armour of God), but we must choose to put it on.	Ephesians 6:10-11
Lesson 4 <b>GOD'S CHURCH</b>	God created the "Church" so we could encourage each other. The Salvation Army is a part of God's Church.	Hebrews 10:25
Lesson 5 <b>GOD'S HELPER</b>	God wants us to help each other, especially those in need.	1 Peter 4:10
Lesson 6 <b>GOD'S WITNESS</b>	God keeps all his promises and will help us keep ours. God will help us live up to our Junior Soldier Promise.	Colossians 3:17



@theREADY is a discipleship framework that strives to help you develop CHRIST-centred, OTHERS-focused disciples. “Ready to be God’s Soldier” junior soldier preparation course partners with you in training:

### CHRIST-centred, OTHERS-focused Disciples

#### CHRIST-centred

##### **CANON (Lessons 1, 2, 3 and 6)**

To recognize, understand and experience: the truth and story of the Word of God as the standard by which we live in, and live out Christian faith. (Doctrine 1)

##### **HOLY GOD (Lessons 1, 2 and 4)**

To recognize, understand and experience: how the God we worship has revealed himself, how he can be known, and how he is set apart as the One True God. (Doctrines 2,3,4)

##### **REDEMPTION (Lessons 1 and 2)**

To recognize, understand and experience: the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ—the reality & consequence of sin, and the sufficiency of atonement through Jesus, “so that whosoever will may be saved.” (Doctrines 4,5,6)

##### **INWARD CHANGE (Lessons 1, 2 and 3)**

To recognize, understand and experience: the process and work of salvation in a believer’s life. (Doctrines 7,8,9)

##### **SET APART (Lessons 2 and 3)**

To recognize, understand and experience: the privilege of living a holy life, made possible through Jesus’ work in & through a believer’s life by the Holy Spirit. (Doctrine 10)

##### **TRIUMPH (Lessons 1 and 2)**

To recognize, understand and experience: a true and confident hope in the ultimate accomplishment of God’s redemptive plan in the world through Jesus Christ. (Doctrine 11)

#### OTHERS-focused

##### **OUTWARD FOCUS (Lesson 4)**

To help facilitate an effective personal witness  
To help encourage and facilitate sacrificial compassionate mission  
To help encourage and facilitate active engagement in the world

##### **TENACITY OF FAITH (Lesson 3)**

To help develop healthy spiritual habits  
To encourage involvement in healthy spiritual community

##### **HOLY LIVING (Lessons 1, 2 and 3)**

To provide opportunity towards salvation through the blood of Jesus  
To encourage growth and openness towards sanctification by the fire of the Holy Spirit

##### **ENGAGED IN MINISTRY (Lessons 4 and 5)**

To equip for ministry  
To entrust with ministry

##### **RESPONSIBILITY (Lessons 4 and 5)**

To encourage and inspire stewardship of time, talents, relationships, skills, money, resources, etc.  
To encourage godly discernment and decision-making  
To help understand godly relation to authority  
To cultivate a sensitivity towards and response to God’s call

##### **SALVATIONISM (Lessons 4, 5 and 6)**

To know and understand Salvationist beliefs  
To know, understand and live by Salvationist values  
To facilitate opportunity to put into practice Salvationist behaviours (sacramentalism, abstinence, mission, etc.)



# Attendance Chart

Student's Name	Wk 1	Wk 2	Wk 3	Wk 4	Wk 5	Wk 6	Bible	Tithe	Other





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**God's Soldier**

JUNIOR SOLDIER PREP COURSE

# Junior Soldiership Guidelines



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**Junior Soldier Preparation Course Promotional Posters**  
(8½" x 11")

These attractive full colour posters have been included in this download package. Be sure to place these posters on your bulletin board or anywhere young people gather when you want to advertise an upcoming Preparation Course. You can even fill-in the poster and email it to young people whom you would like to invite to join the classes. Space is available for you to include a contact name, phone number, and the dates of the course.



# What is a Junior Soldier?

A junior soldier is:

- a person 7-18 years of age (It is recommended that a young person become a recruit for senior soldiership by the age of 13. However, he/she is not required to become a senior soldier at 14. They could instead choose to become an adherent.)
- a person who has experienced salvation
- a person who has a desire to worship and serve God in The Salvation Army
- a person who remains on the junior soldiers' roll until their 18th birthday or enrollment as a senior soldier or an adherent
- a person who experiences a sense of "belonging" in a meaningful way to The Salvation Army through junior soldier activities of worship, study and service
- a person who has full privileges and responsibilities as a junior member of The Salvation Army



# Requirements & Privileges of Junior Soldiership

A young person may be **accepted** for junior soldiership by the Pastoral Care Council providing:

- a) there has been, for at least one month, evidence of a true conversion
- b) he/she is not a member of any other place of worship

A young person may be **enrolled publicly** as a junior soldier providing:

- a) he/she is not less than seven years of age. (A prospective junior soldier may attend the six-week preparation course at the age of six and one-half, but not be enrolled until the seventh birthday)
- b) he/she has successfully completed the six-week preparation course
- c) parental approval has been secured
- d) the junior soldier promise is understood and signed

**Once enrolled**, a junior soldier is encouraged to:

- a) be involved in the Ready to Serve course
- b) attend and take part in corps/church activities as far as opportunities allow
- c) wear a junior soldier pin and if possible, unless parents object, the minimum uniform as required in the territory
- d) give a weekly offering envelope
- e) develop a life-style that is appropriate to their Christian faith



# Recruitment

If we are to enroll junior soldiers and build our Army for **today** and **tomorrow**, we must involve young people in the junior soldier program of the corps!

Are all those who come to Sunday school and our outreach programs junior soldiers? Have we missed the opportunity to enroll some of them? Keep in close touch with newcomers to the Sunday school, kid's club, and vacation Bible school. Watch for potential junior soldiers. Claim them for Christ and the Army!

Carefully follow-up children who make decisions for Christ. Use the **age-appropriate follow-up courses** (available from [Supplies and Purchasing](#) or [www.saministryresources.ca](http://www.saministryresources.ca)) to help them understand the decisions they have made. Do not neglect to follow-up the potential in a decision that has been made during a divisional camp program. Children need tender loving care. Speak to each child personally. Visit in homes. Phone them and chat. Help them and their parents to understand what it means to be a Christian.

Keep children's ministry workers aware of junior soldiership. Secure their cooperation by getting them to introduce prospects to you. Encourage them to discuss junior soldiership in their programs.

- Check your last **corps and community services** review for names of children who have not been enrolled.
- Check the **Sunday school register** for those who are not junior soldiers.
- Check the **seekers' register** for new Christians who have not been enrolled.
- **Write a letter to parents** telling them about the junior soldier preparation course.
- See that **junior soldier preparation classes** are scheduled and conducted regularly as part of the corps program.
- Make junior soldiership in your corps a **prayer priority**. Ask God to give you and your team the vision to claim every young person for Christ and The Salvation Army. Reflect upon the potential for service that is contained in the life of a young person!



# Preparing for Soldiership

## **The Preparation Course**

Every child prior to enrollment must successfully complete the six-week preparation course. The following are the objectives of the preparation course:

That the prospective junior soldier is ready for enrollment when he/she:

- a) Gives evidence, both verbally and by living example that he/she understands what it means to accept Jesus as their personal Saviour and has done so.
- b) Is able to explain in his/her own words what a junior soldier is.
- c) Can satisfactorily demonstrate that he/she understands the junior soldier promise and is willing to abide by it.

## **Parental Approval**

Prior to involving a child in the preparation course, personal contact should be made with the parent(s)/guardian(s) to obtain their approval. You may choose to:

- a) Write a personal letter. (see sample on [page 14](#).)
- b) Follow up the letter with a home visit, explaining conditions and commitments of junior soldiership. Explain the preparation process to the parent and involve them in the commitment the young person is making.
- c) Once the parent(s)/guardian(s) have understood the conditions of junior soldiership ask them to sign the enrollment application granting permission for their child to be enrolled.

## Enrollment of Junior Soldiers

1. **The enrollment application (page 15)** must be signed by the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the prospective junior soldier. By their signature they agree that their child can become a junior member of The Salvation Army.
2. The junior soldier must sign the Junior Soldier Promise. A time of commitment should be planned. At this time the junior soldier should sign the promise indicating that he/she is willing to agree to the promises presented. (See lesson six.)
3. Having been accepted by the YP Pastoral Care Council for junior soldiership, the junior soldier enrollment application should be endorsed by a YP Pastoral Care Council member, (usually the YPSM or junior soldier sergeant) and corps officer.

## The Public Enrollment Ceremony

The enrollment of a junior soldier should be one of the most impressive events in the corps/church program - certainly the most memorable Salvation Army event in the early life of the young person being enrolled. Make it a big event!!

Incorporate the following suggestions:

1. Make every effort to have the parent(s)/guardian(s) present. Invite them to sit in a reserved section as 'guests of honour'. If the parent(s)/guardian(s) are salvationists, include them in the program. If non-salvationists, help them understand what their child is promising as a junior soldier.
2. Have each enrollee read the promise publicly and then sign it while on the platform or at the mercy seat. If possible, have the promise recited from memory.
3. A senior soldier could be asked to serve as a mentor to each new junior soldier, with the responsibility of giving encouragement. Before the public enrollment, mentors and junior soldiers should be introduced. During the ceremony, explain Mentorship, bring the mentors to the platform and have each stand behind his/her junior soldiers. Give a challenge to the mentors to do their utmost to support and encourage the junior soldiers in their Christian growth.
4. Ask all junior soldiers to be ready to come forward following the enrollment to extend the 'hand of fellowship' to each new junior soldier. The junior soldiers could be seated together in the hall, so the movement forward is orderly.
5. Make the service as reverent as possible. Having the Army flag prominently in view will help encourage the realization that they are becoming soldiers in God's Army.

Be sure the promises are framed, either before or after the service, and urge the junior soldiers to display them in their homes.

Have a time of celebration following the service with cake and displays of work done during the preparation course. Invite all junior soldiers and families to have a group photo taken. Be sure to submit your photo to [Salvationist.ca](http://Salvationist.ca)

**Sample letter to invite participation in the preparation course**

The Salvation Army  
Youngtown Citadel

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

We are very pleased that your son/daughter, \_\_\_\_\_, is attending The Salvation Army regularly. We would like to offer your child the opportunity of becoming a junior soldier (a junior member). We will be conducting special classes beginning \_\_\_\_\_. These classes teach about The Salvation Army, what the Army believes, and what is expected of junior members.

As a junior soldier, your child will be expected to attend the corps/church regularly, participate in special junior soldier activities, and strive to live according to God's Word, the Bible.

In the near future, I would like to meet with you to further discuss your child's participation in the classes.

Please fill in the form below and forward to me.

May God richly bless you and your family.

Sincerely,

Sally-Ann Smith  
Junior Soldier Sergeant  
41 Honeycrest Lane  
Youngtown, Ontario L0E 1S2  
(416) 555-1973  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

✂ -----

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to talk with you further about junior soldiership.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would be glad to have my child attend the junior soldier preparation classes.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



The Salvation Army



Canada and Bermuda

## ENROLLMENT APPLICATION FOR JUNIOR SOLDIERSHIP

Application to become a junior soldier of the (corps/church name) \_\_\_\_\_

Name (in full, please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
number street city province postal code

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_  
day month year

**I hereby understand the conditions for junior soldiership in The Salvation Army as outlined on the back of this form. By my signature, I grant permission for my child to be enrolled as a junior member of The Salvation Army and will endeavor to support him/her to fulfill promises made in The Junior Soldier Promise.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Guardian Date

### FOR CORPS USE ONLY

The above application has been received by the YP Pastoral Care Council of the \_\_\_\_\_ corps. Having met all conditions for junior soldiership in The Salvation Army, we recommend that \_\_\_\_\_ be accepted as a junior soldier.

\_\_\_\_\_  
YP Pastoral Care Council Member Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Corps Officer/Pastor Date

(Keep this application on file.)

## **CONDITIONS FOR JUNIOR SOLDIERSHIP IN THE SALVATION ARMY**

A child may be accepted for junior soldiership if the following conditions have been met:

1. Sufficient time (at least one month) has been allowed for initial preparation and evidence of true conversion.
2. (S)he is clearly committed to service as a salvationist (normally this will mean no membership of any other church).
3. (S)he is not less than seven years of age.
4. (S)he has successfully completed the preparation course for junior soldiership.
5. (S)he understands and signs the junior soldier promise.

### **THE JUNIOR SOLDIER PROMISE**

I know that Jesus is my Saviour from sin.

I have asked him to forgive my sins,  
and I will trust him to keep me good.

By his help, I will be his loving and obedient child,  
and will help others to follow him.

I promise to pray, to read my Bible, and to lead a life that  
is clean in thought, word and deed.

I will not use anything that may injure my body or my mind,  
including harmful drugs, alcohol and tobacco.



# Enrollment Ceremony #1

## Welcome

**Song:** Everyday

**Prayer:** Junior Soldier to Read  
(Written by Captain Tracy Savage)

Lord, we pray that You would still our minds and quiet our hearts this morning. As we anticipate worship and the enrollment of your children as Junior Soldiers, we ask that you will draw each one of us closer into fellowship with you.

Jesus, today I am thankful for the cross, for what you did for me, and today I give my life over to you. Help me, in days to come to serve you, love you and listen to you. We thank you for giving your life, so that we are free to love and serve with our heart, mind and soul.

Be with each of us this day as we worship you, guard our hearts and minds to only listen to you and help us to be still in this moment and remember the gift you have given to us. Amen

**Song:** I am Free  
**Song:** Raise a Hallelujah

**Scripture:** Luke 19:1-10 & John 13:31-35 Junior Soldiers to Read

## Tithes and Offering

**Junior Soldier Enrollment**  
By Corps Officer  
Presentation of New Junior Soldiers and PAL Presentation

I would ask for the flag to be brought to the centre of the platform and I invite our Junior Soldier Sergeant and (names of new junior soldiers) to join us.

It is always a great privilege to be able to enroll our children as Junior Soldiers. Like all children, these young people are special in the eyes of God. He loves them and cherishes their life. They are making a commitment this morning to honour Him with their lives and we join as their family members and church family in celebrating with them.

(JSS name) has worked with our newest junior soldiers over the past number of weeks so that they can learn more about God, and the history and heritage of The Salvation Army. A verse that comes to mind in the time we take with our children is Proverbs 22:6 which says "Train a child in the way they should go, and when they are old they will not turn from it." We thank God for leaders like (JSS name) who works to help train the children in the way they should be.

At this time we are going to read through the promise together, if you can repeat after me.

I know that Jesus is my Saviour from sin.

I have asked him to forgive my sins,  
and I will trust him to keep me good.

By his help, I will be his loving and obedient child,  
and will help others to follow him.

I promise to pray, to read my Bible, and to lead a life that  
is clean in thought, word and deed.

I will not use anything that may injure my body or my mind,  
including harmful drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

As a reminder of the junior soldier promise you have just said, we have framed the promise that you have signed so you can hang it on a wall where you can see it every day. May it also remind you that the Bible says to put on your full armor of God each and every day.

Train yourself to be godly.<sup>8</sup> For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.<sup>9</sup> This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance.<sup>10</sup> That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe.<sup>11</sup> Command and teach these things.<sup>12</sup> Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. Timothy 4:7b-12

In the name of the Lord Jesus, whom we love and serve, I now receive you as junior soldiers of the (corps name) Corps of The Salvation Army.

## **Prayer**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:1-3

It is the job of the parents to help these children to keep the promise they have made this day so far as they are able. It is equally important that the congregation of this church surround these children with spiritual support and prayer. Train them as leaders of your church, for they are not the church of tomorrow but the church of today.

We welcome you (new junior soldiers' names) into the fellowship of The Salvation Army as the (corps name) newest Junior Soldiers.

*(If you have a mentoring program (i.e. PAL program) for your junior soldiers invite the adult mentors to come and meet their junior soldier partners.)*

We are an extremely blessed congregation to have such amazing people to come alongside our children to pray and mentor them.

**Song:** One Way (Hillsong)

**Message: You have a part, We all have a part.**

**Song** (Great Are You Lord) & **Reflection Time:** (Lego Blocks used to connect one another)

**Song:** Build Your Kingdom (Rend Collective)

**Benediction**



**Message: You have a part, We all have a part.**

**Text:** John 13:31-35

**Big Idea of the Message:** When the church is a healthy and loving family, the outside world will take notice and join the movement.

**Application Point:** Each person should look to love, support, and serve their church family.

**Materials Needed:** Prepare baggies with 6-8 Lego pieces, a pencil and a slip of paper for each child, and have a bucket available, and a completed Lego set.

**Message Ideas and Talking Points:**

How many you here love Lego? Lego is great for the imagination. In many ways they are better than action figures, dolls, and video games. A pile of Lego bricks can become anything you want. One of the greatest things about Lego is that you can build on your own or even better work as a team.

*(Give kids baggies. Tell them they are not allowed to share)*

**Video clip:** <https://youtu.be/LGjREUEpkec> (Master Builders Learn To Work as a Team - The Lego Movie)

John 13:31-35

“When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

“My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Love is the greatest gift we can receive or give. It’s the most intimate feeling we can share. After all, as the song accurately says, “love makes the world go ’round.” There aren’t many more important teachings in the New Testament than this one. Jesus Himself said that love was part of the weightier matters of the Law. He also said love for God and love for our neighbor are the two greatest commandments.

Jesus’ words come vividly to life in our world today. The local church’s love for one another is a testament to the power of the Gospel. It is important for us as a church to continue to build this community based of this command that Jesus has given us. We are to love another; we need to be a church that is a place of love and acceptance for all generations.

Why is this new commandment needed when God’s people already had the commands to love their neighbors as themselves? Well, if you take a look at Jewish religious, social and political life in the first century, you will see that love.

Politically, they weren’t loving their enemies: most deeply hated the ROMANS. Socially, they didn’t love their neighbors as themselves: most Jews despised their neighbors to the north—the SAMARITANS.

Religiously, the people were divided between Pharisees and Sadducees. They were greatly divided over issues of practice. Strange things like... How many paces you could walk on the Sabbath without it being considered work.

Simply speaking, they didn’t love one another. Jesus knew that very shortly the church would begin, so He calls his disciples back to the basics—because if we can’t love ONE ANOTHER, then we certainly can’t love God, our neighbors, and our enemies as we should. And as a church, if we don’t love one another WITHIN our church body, we can forget trying to share Christ’s love with our community OUTSIDE our doors.

This is very important today, as I think of our young people that just declared a promise as a Junior Soldier. We need to remind them of the importance of this commandment, but more importantly we need to show them how we as adults and as the body of Christ how we do this.

*(Hold up one Lego piece)* This one Lego piece will not allow me to make much? Just one piece is very challenging to our creativity. However, the bag of Lego you were given earlier allows you the opportunity to create more. What would have been even better, is if I allowed you to share your bag of Lego with a friend and together you could have created even more.

Just like a Lego set, we are better when we are connected to God and to others. And, like that one Lego, we may end up being secretly awesome because it’s not all about us.

Kids... if you were to walk into this Sanctuary and see all of us fighting, it would probably make you uncertain, scared, frustrated and many other emotions. But if you walked into this room and we were all sharing, taking care of each other, helping each other, you would definitely find this more relaxing and secure. Now, which one would you like to join?

People are attracted by our love for one another. Kids, it is not just up to you to be nice, and Adults it is not just your job. Together we have a calling on our lives to love all people. Loving people is not always easy, but we must do our best to love, even when it is hard to do. Jesus wants us to be better.

Inside the bag of Lego that your received is a slip of paper and a pencil. I want you to take a few minutes to write down one person that you find hard to love and how you will show love to them this week. I will come back to you in just a few minutes.

Jesus calls us to UNCONDITIONAL love...

- to love others even if they have never done anything for you, or ever will...
- to “bear with one another in love,” as Paul puts it in Ephesians 4:2,
- to put up with the idiosyncrasies of others
- to spend time with the ones who aren’t the beautiful people; or who are in a lower economic bracket than you
- to love the person with a somewhat annoying personality trait
- to even love your ENEMIES—possibly someone who has done or said something hurtful to you.

Think about that name you wrote down. Can you still love that person despite their actions? God wants you to love them UNCONDITIONALLY.

We are called to love one another, and in doing so we are taught that we all have a part in this.

Now Kids and Adults we are all called to do our part, to love unconditionally, even when it is tough. And when we do so we are showing what a true Christian is. When we open a box of Lego, we see that it is kind of just a mess of small and large bricks but once they are put together they make something great.

That is just like us. We have an opportunity to create something special, something great. This morning we are going to do just that. This morning when you came to your seat you found a Lego piece on your chair, now we are not going to build anything spectacular with that one piece, but together we will build something amazing.

As we sing “Great Are You Lord” and reflect, if God is challenging you to build something great with one another, then I will ask you to join me up here and place your Lego in this bucket as a reminder of letting go of anything that hinders us from loving others and building a bigger community of believers. *(Invite children to come during Reflection Song to place their Lego pieces in the bucket.)*

**Pray** *(Bring out a built Lego set as a reminder of what God can do with all the pieces working together.)*

**Reflection Prayer Time Idea:** Lego Prayer

**Materials Needed:** One Lego or Duplo brick per person

Hold your brick.

Pray for yourself. Thank God for the things He has given you. Ask Him to bless you and to help you to bless others.

Count the bumps on your brick.

For each bump on your brick, pray for a different person - friends or family members. Ask God to bless them this week.

Find someone who has a different colour brick to you.

Thank God for making each person special. Thank Him for the things that are different but special about other people. Pray that we will learn how to celebrate and understand people who are different to us.

Find someone with the same number of bumps on their brick as you.

Thank God for families and friends and all who care for us. Pray that He will help us to be friends to those who are lonely.

Swap your brick with someone.

Thank God for the person you swapped with and ask God to bless them this week.

Put all of the bricks together and build a structure or tower with them.

Thank God for the church and the communities we live in. Pray that He will help us to include others and to help people know that they are loved and valued.

*(Submitted by Captain Tracy Savage)*



**Junior Soldier Pin**

Junior Soldier Pins can be purchased from [Supplies and Purchasing](#) and presented to new junior soldiers at their enrollment ceremony. Encourage your junior soldiers to wear them on their jackets or backpacks as a way to start a conversation about The Salvation Army and what it means to them to be a member of the church.





# Enrollment Ceremony #2

## **ONWARD!**

-an enrollment ceremony for Junior Soldiers-

### **Overview:**

This Junior Soldier enrollment ceremony combines a classic hymn “Onward Christian Soldiers” a with the new Disney movie “Onward”. It acknowledges the Junior Soldier enrollment as a big step in a child’s faith journey, and that the Junior Soldier Promise is a big one which will require God’s help. God has promised that he will be with us always and help us with each and every step. We can trust him to be faithful.

## **CEREMONY OUTLINE**

### **Congregational Song: “Onward Christian Soldiers”**

During the singing of this song, kids being enrolled as Junior Soldiers should be invited to come to the front of the room from their seats, along with their youth leader, Junior Soldier prep teacher, and others taking part in the ceremony. As an alternative, kids and leaders could enter from the back and make their way to the front in a more formal style, depending on your setting. Consider having your worship team use a contemporary version of this classic hymn if possible.

### **Video Clip: “Onward”**

Play a clip from the Disney movie “Onward”, choosing either 00:58 - 1:02:17 (4 minute clip) or 1:00:23 - 1:02:17 (2 minute clip) depending on time.

### **Ceremony:**

Do you know what the word “onward” means? According to the dictionary, it means “moving ahead in a continuing forward direction”. This means that when we are moving onward, we are taking some next steps forward.

Today, you are becoming junior soldiers in The Salvation Army. You are taking the next step in your faith journey as a follower of Jesus! The junior soldier promise is a huge step, but God promises that he will be with you and help you to keep the commitments you are making today. I think there are three things we can learn about our Junior Soldier pledge as we think about the clip from Onward we just watched.

1. It was important that Ian didn't look back while he was crossing the bridge, wasn't it? His brother reminded him to keep looking forward and "don't look back!" Once we have asked Jesus to forgive our sins, and chosen to follow Jesus, we don't need to ever look back at that sin either - the Bible says that *"He has removed our sins from us. He has removed them as far as the east is from the west"* (Psalm 103:12).

He doesn't even remember our sin anymore and won't bring it up again! We need to keep looking forward, *"keeping our eyes on Jesus, who leads us and makes our faith complete."* (Hebrews 12:2).

Your Junior Soldier promise says: **"I know that Jesus is my Saviour from sin. I have asked him to forgive my sins, and I will trust him to keep me good."**

Do you acknowledge today that you have accepted Jesus as your Saviour, that you have received his forgiveness, and that you will trust him to help you live the way he would want you to, becoming more and more like Jesus every day?

*Junior Soldiers should respond with "I do".*

2. Like the bridge that Ian walks across, you can't see the whole path God has planned out for you, but you can believe and trust that he has carefully designed it for you and that he is there with you with every step of the way. Following Jesus means you take each new step in faith. You can believe with every step that God is with you and helping you, because he is!

The Bible tells us that *"We are his creation, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time so that we should walk in them"* Ephesians 2:10, and that *"The Lord your God is the one who is going with you. He won't abandon you or leave you."* Deuteronomy 31:6

Your Junior Soldier promise says: **"By his help, I will be his loving and obedient child, and will help others to follow him."**

Do you promise, with God's help, to love and obey him, and to let your light shine for Jesus in your world?

*Junior Soldiers should respond with "I do".*

3. There were times when Ian thought he needed to depend on other things to hold him up, especially when he was starting to feel alone or scared out there, rather than focusing on believing with each step, looking forward and trusting the bridge even when he couldn't see it. He thought he needed the rope to hold him up when he really didn't! The rope wasn't even long enough to help him! Sometimes people are tempted to depend on other things to get them through tough times in their lives, and they might forget to focus on their faith in Jesus and depend on him for help. We need to be always be careful to build good habits of letting good, godly things into our lives and keeping away from things that could potentially harm us. The Bible says *"...always think about what is true. Think about what is noble, right and pure. Think about what is lovely and worthy of respect. If anything is excellent or worthy of praise, think about those kinds of things"* (Philippians 4:8).

Your Junior Soldier promise talks about this when it says: **“I promise to pray, to read my Bible, and to lead a life that is clean in thought, word and deed. I will not use anything that may injure my body or mind, including harmful drugs, alcohol and tobacco.”**

Do you promise to do everything you can to grow a strong relationship with Jesus and to become as much like him as possible in the way you think, speak and act?

Do you agree to depend on the Holy Spirit’s power in your life to help you live a life that pleases God? And do you promise to stay away from all things that could potentially harm you?

*Junior Soldiers should respond with “I do”.*

### **Promise Signing:**

*At this time, invite Junior Soldiers to kneel and sign their promises. Play reflective music/video during this time. If they have signed their promises ahead of time, present their framed promises back to them at this time.*

### **Congregational Charge:**

Today we have had the honour of witnessing these children as they have taken a major step in their faith journey. This step “onward” is not something we take lightly, and we know it is a step which will require us, as their family of faith, to pray for them, support and encourage them, teach them, listen to them, and to be a good example of what it looks like to be a follower of Jesus. Do you, as their faith community, promise to help them to keep these promises they have made today, in whatever way you can?

*Congregation should respond with “We do”.*

### **Prayer:**

*Offer a prayer of blessing over these Junior Soldiers and the promises they have made today.*

### **Presentation of Junior Soldiers:**

Would you please greet the newest Junior Soldiers of The Salvation Army.

God bless these children. God bless their families. God bless The Salvation Army. Onward!

*Congregation should respond with “Amen”.*

### **Photo & Celebration:**

Take a moment now, or after the service, to take a photo of the new Junior Soldiers. Celebrate together with the church family with a special lunch or cake and coffee.

*(Submitted by Sheryl Slous)*

The graphic features the text "Enrollment Ceremony #3" in a large, blue, stylized font with a white outline. The text is set against a red background with a wavy, marbled pattern. Behind this red shape is a yellow shape with a pattern of white stars of various sizes. The entire graphic is tilted slightly to the right.

# Enrollment Ceremony #3

The congregation should be invited to stand and sing an appropriate song. Young people to be enrolled as well as the Junior Soldier Sergeant and YPSM should be called to the front of the sanctuary or platform together with the flag bearer and others taking part. Or the young people can march in.

## Officer

I'd like you to imagine with me that you have just been told you are moving to another city and will be going to a new school. How would that make you feel? *(Pause for reflection.)* Now imagine that one of your best friends is going to be moving to the same place and will be going with you to your new school, too. Is the situation better now?

It's important to think about how we will handle situations that come up in life because then we can be reminded of the truth that, as Christians, there is nothing we have to face in life all by ourselves. Just like that best friend that comes to our new school with us, Jesus is always with us, his Holy Spirit helping us with whatever comes up.

We're here today to talk about promises, specifically the ones that these young people before you are making to God. Another word for what they're doing is making a covenant. Now that's an old fashioned word you don't hear much outside of the church or the legal profession. Simply put, it is an agreement, promise or commitment between two parties to either do something or to not do something. In the Bible, it is a solemn promise between God and his people. Another word closely related to covenant is "commitment". Under the New Covenant established by God through Jesus, we commit our lives to Jesus. By that, I mean we trust Jesus with our eternal destiny (make him Saviour) and promise to do his will (make him Lord).

The Junior Soldier Promise is one that these young people have studied and understand its significance. We want to ask them now to respond to their promise and affirm what they have said they will do.

The first part of the Junior Soldier Promise reads *(Have leaders and young people repeat/ read together)*: **I know that Jesus is my Saviour from sin. I has asked him to forgive my sins, and I will trust him to keep me good.**

Jesus is our perfect leader and Saviour. He offers forgiveness to all who will accept him as Lord of their lives and believe that what he says is true. Have you accepted God's forgiveness for your sin and believe that you are now his child?

**Young People** I DO

**Officer** The second part of the Junior Soldier Promise reads (*Have leaders and young people repeat/read together*): **By his help, I will be his loving and obedient child, and will help others to follow him. I promise to pray, to read my Bible, and to lead a life that is clean in thought, word and deed.**

**Officer** Jesus' love for people is good news for everyone. We can learn more about that love in God's Word and as we take time every day to talk to God and worship him. Will you make these promises an important part of your day to day life?

**Young People** I WILL

**Officer** The third part of the Junior Soldier Promise reads (*Have leaders and young people repeat/read together*): **I will not use anything that may injure my body or my mind, including harmful drugs, alcohol and tobacco.**

The Holy Spirit is given to help people live for Christ. By faith we can have the Holy Spirit's presence and power in our lives to witness and to serve. Do you agree to depend on the Holy Spirit's presence and power in your life to help you live a life that pleases God?

**Young People** I DO

*(At this point, young people should be invited individually or in groups to come forward and sign their promise. If possible have someone assigned to take the signed promises away and frame them for presentation after the service and for a group photo.)*

**Officer** It is such a privilege to be a part of this ceremony today. Together we are witnessing young people who we know, admire and love making decisions that will have an eternal impact. It is not a privilege we take lightly. I ask today that you would make a promise to be a community for these young people, to teach them what you know, to listen to what they have to say, and to support them as they grow. I encourage you to help them in whatever way you can to keep their promises. Will you make that promise today?

**Congregation** WE WILL

**Officer** God bless these young people. God bless their families. God bless The Salvation Army.

**All** Amen!

*(Invite the young people to join you once more as a group on the platform, and make sure everyone has a copy of the responsive reading "The Promise Keeper" from the Junior Soldier Preparation Course Lesson 6, [page 125](#). Invite the congregation to read the part of "All," and the junior soldiers to read the parts of Reader 1 and 2 in groups.)*

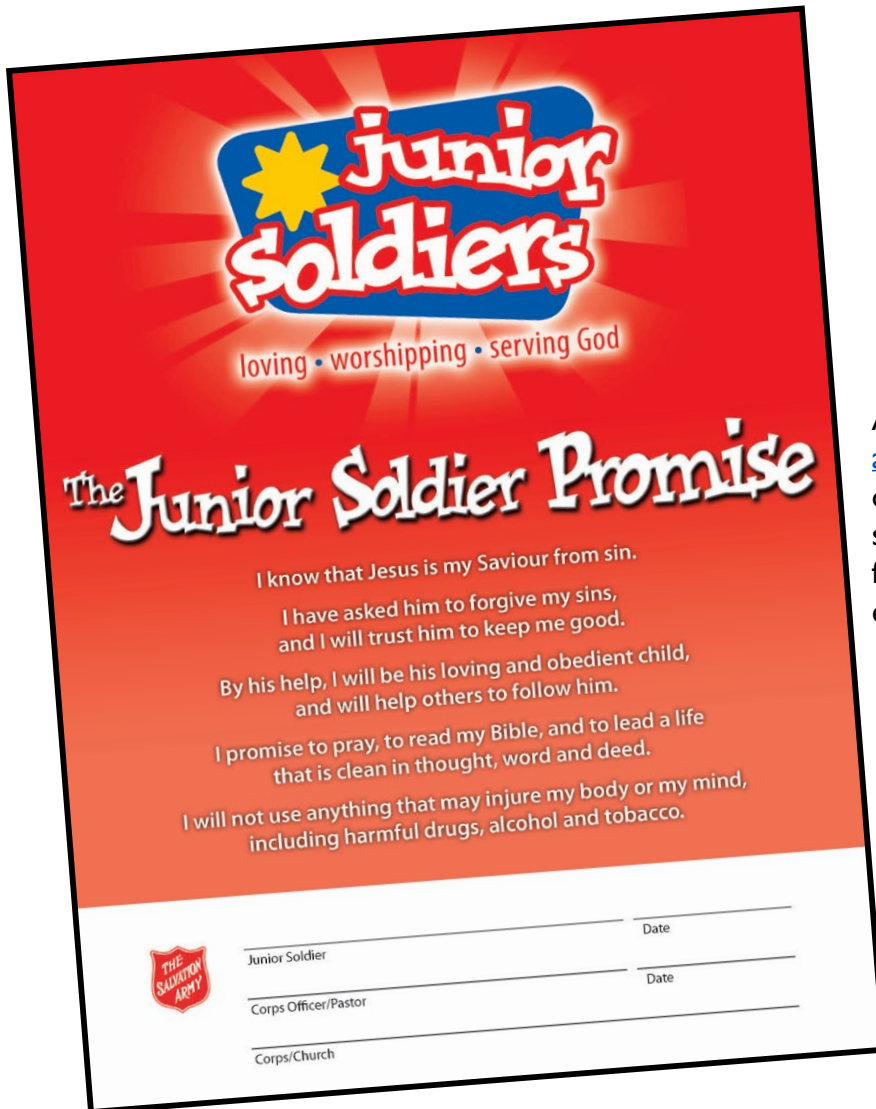
**Officer**

Let's Pray.

Dear Father God, we are humbled in your presence today by the commitment we have seen in these young people to the promises they have made. We recognize that they are promises that are bigger than they are, and we are so grateful that you have promised each of us your Holy Spirit to help us. Thank you for your salvation, and for your love that is beyond our understanding. We are your children, and we love you. Amen.

*(Invite the congregation to join the junior soldiers and their families in a time of celebration with cake and displays of the work the young people have completed during the preparation course at the conclusion of your meeting.)*

It is the responsibility of the Junior Soldier Sergeant, YPSM or Corps Officer to make certain that all criteria has been met before enrollment of the prospective junior soldier. On [page 29](#) is a checklist of items which should be remembered. This resource has provided you with three sample junior soldier enrollment ideas. You can find others on the HELPS On-Line website at [www.saMinistryResources.ca](http://www.saMinistryResources.ca).



**Junior Soldier Promise Certificate (8 1/2" x 11")**

Available from the [Supplies and Purchasing Dept.](#) Order one copy for each new junior soldier. Frame each certificate for presentation at the enrollment ceremony.

The graphic features the words "Enrollment Checklist" in a large, bold, blue font with a white outline. The text is set against a red background with a wavy, marbled pattern. Behind this red shape is a yellow shape with a pattern of white stars of various sizes.

# Enrollment Checklist

- Indication that he/she has accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour and desires to be enrolled as a junior soldier.
- Conversion must have taken place at least **one month** prior to the enrollment.
- The prospective junior soldier is not less than seven years of age.
- The parent(s)/guardians have been visited and permission received for the young person to become a junior soldier. They have signed the enrollment application. (see [page 15](#))
- The prospect has successfully completed the junior soldier preparation course and completion certificate has been issued.
- The prospect has a basic understanding of the beliefs and practices of The Salvation Army and agrees to accept them as a pattern for life.
- The prospective junior soldier has signed the junior soldier promise.
- The enrollment date has been set and a public service planned.
- The prospective junior soldier has been informed regarding the wearing of the acceptable corps junior soldier uniform.
- The properly signed junior soldier promise has been framed for public presentation.
- All information has been recorded on the junior soldier roll and SAMIS.
- Arrangements have been made for a photograph to be taken to forward to the Editorial Dept. at THQ for publication.

**In the coming weeks you will undertake a great responsibility: the preparation of young hearts and minds to accept an active role in the corps/church as junior soldiers in The Salvation Army. There is no way to overstate the importance of this task, because for some of your children it will not only be an introduction to the beliefs, practices and mission of The Salvation Army, but the first time they have had to really come to terms with what it means to give their lives to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.**



**Junior Soldier Preparation Course Promotional PPT Slides**

Also included in this download package are four different PowerPoint slides that you can use to advertise the preparation course classes. Space has been left for you to include contact name, info and when the classes will be happening.



**Junior Soldier Preparation Course Social Media Posts**

You can also find seven social media posts included in the download package. Use these graphics to invite young people to be a part of the junior soldier preparation course classes.



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**Lesson**  
**Guidelines**



loving • worshipping • serving God



### **Parent(s)/Guardian Co-operation**

As junior soldiership is both a **privilege** and a **responsibility**, it is important that the young person and the parent(s)/guardian(s) have some idea of what is involved. The preparation course will be most effective if the parent(s)/guardian(s) have a sound understanding of the program, and of what is expected of their child if he/she becomes a junior soldier.

Open lines of communication between the home and the corps/church are important in order to keep these elements in harmony. Poor communication could result in unnecessary conflict in the teaching of values, and in basic understanding between the corps/church and the home.

Every effort should be made to maximize the learning which takes place in the classroom by involving the parent(s)/guardian(s). Keep them informed, and make it easy for them to identify ways to reinforce the lesson in the home. At the end of each lesson you will find a letter to the parent/guardian which will help you make parents aware of what is happening from week to week.

### **An Elementary Course**

It must be constantly kept in mind that this preparation course is an elementary course, designed to introduce the young people to church and junior soldiership. Lessons should be presented clearly and simply.

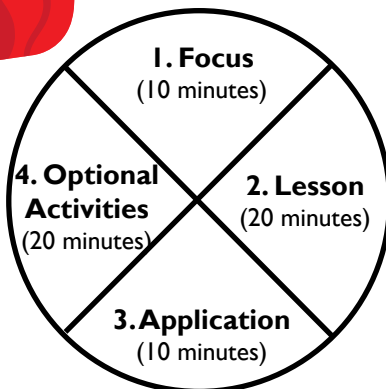
### **Course Overview and Format**

This course begins with lesson one centred around God, the Creator, who loves us, cares for us and desires us to love, worship and serve him. God's plan of salvation is introduced in lesson two. Lesson three presents God's armor which will provide protection to all who decide to wear it to face Satan's attacks. God's church as a place of encouragement, and information relating to Salvation Army symbols, practice of worship are contained in lesson four. Lesson five emphasizes the need for each of us to be involved in "Ministry" to others and outlines some of The Salvation Army's many areas of ministry. In lesson six, God's faithfulness to promises is discussed, the Junior Soldier Promise is introduced, and the prospective junior soldier is challenged to accept his/her part in The Salvation Army through junior soldiership.

### **Course Components**

All of the materials needed for this course have been included in this reproducible instructor's guide. Each lesson has its own resource pages, two different take home sheets for different reading levels, a letter for parents and a weekly social media post or postcard.

# Course Schedule & Lesson Breakdown



This preparation course has been designed to be taught in a **minimum** of six **one hour** sessions. (*Lesson six could be spread out over two weeks to ensure your students' understanding.*) We suggest that classes be scheduled for a time when the whole hour can be used. It is not recommended that they be held during the 'message time' on Sunday morning as this time can be unpredictable and rushed.

Possible meeting times include:

1. A special class during the Sunday school hour.
2. Lunch together after morning worship with a Sunday afternoon class.
3. A weekday after school (*snack should be provided*).
4. Saturday mornings for six weeks.

Young people are very inquisitive, so you should try to have time to answer any questions they may have. To assist you and make it a fun time. Create a "Question Box" and invite young people to submit their questions or email them to you during the week. Make it clear that no question is too silly. Take a moment at the end of each class to answer questions. A great resource for help answering questions is Focus on the Family's "801 Questions Kids Ask About God" (available from [www.focusonthefamily.ca](http://www.focusonthefamily.ca) or from [Amazon.ca](http://Amazon.ca)).

Each lesson has been broken into four major sections (see *diagram above*), including:

1. Focus (*choose from 2 options*)
2. Lesson
3. Application
4. Optional Activities including:  
Worship Songs, Responsive Reading,  
Craft, and Game

These sections are to provide a balance of activity for each hour session. You do not have to follow the sequence above. If you require more time for the lesson, schedule it or if you do not want to include an optional activity, leave it out of your plan. **Remember, these lessons have been prepared for territorial use. Only you can 'tailor' them to meet the needs of your young people.**

## LESSON BREAKDOWN

### FOCUS

Two focus activities have been provided for you to choose from for each class. These options should take about 10 minutes of your class time. The purpose of a focus activity is to introduce the day's topic and to help focus the children on what they will be discovering in each lesson. These activities help your students focus on their needs and interest in order to get them ready to turn to God's Word for answers to their questions.

### LESSON

The actual lesson of your class time will be around 30 minutes long. The discussion and activities during this segment will help your students discover God's answers or truth through a Bible story, Bible truth discussion, and through individual or group activities. It is important that you make the lesson your own—add life to them and your students will respond. Try to get your students as involved as possible and you will not have restless students!

### APPLICATION

The application time will be around 10 minutes. Applications provide your students with an opportunity to respond to God's Word as the Holy Spirit leads them. This segment is the most important and should not be rushed through or squeezed in. It is important that your students have the opportunity to think about, discuss and discover how to apply what they have learned to their individual lives. It is also important that you provide them with an opportunity to talk to God in prayer about what they have learned, to seek his help and to give him thanks for all he has and will do for them.

### KEY VERSE/MEMORY WORK

Scripture memorization is a key aspect of this program and should not be left out. All portions of the Scripture used in this course are taken from the New International Version of the Bible. You may wish to use the New International Reader's Version which is written at a third grade reading level. (*This would be a great version to present to your junior soldiers on their enrollment!*) Encourage your young people to bring their Bibles to class each week. Each week a key Scripture verse is provided that your lesson has been written around. It is important that you spend time encouraging your young people to "hide God's Word" in their hearts. The verse chosen reinforces the key points we want our young people to remember at the end of this program. They will also be helpful to them as they grow and develop their relationship with God. Rewarding your students for their work is an idea you may wish to consider.

### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

These activities have been provided to add both more depth and excitement to your class time. The junior soldier preparation course is used to prepare young people to become junior members of The Salvation Army and we want them to be excited about this. So, why not add a worship time to each class? Remember that you are **modelling** Christian behaviour at all times, so the way you pray, read the

Bible, etc. will leave an impression on your students. Believe it or not, they will remember more of your actions than your words in future days! When planning each session consider the inclusion of some of the following:

**Worship Songs**—A number of song titles have been suggested. Feel free to use these or add some that your young people are familiar with in your local setting. There are many children’s worship playlists you can download (CD’s and DVD’s) which can provide accompaniment, additional voices or can be played in the background during your class time. *(There are limited copies of the Junior Action Accompaniment CD available from the [territorial youth department](#). The resource has a large selection of songs.)*

**Scripture**—A responsive reading or Scripture verse suggestion has been included with each lesson. These have been created to help reinforce the lesson’s aims, but also to provide a worship experience for your students.

**Game**—An optional game has also been included with each lesson. The games chosen will help to reinforce the lesson’s aim or help with the memorization of the key verse. They are also a great way to create a fun class environment. Be sure to include some of these optional games over your six weeks.

**Craft**—Each lesson includes a craft that fits in with the lesson’s theme or key verse. It is important that you provide opportunity for the young people to create items which will help them remember what they have learned. Be sure to include a couple of crafts over the six weeks.

## **EXTRAS**

Also included with the Instructor’s Guide at the end of each lesson are the following, which are a must to help take the material outside of the class time:

### **STUDENT ACTIVITY SHEETS**

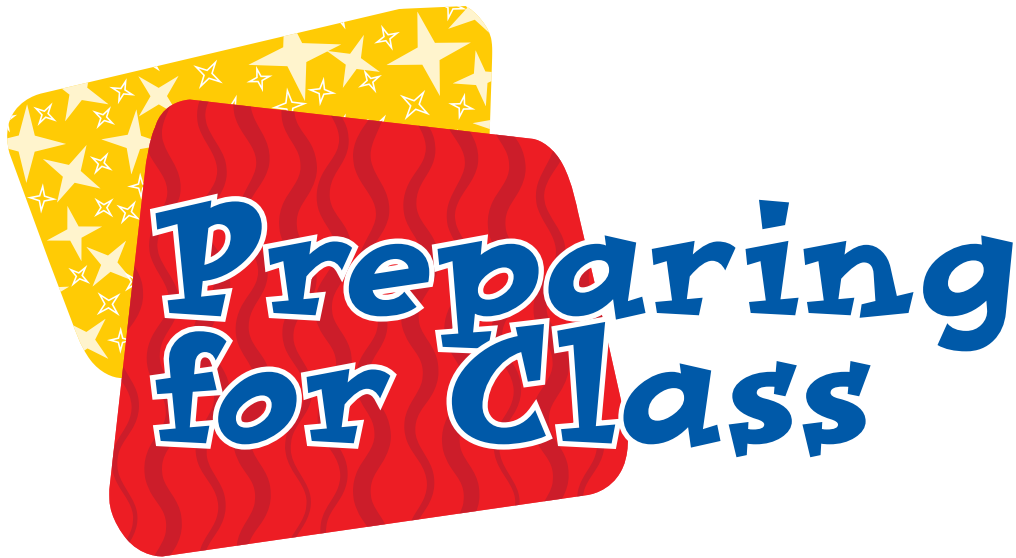
Two take-home activity sheets have been prepared for each lesson. The activity sheets can be used for two different age groups or reading levels, such as the first page for 6½ - 9 years, and the second for 9 - 12 year olds. The first sheet has less words to read and less writing is required. Be sure to send these home with your students at the end of each class time.

### **PARENT/GUARDIAN LETTERS**

A weekly letter to your parents/guardians has been included. These can be either handed to each parent when they pick up their child from class or e-mailed home to them. It is not recommended that you give them to the students to deliver as you run the risk of the letters not making it home. These parent letters let your parents know what you talked about each week and what the week’s memory verse is. These letters will help to keep the lines of communication open between yourself and the parents. They will help to strengthen cooperation and understanding about the program.

### **STUDENT NOTES (SOCIAL MEDIA / POSTCARDS)**

Also included at the end of each lesson is a social media post for you to share on your corps Facebook or Instagram page, or simply email it to your students. Or you can print on cardstock and mail out to each student. Everyone loves to receive mail, especially young people. Continue to build relationships and interest with your students using this simple communication tool each week. Not only will they help your students remember what they learned, it will pique their interest for your next class time together.



# Preparing for Class

There are a few basic steps in lesson preparation which, if employed, will guide you in planning your lessons and getting the most out of the material:

1. **Always begin your preparation with prayer.** This is a vital, essential part of any plan for achieving God's eternal objectives in your life. Saturate every step with petitions for God's wisdom and guidance.  
"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."  
**James 1:5 (NIV)**
2. **Keep in mind the overall objectives of the junior soldier preparation course.** The prospective junior soldier might prove himself/herself an acceptable candidate for enrollment as a junior soldier by:
  - a) Giving evidence both verbally and by a living example, that he/she understands what it means to accept Jesus as Saviour, and has done so.
  - b) Being able to explain in his/her own words what a junior soldier is.
  - c) Satisfactorily demonstrating that he/she understands the junior soldier pledge, and is willing to abide by it.
3. **Read over the lesson in the instructor's guide.** As you read, note in the margins or highlight the most important points to be taught in order to achieve the overall objectives of the course. Feel free to spread a lesson over two weeks if needed.
4. **Determine the specific objectives for each lesson.** Look at the needs of your students and at those points which you have decided are essential to be taught in order to achieve the overall objectives.
5. **Gather the materials needed.** Create an 'Instructor's Supply Kit', a box in which you keep commonly used items such as tape, scissors, glue, markers, paper, pencils, pens, etc. This can be easily stored and brought out at the beginning of each class.
6. **Study the teaching material carefully.** As you study, keep the objectives in mind. Make yourself brief notes of what you intend to do and say during the lesson presentation. If you are to tell a story or teach by brief lecture, learn your outline well so that you will use your notes only to jog your memory. It is best never to simply read from your notes or your guide, as children will quickly lose interest.
7. **Gather all teaching resources and materials before class time.** Double check to make certain that you have not forgotten anything. The 'dead air' while an instructor is desperately looking for some forgotten item can be time consuming. Check the condition of all equipment you intend to use (*ie. blue tooth speaker, white board, markers, etc.*).
8. **Have handouts, Bibles and student activity take-home sheets readily available in the class area.**
9. **Set up the focus centres and/or lesson activity centres.** The classroom should be prepared physically before the young people arrive so that you can give them your complete attention. Where cramped facilities demand that a single space be used for multiple activities, plan how you will work with the young people to make any necessary changes between activities.

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**Lesson  
Plans**



loving • worshipping • serving God







# God's Purpose

# 1

**KEY VERSE:** *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27  
(For students who want a challenge encourage them to learn Genesis 1:26-27.)*

**AIM:** That students will know that God made us in His image and what that means.  
That students will understand God's purpose for each of us: to have a loving relationship with Him, and wants us to worship and serve him.

### **INSIGHTS FOR INSTRUCTORS:**

*This lesson focuses on God's creating each of us for a purpose. Of all the things God created, only man was made in his image. Only man is able to reflect God's character. It is us who He has given emotions, values, creativity, the choice to sacrifice ourselves for others and the ability to tell right from wrong.*

*God created us with a purpose. He created us to have a loving relationship with Him. He created us to worship Him and to serve Him.*

*Your young people need to know that they are unique and special to God, they have been created in His image, and that He desires to have a relationship with them.*

### **FOCUS:**

#### **Option One:**

*Materials Needed: 6 Sheets of Bristol board numbered "Day One", "Day Two", and so on, markers and Bibles.*

Label the six sheets of Bristol board "Day One", "Day Two", etc. As the young people arrive direct them to a sheet of Bristol board and have them draw the things that God created on that day. When they have completed their drawings tape them to the wall and quickly review their drawings and God's creation. Lead into a discussion about God creating everything with a purpose. For example: Everything needs light to live. Bees are needed to pollinate plants, etc. This is great because God created us with a purpose too. Ask: **What is so special about how we are created?** (Allow for responses.) We are created in God's image. Ask: **How does that make us different from the rest of God's creation?** (Allow for

**Teacher Tip:**

Remember, this lesson has been prepared for territorial use. Only you can 'tailor' it to meet the needs of your young people.

responses.) Because we are created in God's image, we can know the difference between right and wrong. We are able to have a loving relationship with God; we can worship him and we can serve Him. God's other creations cannot do this.

**Option Two:**

*Materials Needed: A Bible, container or bin filled with building blocks, Lego, and a variety of balls.*

*(Divide your class into groups of four or less students, or partners. Give each group some of the building supplies.) Today we are going to be learning about how God created people. I would like each group to use the supplies you've been given to create their own person. (Go around the room and encourage each group. Give them only a couple of minutes to work.) Ask: **How did you feel trying to create something from the items you were given?** (Allow for responses.) **What do you think God felt as He created people?** (Allow for responses.) Your creations are great and it looked like you had fun working together. Now I'd like you to try talking with your creation. (Give them a moment.) Ask: **What kind of response did you get?** (Allow for responses.)*

Only God is able to create a living breathing person. Ask: **What makes us special among all of God's creations?** (Allow for responses.) God created us in His image so that we could know the difference between right and wrong. God created us in His image so that we can have a loving relationship with Him.

**LESSON:**

*Materials Needed: A collection of rocks in various sizes, colours and shapes displayed on a table (you'll need twice as many rocks as students), paper and pens/pencils.*

I've brought a collection of rocks with me today. I'd like you to help me sort them. *(Invite your students to come up and put them in order from smallest to largest. When they have completed that, invite them to sort the rocks according to colour, one group of light colours and one group of dark colours. From those two groups have your students sort the rocks according to which are smooth and which are rough. Now have your students look more closely at the rocks. Perhaps they could sort them further based on whether they are sparkly or dull, heavy or light, round or odd shaped.)*

Ask: **Can you think of other ways that rocks can be different?**

*(Diamonds are very hard and beautiful, sand is made from millions of tiny rocks, coal can be burned to produce heat, porous rocks have holes that make them look like sponges, etc.)*

It's amazing how different rocks can be from each other. Ask: **Can you think of some other things that are different from each other?** *(snowflakes and fingerprints)* Of all the different things that God created, his greatest creation is people. Let's read what He says about us.

**Read Genesis 1:26-30.**

We believe that God created men and women, boys and girls in His image, not just to rule over the earth, but because God loves us so much.

**Ask: Many of you have pets: can you tell when you know your cat is being creative? Can you tell when your bird is trying to decide between doing right and wrong? Can you tell when your fish is letting others go first?** No, we can't. Animals are not able to do these things because they were not created in God's image. Only we are.

**Ask: What does "in His image" mean? Does it mean we look like God?** (Allow for responses) No. We have physical bodies and God is a spirit. "In His image" means that we can reflect God's character (traits or personality). Being made in God's image means that we have emotions, we have values, we can be creative, we can choose to sacrifice ourselves for others and we can tell the difference between right and wrong. We are so important to God that He gave us the same qualities that He has. We have something in common with God and because of that we can have a relationship with Him. We have the ability and the desire to love God, to worship God and to serve God.

**Ask: Can anyone tell me what it means to 'worship' God?** To worship God means to tell God how wonderful He is and to tell Him how much you love Him and appreciate Him.

We are each unique and created in God's image. We can feel **great** about ourselves because we are made in God's image. It doesn't matter what other people say about us. We are God's special creation with the ability to reflect God's glory when we choose to love, worship and serve Him.

I'm going to give each of you a piece of paper. I want you to answer four questions that I am going to ask and later I'll read your answers out loud. Now don't put your name on the paper, just answer the questions. (Ask these questions or similar ones.)

1. **What is one thing that you do well?**
2. **Where are you in your family? For example, were you born first, second, third or later?**
3. **What is one thing that you like best about your personality? Are you happy most of the time? Are you a hard worker? Do you get along with others?**
4. **If you could make one wish, what would it be?**

(Gather up all the pieces of paper and then read the answers one paper at a time. After each paper, ask who the class thinks wrote those answers. Be sure to say one positive quality that you have noticed in each person before you move on to the next slip of paper.)

Isn't it great to know how wonderfully God has made each of us? It's also great to know that each of us can have a loving relationship with Him; that we can worship Him and serve Him.

**Teacher Tip:**

For younger students you may wish to have these questions on a sheet of paper with blanks for them to fill in, i.e.:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. 1st 2nd 3rd 4th
3. Yes No  
etc.

## APPLICATION:

*Materials Needed: Rocks from lesson time and permanent markers.*

Don't forget!  
Email or mail home this  
lesson's [Parent Letter](#) and  
the Student Note.

God loves you so much that He made you in His own image. He also made you different from anyone else. I'm going to give each of you a rock from my collection. I'd like you to think about one thing you like about yourself that you would like to praise God for today. Write that one thing on the rock. *(Give time for the children to think of something they like about themselves and to write them down.)* When you are finished, please hold the rock in your hand, so that I'll know you are done. Now, I'd like us to worship God with our prayers today. I'm going to pray and then I'd like each of you to silently thank God for that quality about yourself that you like.

*(Spend a few moments in prayer remembering to pause and allow the students to give God thanks. Be sure to thank God for creating us in His image and for giving us a purpose: to love Him, worship and serve Him. Ask God for His help to remember to do these three things.)*

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

### Worship Songs:

*Every Move I Make  
God Of Wonder  
I Give You My Heart  
I Could Sing of Your Love Forever  
Shout to the Lord  
He Knows My Name  
Create In Me*

**Scripture:** See [page 44](#) for a responsive reading.

### Key Verse Game: Jenga Jumble

*Materials Needed: Bible, Jenga game, slips of paper, marker, scissors and tape*

Cut small slips of paper that will fit onto the ends of the Jenga tiles. Write the words of today's key verse on the small slips of paper. Attach the slips of paper to the small end of the Jenga tiles. Assemble a Jenga tower so the verse words are in correct order from top down on one side of the tower. Review today's verse with your students. Play Jenga as per normal. Successful players must say memory verse in correct order before next player has their turn. This gets more difficult as the growing Jenga tower jumbles the words.

### Craft: I Am God's Workmanship

*Materials Needed: Photos of each student, foam or cardboard picture frames (available from craft supply stores), stickers, foam art shapes, paint and markers, and labels with the words "I Am God's Workmanship" on them.*

Ahead of class time or when your students sign up for these classes take a photo of each student. Print the photos ahead of class and have them available to put

into the frames the students will be making. Each student will need either a foam or cardboard picture frame. Have a supply of stickers, foam art shapes and coloured markers or paints. Have each student decorate their frame to reflect their interests and talents. Then provide each with a label with the words “I Am God’s Workmanship” (Ephesians 2:10), or have the students write these words on their frames, or use foam stick-on letters.

**Activity Sheets:** Distribute copies of today’s activity sheets to your students. These should be sent home to help reinforce what was learned during your time together.

**Take Home Craft Idea:**

Working with your family make a “Fingerprint Family Portrait”. Write your family name across the top of a piece of colourful paper. Then have each family member use their different fingers and dip them into a washable ink pad and make a fingerprint picture of themselves on the page. For example have each family member use their thumbprint to make the body, their baby finger for the legs and arms, index finger for the head. Notice how each of you in your family have different fingerprints even though you are all from the same family.

**NOTE:**

*You will need to contact families ahead of class time and ask for a photo of each student, unless you have access to a colour printer during class time.*

# GOD'S PURPOSE FOR US

## RESPONSIVE READING

**Leader:** Know that the LORD is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture. (Psalm 100:3)

**Students:** God made us. We belong to Him!

**Leader:** For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. (Psalm 139:13)

**Girls:** God made every inch of me from head to toe!

**Leader:** I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. (Psalm 139:14)

**Boys:** God made me and says I am wonderful!

**Leader:** Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. (Deuteronomy 6:5)

**Students:** We are made in His image and created to love Him!

**Leader:** Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. (Psalm 95:6)

**Students:** We are made in His image and created to worship Him!

**Leader:** Be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you. (1 Samuel 12:24)

**Students:** We are made in His image and created to serve Him!

**Leader:** God saw all that He had made,

**All:** And it was very good! (Genesis 1:31)

# God's Purpose

## TODAY I LEARNED

### KEY VERSE:

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:27

### KEY POINT:

God created me to love, worship and serve Him.



God made you in His image.  
Draw a picture of yourself in the mirror.  
Be sure to thank God for creating you.



## Parent Puzzler

**Q:** What tool did God use at the end of each day of creation?

**A:** He "saw" that it was good.



**God made us different from other people. He even gave us different fingerprints. Using an ink pad and a piece of paper, fingerprint the people in your home. Can you spot the differences in your fingerprints?**



# God's Purpose



## Parent Puzzler

**Q:** What tool did God use at the end of each day of creation?

**A:** He "saw" that it was good.

On this hand, write two things that you like about yourself. Then stop and thank God for each of these things. Remember you have been created in His image!



## TODAY I LEARNED

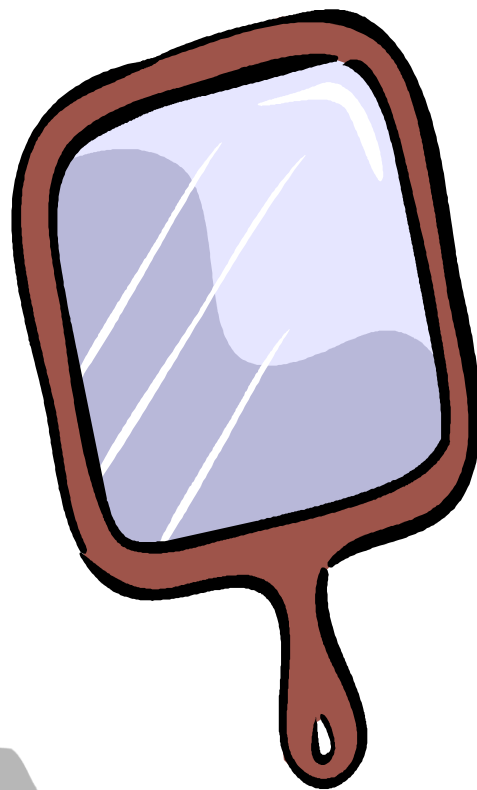
### KEY VERSE:

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:27

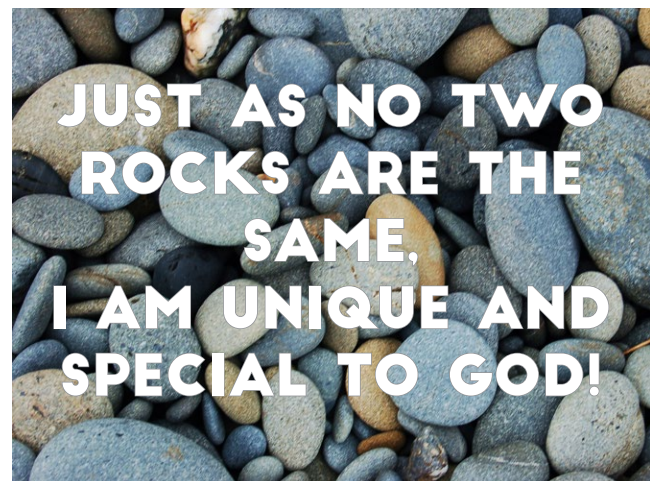
### KEY POINT:

God created me to love, worship and serve Him.



One day this week, spend time looking at your family members.

Take note of how you look the same and different from each other.





week  
1



loving • worshipping • serving God

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are thrilled that your child/ren is participating in the Junior Soldiership Preparation Course. By the end of this course, your child/ren will understand what it means to accept Jesus as their personal Saviour and have a better understanding of our denomination, The Salvation Army.

At the end of this course, your child will have the opportunity to decide if he or she wishes to become a Junior Soldier or member of The Salvation Army. During the worship service on Sunday, \_\_\_\_\_, all of the children who decide to become Junior Soldiers will be enrolled during a very special ceremony.

Part of the program involves Scripture memorization. Each week we will spend time memorizing a Bible verse that applies to the lesson. This week we talked about God, and reminded the children that He indeed is the creator of the heavens and earth. The verse we worked on today is:

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27*

We would really appreciate it if you could continue to work on this verse with your child/ren this week so that he/she will come prepared to recite it at the beginning of the next class.

If you have any questions or ideas, at any time during the course, please feel free to contact us at the numbers below.

We value the time we have with your child/ren. We hope they have fun with us, too!

Sincerely,

<Prep Course Teacher Name and contact info>

<Corps Officer Name and contact info>

Social Media Student Notes can be found in the Student Note Folder. This note can be posted on-line or emailed home to the students.

See Week One sample below:



Thanks for coming to Junior Soldier Preparation class this week! We hope you had fun learning about God - our Creator. Remember, He made us in His own image and loves each one of us - **JUST THE WAY WE ARE!**

Join us this week when we'll be learning about...

**'LOGOD'SINGOODIGNEWSAW'**

(Can you figure out what this says?)

Hint: there are extra letters surrounding each 'real' word.)

See you next time! (Don't forget your key verse - Genesis 1:27.)



loving • worshipping • serving God



# 2

**KEY VERSE:** *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16*

**AIM:** To help students discover that God has a plan for us.  
To help student realize that if we want to “measure up” in God’s eyes we need to follow His ABCDE plan.

### **INSIGHTS FOR INSTRUCTORS:**

*This lesson focuses on God’s plan of Salvation—His ABCDE Plan. The material has been prepared so that it flows into a time of commitment and challenge. Specific attention should be given to the lesson application. It is an opportunity for young people to make a decision to be a part of God’s family.*

*It is important that you do not assume all of your young people are saved. Many may not be familiar with totally giving themselves to God. When children sin, they often think that God doesn’t love them anymore—that they don’t measure up. The goal of this lesson is to help them know that they can indeed measure up!*

*Be sure to emphasize that God’s plan of Salvation is motivated by His love for us.*

### **FOCUS:**

#### **Option One:**

*Materials Needed: Flexible measuring tapes (free from IKEA).*

God made us all unique and special, didn’t He? With a partner, let’s see just how special we are. Measure each other to see:

**Who has the longest arm?**

**Who has the biggest neck?**

**Who has the longest toe?**

**Who can open their mouth the widest?**

**Who has the widest thumb?**

(Give your students a couple of minutes to measure each other and then gather students back together) Ask: **Have you ever heard the saying, “He just doesn’t measure up”?** **Do you have any idea what that means?** (Allow for responses) It sounds like this has something to do with how tall someone is. But it has nothing to do with the height of an individual. When someone “doesn’t measure up” it means they are not quite good enough for the job they are trying to do. There are many things in life that we are not able to measure up to. Especially if we’ve never tried to do those things before. (For example, the first time I ever tried to ski, I was 18 years old and spent the whole day on the bunny hill, watching all these toddlers whiz past me! It took a lot of practice before I could even attempt the chair lift!) (Share an example of your own with your students.)

**Teacher Tip:**

You may find it helpful to have a few of the pyramids made up ahead of time.

**Option Two:**

**Materials Needed:** Copies of pyramid pattern from [page 54](#) for each student, scissors, glue stick or clear tape, a bag of treats.

(Give each student a copy of **page 54** and have them cut out the pyramid and tape it together. [If you are short on time or students struggle with fine motor skills, you may want to prepare these pyramids before class time for the students.] When they are finished have them line up at one end of the room.) We’re going to play a game today that is similar to “Mother, May I?” I’m going to call out a command and I want you to toss your pyramid in the air. You are to do whatever it says on the side of the pyramid that lands facing you. As soon as you reach me you can have one of these treats.

Give commands similar to these:

- **Shake hands with two people.**
- **Sing “Happy Birthday” as fast as you can.**
- **Smile and take a bow.**
- **Spin around three times.**
- **Pinch your nose and say, “I’m a very nice person.”**
- **Pat yourself on the head.**
- **Touch your toes.**
- **Make a funny face.**
- **Croak like a frog.**
- **Do three shoulder rolls.**
- **Touch your nose.**

(As you give the commands, students will move forward or backwards depending on what they roll. As they reach you, give them a treat. If it is taking a while for some to reach you, stop the game and gather everyone in a circle.) Since some of you had trouble obeying and since I’m such a nice person, I’ll give you a treat anyway. Ask: **Why did some of you disobey so often?** (Allow responses.) **Why do people disobey in real life?** (They want to do things their own way; they don’t want to be told what to do.) **What were the consequences of disobeying my commands?** (It took longer to get a treat, it was frustrating, etc.) **What are the consequences when people disobey in real life?** (They sin and mess up their lives, bad things happen to them, they don’t measure up.) Today, we’re going to learn about how we can measure up and what God wants us to do when we don’t.

## Key Verse Review:

Allow the young people opportunity to recite last week's key verse to you. If you have a larger group allow them to say it in pairs. Optional: give out small rewards.

## LESSON:

*Materials Needed: Bibles, letters ABCDE each written on a single sheet of paper.*

Last week we learned that God created the heavens and the earth and everything in it. **What else did God create?** (Allow for response.) Yes, people. Ask: **Who remembers what makes us so special among all of God's other creations?** (Allow for responses.) We are special because God made us in His image. We have the ability to have a relationship with Him. We are able to worship and serve Him.

When God created the first man and woman, they walked and talked with Him in the Garden of Eden. They were like this (*fingers twisted together*). They 'measured up' in God's eyes. He loved how they were ruling over his earth, He loved spending time with them. Then, something terrible happened.

Ask: **Who knows what happened?** (Allow for responses.) Yes, Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Disobeying God's instructions is called sin. Suddenly, Adam and Eve did NOT measure up in God's eyes.

The Bible tells us that since Adam and Eve, no one has "measured up" to God's standard. **Romans 3:23** says, "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." The fact is that no matter how hard we try, or how much we practice, we cannot "measure up" to God's glory and perfection!

There is Good News though. God came up with a plan—His ABCDE Plan!

**"A"** stands for "All". After Adam and Eve, God knew that **ALL** men would sin and fall short of His plan for them. God knew that because of sin, **ALL** men would be separated from Him forever. So, do you know what God did for us? He came down from heaven, in the form of a human baby Jesus, and lived a perfect life. But He did more than that! God sent Jesus, the only person who could measure up to God's standard of perfection, to take the punishment for **ALL** sinners. Jesus took our punishment by dying in our place. (Romans 3:23)

**"B"** stands for "Believe." The Bible tells us that we can "measure up" in God's eyes because of what Jesus did for us. If we **believe** that, we can be saved from eternal death, by believing that Jesus is God, that He came to earth to die for our sins, and to take our punishment. (Acts 16:31)

**"C"** stands for "Confess." We must believe that Jesus came to do what the Bible says He came to do, and we must **confess** our need for Him. We have to be humble enough to say, "God, we do not measure up." We confess our sin by saying, "God, we acknowledge that we disobey You, we sin. We fall short of what You created us to be." (Romans 10:9-10)

Teacher Tip:

Remember, this lesson has been prepared for territorial use. Only you can 'tailor' it to meet the needs of your young people.

“**D**” stands for “Decide.” We decide to turn our lives around. We **decide** to STOP living how we want to live, and START living the way God wants us to live. “We repent.” We decide to start obeying God’s laws. (Joshua 24:15, Luke 9:23)

“**E**” stands for “Everyone.” Wouldn’t you like to measure up to God so that you can have a relationship with your Creator, the creator of the universe? Wouldn’t you like to measure up to God so that you can live with him in heaven forever? The Bible tells us that “**EVERYONE** who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.” (Romans 10:13)

### APPLICATION:

Materials Needed: Copies of [page 55](#) for each student (you may want to print this on cardstock) brass paper fasteners (5 per student), scissors, a hole punch and markers.

(Give each student a copy of [page 55](#). Have them cut out each piece of their “God’s ABCDE Plan,” punch holes where indicated and join ruler together using the brass paper fasteners.) We’re going to take a few minutes to review God’s ABCDE Plan by filling in the blanks on the measuring tape. Ask: **Who can remember what A is for? (All) Who has sinned?** (Continue reviewing each letter of God’s Plan. When you are finished ask if there is anyone who feels they are not measuring up to God’s plan and would like to. Lead your class in a simple prayer that will provide them with the opportunity to invite Jesus to become a part of their lives. After, ask your class if anyone prayed the prayer with you. It will be helpful if you follow-up the prayer with an age-appropriate decision pamphlet reviewing with the child/ren what decision they just made and answering any questions they may have. It may also be helpful to follow-up further on the decision by providing each child with an age-appropriate follow-up course journal.) Let’s see who can remember God’s ABCDE Plan. Let’s say it together:

- All** have sinned
- Believe** in Jesus
- Confess** your sin
- Decide** to obey God, and remember that...
- Everyone** who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved!

I’d like you to take your measuring tape home with you today and use them to remind yourself that by following God’s ABCDE Plan you can measure up. All you have to do is decide to obey God and ask Him each day to help you to obey and follow Him.

For right now I’d like you to hold your measuring tape in your hands with your eyes closed. Think about God’s ABCDE Plan. Are you willing to live by God’s Plan? Let’s pray and thank God for coming up with this plan because He loves us so much. Let’s invite God to help us follow His plan for our lives. Let’s ask Him to help us decide to obey Him in everything we do.

#### NOTE:

Age-Appropriate Decision Pamphlets and Follow-up Courses are available through the [Supplies and Purchasing Dept.](#)

#### Don’t forget!

Email or mail home this lesson’s [Parent Letter](#) and the Student Note.

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

### Worship Songs:

*Lord, I lift Your Name on High*  
*What a Beautiful Name*  
*I Give You My Heart*  
*Open The Eyes of My Heart*  
*Shout to the Lord*  
*You Are My King*

**Scripture:** See [page 56](#) for a suggestion of how to creatively reinforce today's key verse.

### Key Verse Game: Ball/Balloon Crawl

*Materials Needed: Tennis balls or two different colours of balloons (enough to write each word of John 3:16 on a ball/balloon for two different teams), markers and a Bible.*

Write the words from today's key verse on the two sets of tennis balls or two different colours of balloons (one word per ball/balloon). On the balls be sure to use two different coloured markers; one colour for each team. Or use two different colours of tennis balls. Scatter the balls/balloons around your meeting room. Divide your class into two different teams and instruct them to collect all of their team's tennis balls/balloons. When they've collected all their tennis balls/balloons have them put the verse in order. If time allows, you might like to play this game a couple of times to see which team can do it in the shortest amount of time.

### Craft: God So Loved the World

*Materials Needed: Copies of [Page 57](#) for each student, coloured markers, scissors, a hole punch, brass paper fasteners (two per student), and an optional ribbon or string.*

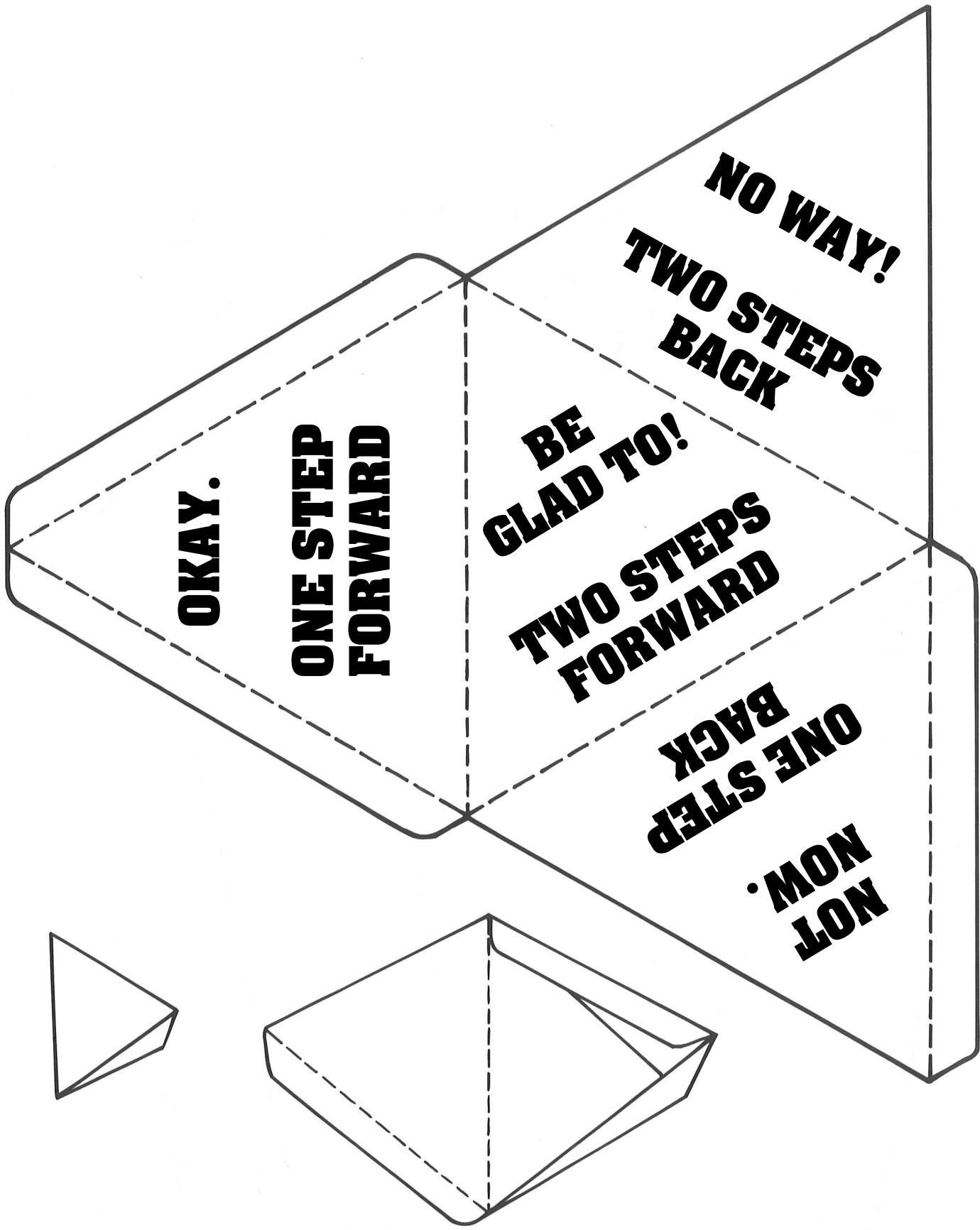
Give each student a copy of [page 57](#). Have the students colour in the map of the world and the letters of the words from **John 3:16**. When they have finished colouring the picture, have them cut apart the map and stack the strips in order. Using a hole punch, punch a hole in each end of the strips. Put a brass paper fastener through each end of the strips and carefully move the strips apart. Your students will end up with a globe that they can attach a ribbon or piece of string to the top and take it home as a reminder of God's love and His ABCDE Plan for us.

### Craft: John 3:16 Globe

*Materials Needed: Order this kit from the Oriental Trading Company at [www.orientaltrading.com](http://www.orientaltrading.com). Kit has enough supplies for 12 students.*

Make craft according to instructions included with the kit.

**Activity Sheets:** Distribute copies of today's activity sheets to your students. These should be sent home to help reinforce what was learned during your time together.





# GOD'S ABCDE PLAN

**A** is for \_\_\_\_\_ have sinned.

**B** is for \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus, God's Son.

**C** is for \_\_\_\_\_ our sin to God.

**D** is for \_\_\_\_\_ to obey God.






**E** is for \_\_\_\_\_ can be saved.

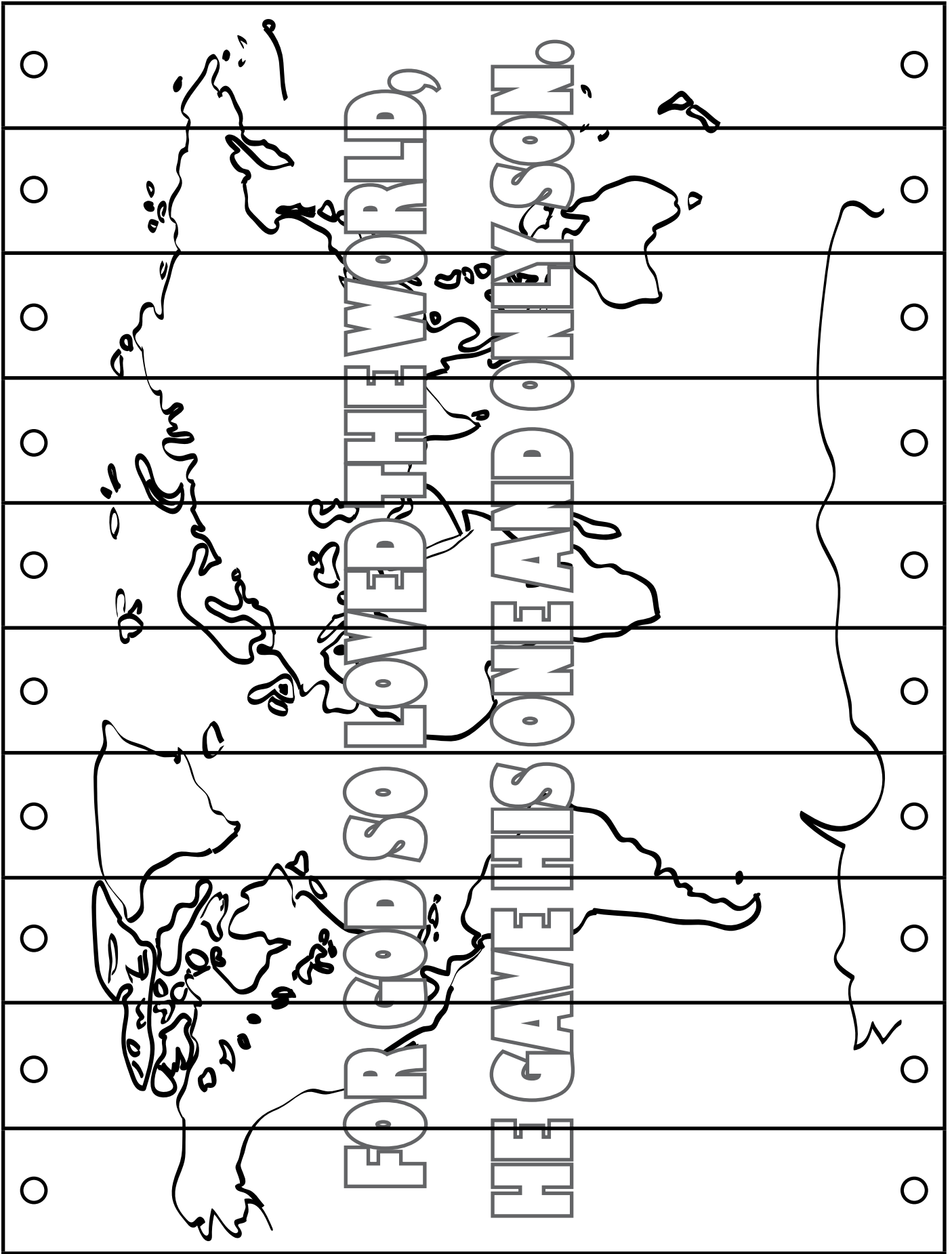
# GOD'S LOVE FOR US

John 3:16

Collect the following objects for use with today's key verse. Today's verse has been divided into phrases. Gather your students together in a circle. Pass each object around the circle one object at a time. As each child holds the object they repeat the phrase that has been assigned to the object.

John 3:16 says (*have students repeat*):

<p>Inflatable Globe (or globe stress ball)</p> 	<p>For God so loved the world</p>
<p>A Wrapped Gift</p> 	<p>That He gave His one and only Son,</p>
<p>Picture of Praying Hands</p> 	<p>That whoever believes in Him</p>
<p>Sign with word "Heaven" inside the do not enter symbol</p> 	<p>Shall not perish</p>
<p>Plastic Crown (<i>have students place on their heads</i>)</p> 	<p>But have eternal life.</p>





We all have sin in our lives. That sin keeps us from measuring up to God's standard. But God has a plan—He's got an **ABCDE Plan**. Fill in the missing letters to see how well you remember God's Plan.



I have sinned (Romans 3:23)



believe in Jesus (Acts 16:31)



confess your sin (1 John 1:9)



decide to obey God (Joshua 24:15)



everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved (Romans 10:13)



### Parent Puzzler

**Q:** What Bible verse tells of God's plan for us?

**A:** John 3:16

## TODAY I LEARNED

### KEY VERSE:

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

### KEY POINT:

God has a plan for my life.

You can  
**MEASURE UP!**



With the help of a family member, measure to see:

**How long is your right arm?**

**How short is your baby toe?**

**How long is your nose?**

**How wide is your thumb?**

**How big can you open your mouth?**



## TODAY I LEARNED

### KEY VERSE:

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

### KEY POINT:

God has a plan for my life.



## Parent Puzzler

**Q:** What Bible verse tells of God's plan for us?

**A:** John 3:16

We all have sin in our lives. That sin keeps us from measuring up to God's standard. But God has a plan — He's got an **ABCDE Plan**. Fill in the missing words to see how well you remember God's Plan.



## MEASURE UP!

With a family member, measure each other to see:

**Who has the shortest arm?**

**Who has the thickest neck?**

**Who has the longest toe?**

**Who can open their mouths the widest?**

**Who has the widest thumb?**

**Who has the shortest foot?**

**a**

\_\_\_\_\_ have sinned (Romans 3:23)

**b**

\_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus (Acts 16:31)

**c**

\_\_\_\_\_ your sin (1 John 1:9)

**d**

\_\_\_\_\_ to obey God (Joshua 24:15)

**e**

\_\_\_\_\_ who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved (Romans 10:13)

week  
2



loving • worshipping • serving God

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We hope you had fun learning our last memory verse along with your child/ren. Isn't it reassuring to know that we are created in God's image? We reviewed with your child that it doesn't matter what other people say about us--we are God's special creation, created with the special ability to love, worship and serve God.

Today we talked about God's desire to have a relationship with his special creation, and how our sinful nature interferes with God's desire. Left on our own we would never be able to 'measure up' to God's ideal. It would mean eternal separation from God. We reminded the recruits of God's great plan--God's "Good News" (the solution to the puzzle on the card in the mail!). We introduced God's plan of salvation as God's "**ABCDE Plan**":

- A** "ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)
- B** If we, "**believe** in the Lord Jesus Christ (the only one who 'measures up'), we will be saved." (Acts 16:31)
- C** "If we **confess** our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)
- D** **Decide** to stop living how we want to live and start living the way God wants us to. (Joshua 24:15)
- E** Remember that, "**Everyone** who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (Romans 10:13)

We tried to emphasize that the only way we can 'measure up' in God's eyes is if we follow God's "ABCDE" Plan.

Here is this week's memory verse:

*For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16*

Have a great week!

Social Media Student Notes can be found in the Student Note Folder. This note can be posted on-line or emailed home to the students.

See Week Two sample below:



loving • worshipping • serving God

Remember that you will always measure up in God's eyes if you follow His **"ABCDE"** plan.

Next time we will be focusing on the **"D"** of God's plan - learning about tools that will help us to choose God's way when we have to **decide** what to do.

Don't forget this week's key verse:

**John 3:16**









# God's Protection

# 3

**KEY VERSE:** *Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. Ephesians 6:10-11*

**AIM:** That students will know that God provides a way for us to resist the devil's schemes.  
That students will know what the armour of God is and choose to put it on.

## **INSIGHTS FOR INSTRUCTORS:**

*Not only does God have a plan for us, He also provides us with armour to help us. In today's lesson you will be sharing with your students about the armour of God as outlined in **Ephesians 6:10-17**. As Paul wrote his letter to the Christians in Ephesus he was being guarded by a Roman Soldier. He used the soldier's armour as an illustration of Christians fighting against evil.*

*We also need to recognize that Satan is constantly on the attack. He uses the everyday things in our life to try and turn us from following God's ABCDE Plan. He is always finding ways to keep us from measuring up.*

*It is important for your students to know that they have to **decide** to put on each piece of the armour. Each piece of armour is important to their growth as a Christian. The goal of this lesson is to help your young people know that they can put on God's armour and seek His protection from Satan's attacks.*

## **FOCUS:**

### **Option One:**

*Materials Needed: [Pages 70](#) and [71](#). Optional: hockey goalie and/or baseball catcher equipment, roller skating protective gear, construction worker, firefighter or riot police protective gear.*

*(Mount the pictures from **pages 70** and **71** on coloured construction paper. These pictures illustrate different equipment people wear to protect themselves, such as a hockey player, baseball catcher, roller skater, fire fighter, construction worker, or a police officer in riot gear. If you are able, bring in the equipment itself, and put it on display. Or if you know someone who is a goalie, fire fighter, police officer or wears protective gear for work invite them in and interview them about their gear. If you have a display invite the young people to look at it as they*

arrive.) Ask: **Can you tell me what protective gear the person in this picture is wearing?** (Allow for responses.) Ask: **Can you tell me what kind of protection the gear provides?** (Allow for responses.) Today we are going to learn about some protective gear that God provides us with as His Christian soldiers to help us live for Him.

### **Option Two:**

*Materials Needed: Nothing.*

#### **Teacher Tip:**

You may want to demonstrate this activity before the students try it.

(Assign each student a partner who is roughly the same height.) With your partner I'd like you to stand facing each other. Your feet should be together and twelve inches away from your partner's. Now, hold up your hands and press them against your partner's hands. (Check to make sure all students are in the right position.) When I say "go" start pushing against your partner's hands. See if you can cause your partner to lose their balance. I don't want you to knock them over; I just want you to push until your partner needs to move their feet. If you both move your feet at the same time, try it again. You don't need to bump or hit, just push against each other's hands. Are you ready? Go!

Now, I'd like you to try it with another partner. (Give them an opportunity to try it again with someone else.) Let's go back to our first partner and this time stand two feet away from your partner and spread your own feet apart. Press your hands to your partners and try again when I say "go". Ready? Go! (This time your students will find it much easier to keep their balance and to hold their feet in place. If time allows, have them try this again with a couple other partners. Bring everyone back together.) Ask: **Which way did you prefer to play this game—with feet together or apart? Why?** (Allow for responses.) Sometimes in life there are things that knock us off balance. We can feel overwhelmed by things that are stronger than we are. Remember how much easier it was to keep your balance with your feet apart? Well, God is stronger than anything we will ever face in life. And He gives us something to help us, and to protect us from situations in life that will knock us off balance.

### **Key Verse Review:**

Allow the young people opportunity to recite last week's key verse to you. If you have a larger group allow them to say it in pairs. Optional: give out small rewards.

#### **Teacher Tip:**

If short on time, you may want to draw silhouette ahead of class. Then have students draw on it. Or make armour pieces ahead of class for students to tape on the silhouette.

### **LESSON:**

*Materials Needed: Large sheet of paper, markers, tape and a Bible.*

I need one volunteer. (Have the volunteer lie down on a piece of large paper and trace their outline. Tape the outline onto a wall so that all students can see it.)

God gives us great advice on how to live as a Christian. **Ephesians 6:10-11** says,

"Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."

“Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist.” (v. 14a) *(Have another volunteer draw a belt on the silhouette.)* Ask: **Can you guess what this means? Why would God want us to put a belt on?** *(Allow for responses.)* In Jesus’ day soldiers wore belts to keep their shirts tucked in. Their shirts were called tunics which were essentially like short dresses. They would gather their tunics up tight with their belt. If their belt was tied tightly around their waist it showed that they were prepared for action. The belt was needed in order to support the breastplate and to hang things from like their sword and dagger. Their belt kept everything together.

To wear the belt of truth means that God wants us to always TELL THE TRUTH. If you don’t you might stumble over your own lies. Your life will get all tangled up if you lie.

Ask: **Do you want to grow a great, healthy relationship with God?** Then you have to DECIDE to make it a habit to TELL THE TRUTH.

“Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place.” (v. 14) *(Have someone draw a breastplate on the silhouette.)*

Soldiers wear breastplates to protect their hearts. God is saying protect your heart, keep it righteous, and keep it pure. DECIDE to DO THE RIGHT THINGS. Don’t take part in any activity that is wrong, whether that is saying mean things about another kid at school, being rude, being disrespectful to your parents, getting angry and hitting your sibling, stealing, cheating, etc.

“Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.” (v. 14-15)

Wow, that is a mouthful! Ask: **What can it possibly mean to be “fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace?”** *(Have another volunteer draw some shoes on your silhouette, while you talk about what it means.)*

Well, gospel means, “GOOD NEWS”. We’ve got the good news. We know God’s ABCDE plan. We know that we can measure up in God’s eyes; He will forgive our sins so that we CAN have a relationship with God here and now. That’s GREAT NEWS! It’s news that can bring PEACE to people. Ask: **How do you feel when you have done something wrong?** *(Allow for responses.)* Sometimes when you do things that are wrong it makes you feel terrible, and you can’t think about anything else other than the bad thing you have done. You can’t enjoy life because you can’t get over what you’ve done or said or thought. God takes away that guilt if you follow His plan. He gives peace.

Having your feet fitted with the gospel of peace means, be ready to GO WHERE God wants you to go, and share the good news. That might be hard! Sometimes God asks people to go to far away places, to become missionaries in foreign lands so that those people can know about the good news of Jesus Christ. But, most

Teacher Tip:

Remember, this lesson has been prepared for territorial use. Only you can ‘tailor’ it to meet the needs of your young people.

of the time God asks us to stay **RIGHT WHERE WE ARE** and share the good news with our families, neighbours, friends at school, friends on the street, etc. That's awfully hard, too. Sometimes people bug us, are rude to us, or ignore us, but God says to put on your good news shoes and be kind and loving back to them. Share the good news with them.

Let's review what we have so far to help live as Christians:

Belt of Truth

**TELL THE TRUTH**

Breastplate of Righteousness

**DO THE RIGHT THING** (it's not necessarily the easiest, most fun thing that will make you happy)

Shoes of Peace

Be ready to **GO** where God wants you to go

**Ephesians 6** goes on to tell us more about the Armour OF GOD that we need.

"In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one." (v. 16)

*(Have a volunteer draw a shield on the silhouette.)*

The Roman soldiers used a large shield covered in leather which could be soaked in water and used to put out flaming arrows that were thrown at them.

Ask: **Why do you think we are told to use the "shield of faith" to protect ourselves?** *(Allow for responses.)* Sometimes things happen in life that are really hard to understand. Perhaps someone you love dies, maybe your parents split up, maybe your best friends ditch you, someone you love gets really sick or you feel bad about yourself. When we can't understand why things don't seem to get better, we just need to TRUST God. We need to use our FAITH to get us through. God is willing to give us the faith we need to defend ourselves against Satan's fiery attacks. So, even in rough times, our relationship with God can grow.

Only two more pieces of armour. **Ephesians 6:17** says, "Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

*(Have someone add a helmet to the silhouette.)*

Ask: **When do we need to use a helmet?** *(Biking, sports, motorcycles)* Ask: **What do they do?** *(Allow for responses.)* Helmets protect our brain, our minds from being damaged. Remember the "B" in God's ABCDE Plan? BELIEVE in the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved. We have to use our minds to be saved. The Bible says we need to guard our minds in Jesus Christ. Protect our minds or we might not continue to believe. God is truth, His plan is truth. If you fill your mind with a lot of garbage, there won't be any room left for the truth to grow.

We need to ask ourselves, what are we filling our minds up with? What are we watching on TV, on-line, or at the movies? Is it good for our minds? If we want to

grow into something beautiful we have to DECIDE to only watch, read, and look at things that are good. We need to DECIDE to turn off the TV/computer/movie, to close the book/magazine that is filled with stuff that is bad. Ask: **Is swearing good? Are pictures of naked people good? Are violent movies good? Are violent PS4 games good?** (If appropriate: **Is watching people have sex good?**) **How about nasty texts or comments on someone's Instagram or TIKTOK?** No, No, NO!

*(Have someone draw a sword on the silhouette.)*

Finally, this is the most important piece of armour: The Sword of the Spirit—God's Word. God's Word helps us to wear all of the other pieces of armour.

1. God's Word tells us what is right and wrong. That helps with the belt of truth. We live in a crazy world these days. Some people believe that anything is okay, that nothing is wrong. Some believe that what might be wrong for one person is okay for another. This is not what God says. In the Bible, God tells us what is right and wrong.
2. God's Word says to hide his Word in our hearts so we might not sin. If we read and really think about God's Word it will help us keep our hearts clean, keep our actions right (BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS)
3. God's Word gives instructions on where to go and what to do (FEET FITTED WITH THE GOSPEL)
4. God's Word can strengthen our faith in two ways:
  - a. As we read God's Word, the Holy Spirit speaks to us and strengthens our knowledge of God.
  - b. When we read God's Word, we read about other people who have grown in their relationship with God. Sometimes reading about other people and how God helped them, encourages us, and strengthens our faith.
5. Reading God's Word renews our mind, and transforms our thinking.

Again, the world is so powerful. The internet and TV would have us believe all sorts of things that are just not right. Things that get our thoughts all messed up. By reading God's Word our thoughts get going the right way again. We start thinking correctly. We get "un-messed" up, so we can make good DECISIONS.

### **APPLICATION:**

*Materials Needed: Bring in winter gear: hats, mitts, scarf, coat, boots; rain gear: raincoat, boots, umbrella and summer gear: sunscreen, sunglasses, beach umbrella, sunscreen and hat.*

*(Put these items on display together by winter, rain and sun.)*

Let's review what we've learned today about God's armour, His protection from Satan's attacks. We are to:

**Speak** the truth (belt of truth)

**Do** what is right (breastplate of righteousness)

Don't forget!

Email or mail home this lesson's [Parent Letter](#), the Student Note and the [Christian Soldier fill-in the blanks reminder activity](#).

**Go** where God wants you to go (shoes fitted with gospel of peace)

**Exercise** your faith when you've got questions (shield of faith)

**Guard** your mind (i.e. turn off that TV when something comes on that you know is not good!) (helmet of Salvation)

Remember to **read** your Bible (sword of the Spirit)

I've brought some items today that we use to protect ourselves. (*Show your students the winter gear*) Ask: **What happens if it is cold outside and I forget to put on my mitts or hat?** (*Show rain gear.*) Ask: **What happens if it is pouring rain outside and I don't have an umbrella?** (*Show sun gear.*) Ask: **And what would happen to me if I went to the beach for the day and forgot my sunscreen and hat?** We don't think a lot about these things. We're used to wearing stuff to protect us from the weather. We're used to protecting ourselves from cold, rain or sun. We can make sure that the weather can't hurt us or make us really uncomfortable.

Ask: **With God's armour, it might take some practice to get used to wearing it, but if you don't, what could happen?** (*Allow for responses.*) Ask: **If you do remember to wear God's armour what will happen?** (*Allow for responses.*)

So, this week, which pieces of the armour are you going to wear? Remember it's not enough to BELIEVE, we must consciously DECIDE to take up this armour in order to really GROW in our relationship with God.

Let's talk to God and ask him for his help in fighting against the devil's schemes. (*Spend a few moments in prayer. Thank God for the protection that He provides us with in our fight against sin in our lives. Acknowledge that we need to decide to wear the armour He provides us with.*)

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

### Worship Songs:

You're Worthy of My Praise  
Nothing Is Impossible  
Shout to the Lord  
Every Giant Will Fall  
Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus  
Victory in Jesus  
Lord, I Need You  
Our God  
Good, Good Father

**Scripture:** See [page 72](#) for a responsive reading.

### Key Verse Game: Tic Tac Toe

*Materials Needed: Tape, half sheets of paper or large sticky notes, two different colour sheets of construction paper (5 each), marker, and Bible.*

*(Create an X and O grid on the floor or wall using tape. Write out today's key verse on each half sheet of paper or sticky notes so that you have 9 cards. Place the key verse cards into the grid using tape to secure them in place. Divide the group into two teams.)* Let's see how well you know today's key verse. I'm going to give each team one colour of paper. One team will be the Xs and the other the Os. One at a time you'll come up and place your X or O in an empty tile and remove the key verse card from it. When you remove a verse card you'll repeat the verse for all of us to hear. *(Play the game until one of the teams wins Xs and Os. Repeat as you have time.)*

### **Craft: Hidden Treasure**

*Materials Needed: Wooden boxes from craft stores (one per student), permanent markers or acrylic paint, jewels, stickers, Bibles and small strips of paper.*

Provide each student with a little wooden box. Encourage them to decorate it to look like a treasure chest. While they are waiting for the paint and glue to dry, encourage them to write out the key verses they have learned so far as well as any other verses that they feel would be helpful for them to hide in their hearts. Have them take their treasure boxes home and encourage them to keep adding other key verses they learn or that they read on their own at home to it. Encourage your students to learn the verses by heart—to hide God's Word in their hearts.

**Activity Sheets:** Distribute copies of today's activity sheets to your students. These should be sent home to help reinforce what was learned during your time together.

**Take Home Reminder:** Distribute copies of [page 77](#) to your students (or send home via email or mail) and encourage your students to see if they remember the pieces of God's armour and what each piece means.







# WEAR GOD'S ARMOUR

## RESPONSIVE READING from EPHESIANS 6:10-17

**Leader:** Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.

**Students:** Be strong!

**Leader:** Put on the full armour of God, and stand your ground.

**Students:** Stand your ground!

**Leader:** Stand firm with the belt of truth buckled around your waist.

**Students:** Speak the truth!

**Leader:** Stand firm with the breastplate of righteousness in place.

**Students:** Do what is right!

**Leader:** Stand firm with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

**Students:** Go where God says to go!

**Leader:** Take up the shield of faith so you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

**Students:** Exercise your faith!

**Leader:** Put on the helmet of salvation.

**Students:** Guard your mind!

**Leader:** Take up the sword of the Spirit.

**Students:** Read God's Word!

**Leader:** Pray in the Spirit on all occasions.

**Student:** Be strong!

**All:** Stand your ground!

# God's Protection

## TODAY I LEARNED

### KEY VERSE:

Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the Devil's schemes.

Ephesians 6:10-11

### KEY POINT:

I have to decide to put on God's armour of protection.

### Remember:

We have to **DECIDE** to take up God's armour in order to really **GROW** in our relationship with Him.



## Parent Puzzler

**Q:** What is the only offensive piece of God's armour?

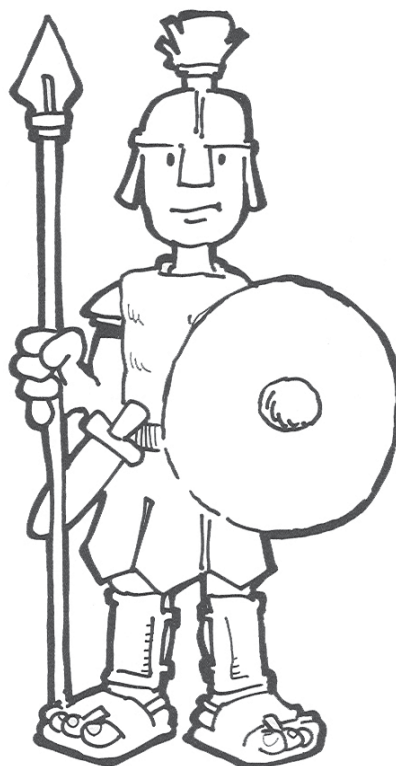
**A:** The Sword of the Spirit (the Bible).

Draw a line from the pieces of the Armour of God to the matching piece of the Roman soldier's armour. Then draw a circle around the piece of armour you need God's help to wear this week.

**Belt of Truth**  
(Speak the truth)

**Helmet of Salvation**  
(Guard your mind)

**Breastplate of Righteousness**  
(Do what is right)



**Shoes fitted with the Gospel of Peace**  
(Go where God wants you to go)

**Sword of the Spirit**  
(Read your Bible)

**Shield of Faith**  
(Exercise your faith when you've got questions)

# God's Protection

## TODAY I LEARNED

### KEY VERSE:

Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the Devil's schemes.

Ephesians 6:10-11

### KEY POINT:

I have decided to put on God's armour of protection.



### Parent Puzzler

**Q:** What is the only offensive piece of God's armor?

**A:** The Sword of the Spirit (the Bible).



### Remember:

We have to **DECIDE** to take up God's armour in order to really **GROW** in our relationship with him.

Draw a line from the Armor of God on the right to the matching piece of the Roman soldier's armor on the left. Then fill in the mission letters to find out what we are to do.



**Belt of Truth** (\_\_\_\_\_ the truth)

**Breastplate of Righteousness** (\_\_\_\_\_ what is right)

**Shoes fitted with the Gospel of Peace**  
(\_\_\_\_\_ where God wants you to go)

**Shield of Faith** (\_\_\_\_\_ your faith when you've got questions)

**Helmet of Salvation** (\_\_\_\_\_ your mind)

**Sword of the Spirit** (\_\_\_\_\_ your Bible)

Write down which piece of God's armour you need His help to put on and wear.

Stop, and ask God to help you put on this piece of armour this week.

week  
3



loving • worshipping • serving God

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Today we tackled the hard stuff - we talked about things we **MUST** do in order to grow in our relationship with God. The young people have learned that it's not good enough just to believe - believing must lead to action or else you might stop believing.

We spent most of the lesson time on the good news - God gives us growing instructions. He tells us what and how to protect and grow our relationship with Him. This week's memory verse sums it all up:

*"Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the Devil's schemes."*

*Ephesians 6:10-11*

Your child/ren should be able to tell you about the armour of God. If not, then please review this with him/her:

**Belt of Truth** - always **SPEAK** the truth (don't tell lies - they trip you up)

**Breastplate of Righteousness** - **DO** what is right (protect your heart)

**Feet fitted with the ... Gospel of Peace** - **GO** where God leads you and share the Good News

**Shield of Faith** - when you don't understand life... **EXERCISE** your faith - God is your salvation

**Helmet of Salvation** - **GUARD** your mind (if you fill it with garbage there'll be no room for God)

**Sword of Spirit** - **READ** your Bible (it will teach you how to wear all the armor properly!)

Have a great week!

Social Media Student Notes can be found in the Student Note Folder. This note can be posted on-line or emailed home to the students.

See Week Three sample below:



We're half way through our JS Preparation Course. We're having **FUN** and hope you are too!

Sometimes putting on the Armour of God is NOT fun. It's hard to **D**ecide to...

**Speak** the truth

**Do** what is right

**Go** where God wants you to go

**Exercise** your faith when you've got questions

**Guard** your mind (i.e. turn off that youtube video when something comes on that you know is not good and talk to your parents about it!)



loving • worshipping • serving God

Remember to keep picking up the last piece of armour:

(see if you can fill in the missing letters)

\_\_\_ **E** \_\_\_ **W** \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ **H** \_\_\_ \_\_\_ **P** \_\_\_ \_\_\_ **I** \_\_\_

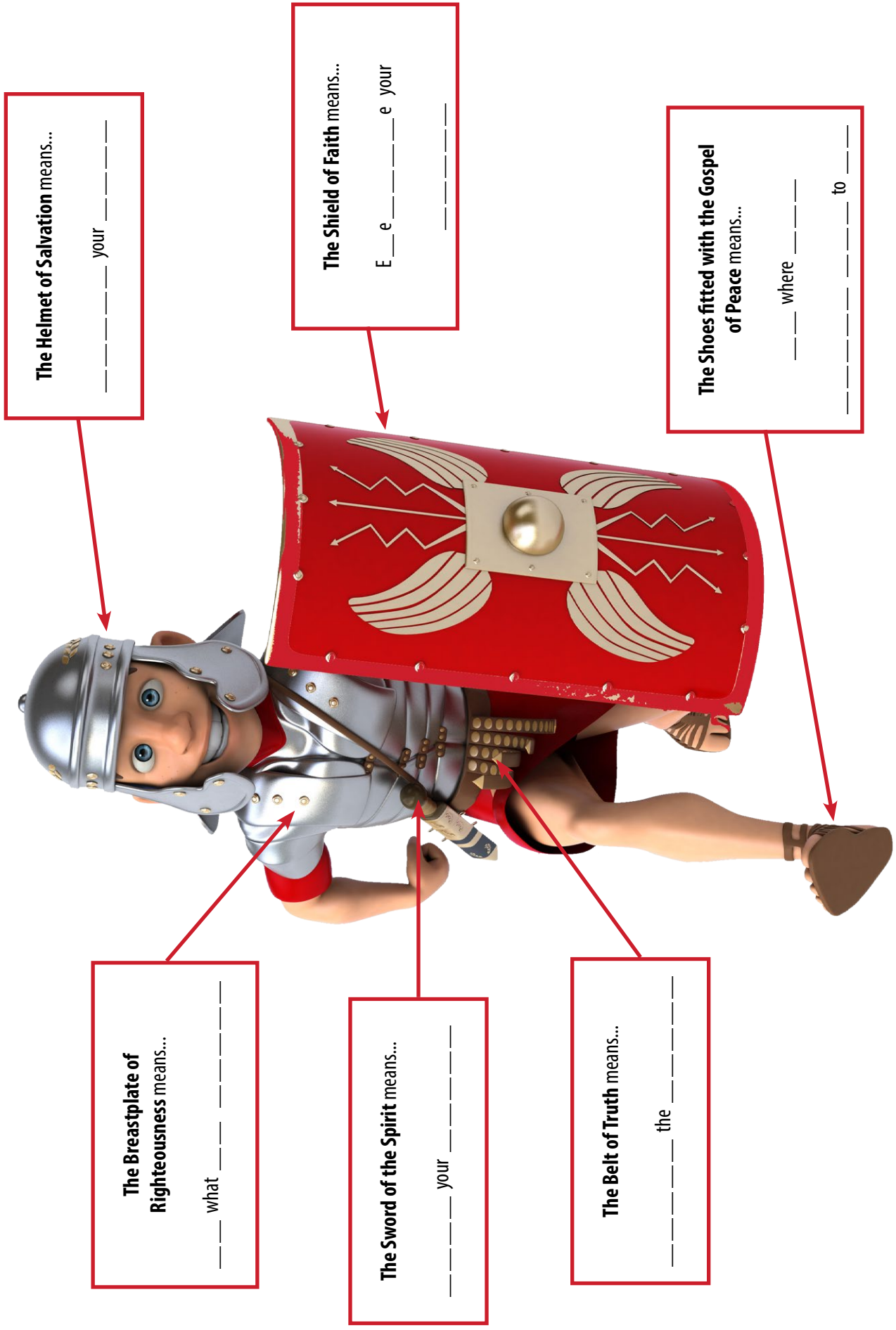
**Spending time with God, reading His Word, talking to Him and listening to Him, will give the power to wear your armour well.**

Keeping working on this week's key verse: **Ephesians 6:10-11**

# TRY TO FILL IN THE BLANKS. REMEMBER....

“Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.”

Ephesians 6:10-11



**The Breastplate of Righteousness** means...  
\_\_\_\_\_ what \_\_\_\_\_

**The Sword of the Spirit** means...  
\_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_

**The Belt of Truth** means...  
\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_

**The Helmet of Salvation** means...  
\_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_

**The Shield of Faith** means...  
E \_\_\_\_\_ e your \_\_\_\_\_

**The Shoes fitted with the Gospel of Peace** means...  
\_\_\_\_\_ where \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_







**KEY VERSE:** *Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another... Hebrews 10:25*

**AIM:** That students will know God created the “Church” so that believers could encourage each other.  
That students will learn that God commands us to meet together for prayer, Bible study and worship.  
The students will understand that The Salvation Army is a part of God’s Church.

**INSIGHTS FOR INSTRUCTORS:**  
*Today’s lesson focuses on God’s second great plan—Church! Not only has God given us armor to wear, he has provided us with back-up and encouragement to help us follow His ABCDE Plan. He has provided us with Church, which is other Christians who encourage us in our fight against the devil’s schemes. Belonging to a Church provides us with the opportunity to meet with others to pray, study the Word of God, to sing praises and to share our life experiences. This is important to anyone’s development—whether we are young or old, a new or mature Christian. We all need the encouragement of others.*

*The Salvation Army is one small part of God’s Church. It is a place where Christians can come together to worship. The Salvation Army churches are as varied as the people who come together to worship. The Army provides its members with encouragement and opportunities to serve God by serving others.*

**FOCUS:**  
**Option One:**  
*Materials Needed: A ten inch piece of yarn or string for each student.*

*(Give each student a piece of yarn/string. Ask them to tie it around their wrists. Allow them a few moments to try and do this.)*

Ask: **Why are you having such a hard time tying the yarn/string around your wrists?** *(Allow for responses.)* **What could you do to make it easier?** *(Allow for responses.)*

**Teacher Tip:**

Remember, this lesson has been prepared for territorial use. Only you can 'tailor' it to meet the needs of your young people.

Now, I'd like everyone to get with a partner. (When they have a partner, encourage them to work together to find a solution to their problem. After they've discovered a solution together, gather all students around you.) Ask: **Was it possible to tie the string around your own wrists by yourself? Why? Why not?** (Allow for responses.) Ask: **How did having your partner help you tie the yarn/string on your wrists make you feel?** (Allow for responses.) Today we are going to learn about another great plan that God had. His plan for Church. We're going to learn why it's important to be together and to be a part of His Church.

**Option Two:**

Materials Needed: None.

(Choose one student to be "It". Have the rest of your students spread out around the room. Explain that when "It" calls out a number between one and the number of students playing, they are to get into groups of that number. As soon as they are in their groups they are to form a group hug. For example, if "It" calls out "four", the students are to get into group hugs of four. Choose the next "It" from those who are left out. Play the game for about 5 minutes or until interest begins to fade. Gather your young people back together.)

Ask: **Has there ever been a time where you have been left out? How did it make you feel?** (Allow for responses.) Wow, doesn't it make you feel great to know that you'll never be left out if you are a member of God's family? Today, we want you to know that you are important to our church. God wants you to be a part of his Church so that you can be encouraged and so that others can be encouraged by you.

**Key Verse Review:**

Allow the young people opportunity to recite last week's key verse to you. If you have a larger group allow them to say it in pairs. Optional: give out small rewards.

**LESSON:**

Materials Needed: Bibles, cut apart and mount on construction paper the pictures of William and Catherine Booth from [pages 85-86](#), pictures of different Salvation Army churches from [pages 87-89](#), Army flag from [page 90](#), and crest from [page 91](#).

Last time, we learned about the special armour God provides Christians so that we can fight against the devil's schemes and to follow God's ABCDE Plan. Ask: **Can anyone remember what the pieces of armor are and how they help us?**

**The Belt of Truth** means we are to speak the truth

**The Breastplate of Righteousness** means we are to do what is right

**The Shoes fitted with the Gospel of Peace** means we are to go where God want us to go

**The Shield of Faith** means we are to exercise our faith

**The Helmet of Salvation** means we are to guard our minds

**The Sword of Spirit** means we are to read our Bibles

Not only has God provided us with armour to help us follow his plan, he has also provided us with Church—other believers to encourage us.

Our key verse today is **Hebrews 10:25** (*read it together*). This verse encourages us to keep meeting together and encouraging each other. Ask: **Why do you think it is important for us to come to Church?** (*Allow responses.*) God wants us to go to church so that we can pray, study the Bible and worship with others. Ask: **Why is this a good thing?** (*Allow for responses.*) Going to church is a good thing, a great thing, because neat things happen when God's people get together. Christians can share their stories with each other, their hurts, their joys, their questions and discoveries about God. It's a place where we can receive loving correction and explanations. Church is not a place just to hang out with friends; it's a place to come and to grow in our relationship with God.

The Salvation Army is one of the churches where people can come and grow in their relationship with God. It is a place where we can join with other believers to support and encourage each other to follow God's ABCDE Plan and to wear God's armour. Let's see what we know about The Salvation Army.

Ask: **Does anyone know who it was who started The Salvation Army?** (*Allow for responses.*) Back in 1865 William and Catherine Booth (*show pictures from pages 85 and 86*) started The Salvation Army. Ask: **Do you know where they started The Salvation Army?** (*Allow for responses.*) The Army began in the East End of London, England. Today, there are Salvation Army churches in over 130 countries. There are over 290 Salvation Army churches in Canada alone. That's 290 places where people can encourage one another to keep following God's ABCDE plan.

Ask: **What do they look like on the outside?** (*Show photos from pages 87 to 89*) They are quite different. Some are church buildings, some meet in schools, some in warehouses or homes. Ask: **What do they look like inside?** Some people who belong to The Salvation Army wear uniforms; some wear their everyday clothes to worship services. Ask: **What kind of music do they have?** Some use brass bands or house (worship) bands, some use piano, guitars or other instruments to accompany their singing.

There are many similarities too!

1. All Salvation Army churches meet together on Sunday mornings to worship God, and to remember God's ABCDE Plan and celebrate what God has done for them.
2. All Salvation Army churches have a pastor (officer) in charge. He or she leads worship, pastors people and encourages the leaders of the church.
3. All Salvation Army churches have a place where people can pray. For some it is the mercy seat, for others it could be a prayer room.
4. All Salvation Army churches give their members an opportunity to give money to the church in order to support the pastor and all the ministries of the church (*show a local cartridge envelope*).

**Teacher Tip:**  
Keep those lines of communication open by sending home this lesson's parent letter. You can also keep your students' interest piqued by sending home the student note.

5. All Salvation Army churches have a Salvation Army flag (show students **page 90**). Ask: **Do you know what our Flag represents?**
  - Red: The red background of our flag stands for the blood of Jesus. (*1 John 1:7 "...the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin"*)
  - Yellow: The yellow sun in the centre of our flag stands for the fire of the Holy Spirit. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. (*Acts 2:4 "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit."*)
  - Blue: The blue border of our flag stands for the holiness, or purity of God and what we should be as His followers. (*1 Peter 1:15-16 "Just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.'"*)
6. All Salvation Army churches usually display a crest (show students **page 91**):
  - Sun: the fire of the Holy Spirit
  - Cross: the cross on which Jesus died
  - S: salvation for everyone
  - Swords: sword of the spirit, our weapon
  - Crown: the crown of glory which God will give to all His soldiers who are faithful till the end
  - Motto: "blood and fire", the blood of Jesus and the fire of the Holy Spirit
7. All Salvation Army churches have discipleship programs:
  - Youth: junior membership classes, Sunday school, kids' clubs, Ready to Serve, junior and senior high Bible studies
  - Adult: small group Bible studies, membership classes, etc. (*Mention specific programs that are run in your church*)
8. All members of The Salvation Army are encouraged to SERVE! They are encouraged to serve one another and the community.

### APPLICATION:

*Materials Needed: Newspapers (or newsprint flyers from junk mail), scissors and Bibles.*

*(Ahead of time, tear a piece of the newspaper into enough strips for each student to have one piece. Divide your class into three groups and assign each group one of these Scripture passages: Ecclesiastes 4:9-10; Galatians 6:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:11. Have the groups read these passages over quietly and then create a pantomime (act out without words) so that the rest of the group can figure out what is being taught in the passage. Give the groups a few minutes to work together and then have them pantomime their passage and then read the passage out loud for everyone.)* Ask: **How can accepting someone's help make us stronger?** (Allow for responses) Ask: **In what ways are we able to strengthen someone else?** (Allow for responses.) Ask: **Is it possible to weaken someone? How?** We have the ability to help or to hurt. We have the ability to encourage or discourage. When we accept someone else's help, we are strengthened. When we offer to help someone else, it strengthens both them and us. God knows we have the choice to help and to be helped. This is part of His plan for the Church. He wants the members of the Church, His family, to both help others and to allow others to help us.

*(Give each child a strip of the newspaper. Encourage them to fold it in half 5 times, and then have them try to tear it. It won't tear!) There is strength in numbers. God wants us to work together to follow and live by His plan. With the help of others, and His armour, we can do it.*

*(Gather your students together in a circle. Involve your students in your prayer time by having them pray for the person on their right and have them pray around the circle. Conclude your prayer time by thanking God for fellow believers who can encourage each of us to follow God's ABCDE Plan and wear God's armour.)*

### **Homework Assignment:**

*Materials Needed: Note paper and pens for each student.*

One of the jobs we have as members of God's family is to encourage each other. Today, I'm going to give each of you three pieces of paper. I would like you to pick three different people from our group and during the week I want you to write a note of encouragement to those people. We are going to exchange our notes with each other the next time we are together. Your note could share one nice thing you've noticed them do for someone else. It could tell them that you prayed for them this week. Or you can share a Bible verse that will help encourage them in their following of God's ABCDE Plan. *(You may find it helpful to assign each student three names. This ensures that everyone gets a message the following week. Also, be sure to call your students during the week to encourage them to follow through on this little assignment.)*

#### Teacher Tip:

*Be sure to send home some note paper with the students for the encouragement homework assignment.*

### **OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

#### **Worship Songs:**

You Are Good  
Heal Our Land  
Lord, I Lift Your Name on High  
Every Move I Make  
You're Worthy of My Praise  
What If The People Prayed  
Church Alive  
So Good To Me  
Forever  
Let Everything That Hath Breath

**Scripture:** See [page 92](#) for a responsive reading.

#### **Game: Togetherness Challenge**

*Materials Needed: Hula hoop, large cardboard box or masking tape.*

Mark out a space for a group to stand inside of. It could be the inside of a hula hoop or a flattened cardboard box or a shape marked off with masking tape on the floor. You can play as one group or more with about six to twelve students in each group depending on the size of the shape. The challenge will be for the

team to fit everyone into the space and then to sing a song while maintaining their position. To sing the song all members must be in the space. Then one member starts to sing a line, someone sings the next line of the song and so on. The group must stay within the boundaries of their space until the song is finished. Songs such as “Jesus Loves Me,” “Row, Row, Row Your Boat,” “This Little Light of Mine,” or “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star” will work well. If the space is too easy to occupy make it smaller and begin again. When the challenge is complete ask: **How did your group have to work together to fit in the space and sing your song? If you were to try again, what could your group do to make it easier to be together in your space?** Remind your students that God created Church so that we can work together with other Christians and to encourage each other to follow God’s ABCDE Plan.

### **Key Verse Game: Post-It!**

*Materials Needed: Sticky notes (multiple colours if playing in teams), pens, and a blank wall.*

*(Before class time write today’s key verse word by word on sticky notes. If playing in teams use a different colour sticky note for each team. Place the notes on the wall in any random order.)* Review today’s key verse with the students. Then have the students race to place their verse in the correct order on the wall. If doing this in teams you could have them do this relay style by having one team member come up at a time to place a single word, race back to their team and then the next player comes and places the next word. Racing until all words have been put in the correct order.

### **Craft: Encouragement Flyers**

*Materials Needed: Bibles, white paper, dark-coloured markers or pens, coloured paper and a photocopier.*

*(Ahead of time get permission from your corps officer/pastor to place flyers on cars in the parking lot or to give the flyers out as people are leaving church.)* Divide the class into groups of two or three. Have each group work together to think of a slogan that tells the main idea of **Romans 8:35, 37-39** or **John 3:16**, or **Hebrews 10:25**. Distribute the white paper and markers to each group. Have the students write their slogan on the paper and illustrate them to make them into flyers. Students should include the Bible reference used, name of your class and the church name. Photocopy the flyers onto colourful paper and have the students place them on car windshields in the church parking lot or give to people as they leave church.

**Activity Sheets:** Distribute copies of today’s activity sheets to your students. These should be sent home to help reinforce what was learned during your time together.

















# BE ENCOURAGERS!

## RESPONSIVE READING

**Leader:** Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another. (Hebrews 10:25)

**Students:** Church is for encouraging others!

**Leader:** Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)

**Students:** Church is for helping others!

**Leader:** Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2)

**Students:** Church is for caring for others!

**Leader:** And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. (Hebrews 13:16)

**Students:** Church is for sharing with others!

**Leader:** Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

**Students:** Church is for building up others!

**Leader:** And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. (Ephesians 6:18)

**Students:** Church is for praying for others!

**Leader:** So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. (Romans 12:5)

**Students:** Church is a place where we belong!

**Leader:** For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them. (Matthew 18:20)

**Students:** Church is you and me!

# God's Church



## Parent Puzzler

**Q:** What is the motto on The Salvation Army flag?

**A:** Blood and Fire

## TODAY I LEARNED

### KEY VERSE:

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another...

Hebrews 10:25

### KEY POINT:

God wants us to go to church so we can encourage one another.

Draw a picture or write a couple of sentences that show why church is a great place for you.



**Do you know someone who could use some encouragement?  
Invite them to church this week!**



### Parent Puzzler

**Q:** What is the motto on The Salvation Army flag?

**A:** Blood and Fire

## TODAY I LEARNED

### KEY VERSE:

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another...

Hebrews 10:25

### KEY POINT:

God wants us to go to church so we can encourage one another.

**Do you know someone who could use some encouragement?**

**Invite them to church this week!**

Which description of church best helps you finish the statement below?



**Church is a great place for me because...**

- It's a great place to hang out
- I can learn more about God
- I can receive encouragement to follow God's ABCDE Plan
- I can share what I've learned with others
- I can make friends
- I can meet other people who are wearing God's armour
- I can belong
- It's a great place to pray and read God's Word
- I can be accepted just as I am
- I can worship and serve God
- My own answer \_\_\_\_\_



week  
4



loving • worshipping • serving God

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Thank you for bringing your child/ren to junior membership class this week. Can you believe it—only two more weeks (and two more memory verses) and junior membership classes will be over. We have really enjoyed getting to know your child/ren and are looking forward to the next two weeks.

This week we talked about another one of God's great ideas—church. We reminded the kids that God's Word tells us to meet together regularly for prayer, Bible story and worship. Why? Not as a make-work project, not so we could be involved in yet another social club, BUT so we could encourage one another to keep wearing the Armor of God.

The Salvation Army is one of the churches we can belong to and where we can encourage others. Did you know that The Salvation Army has churches in over 130 countries around the world? In Canada alone there are almost 300 churches. Of course these churches look quite different on the outside and the inside. However there are fundamental similarities:

1. All SA churches meet together on Sunday mornings to worship GOD, to remember God's ABCDE Plan and celebrate what God has done for them.
2. All SA churches have a pastor/corps officer in charge. He/She leads worship, 'shepherds' people and encouragingly directs the leaders of the church.
3. All SA churches have a place where people can pray together.
4. All SA churches give their members an opportunity to give money to the church—to support the pastor and all the ministries of the church.
5. All SA churches have a SA flag with a special design and colours. The red represents the blood of Jesus, the yellow stands for the fire of the Holy Spirit, the blue for the purity of the lives we should live as followers of Jesus Christ.
6. All SA churches have discipleship classes. For kids these would be Sunday school, Ready to Serve, Jr. and Sr. High Bible studies.
7. All members of SA churches are encouraged to serve—others in the church and those in the community.

This week's memory verse comes from Hebrews 10:25

*Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another...*

Have a great week!

Social Media Student Notes can be found in the Student Note Folder. This note can be posted on-line or emailed home to the students.

See Week Four sample below:

This week we talked about another of God's great ideas - Church! Meeting together with other people who are following God's **ABCDE plan**, praying, studying the Bible and worshipping is God's idea. When we get together we can encourage each other to keep wearing the Armour of God:

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us **ENCOURAGE** one another." (Hebrews 10:25)



Think of three people from our class that you want to encourage. Write their name down and choose to do one of these things:



1. Write something about them. Have you seen them be kind or loving? Have you heard them say something nice? Do they make you or others feel special?

**OR**

2. Pray for them this week and send a note to them.

**OR**

3. Write down a Bible verse like John 3:16 to remind them God loves them, or Ephesians 6:10-11 to encourage them to put on the Armour of God.



# 5

**KEY VERSE:** *Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10*

**AIM:** That students realize they need to be aware of others' needs.  
That students will know they are capable of helping others.  
That the students will recognize different ways that The Salvation Army ministers to people in need.

**INSIGHTS FOR INSTRUCTORS:**

*This lesson helps the young people to view church not only as a place where we can meet together with other Christians and encourage each other, but also learn how to help those in need. Young people will learn three steps to helping others: seeing the need, feeling for those in need, and doing something for those in need.*

*The Salvation Army is actively involved in every community where they have a church. Meeting the needs of those who are troubled, hurting and hopeless has always been a priority. Our young people can help the Army meet the needs of those who need help.*

**FOCUS:**

**Option One:**

*Materials Needed: None.*

Begin your time together with a Rock, Paper, Scissors tournament. Review with the students how the game is played, as outlined below, and then have them pick a partner to play with. The winner of each round will then play with the winner from another pair and the rest can sit down. The tournament will continue until there is only one person left or times runs out (*give the tournament only about 4 or 5 minutes*).

**How to Play Rock, Paper, Scissors:**

Each partner will form a fist with their right hand and tap it three times on the palm of their left hand while counting out loud.

**Teacher Tip:**

Remember, this lesson has been prepared for territorial use. Only you can 'tailor' it to meet the needs of your young people.

On the fourth tap the partner will make their choice of Rock (a fist), Paper (a flat hand) or Scissors (two fingers extended out). They are to do this at the same time.

The winner of each round is determined by:

Rock breaks scissors, thus defeating it

A piece of paper covers the rock, thus defeating it.

A pair of scissors cuts paper, thus defeating it.

Ties result in replaying the round

At the end of the tournament talk about how we can use our hands to play games, but God also designed us to have “helping hands.” We can use our hands to help others. Take a moment to briefly share a story about a friend who helped you. Then ask: Can you think of a time when a friend helped you when you were in need? *(Allow for responses.)* Today’s lesson is about a man who helped someone who was in need.

**Option Two:**

*Materials Needed: A bottle of bubbles and a bubble wand.*

Today we are going to play a game of tag, Weeping Tag. I’m going to choose one person to be “It”. Their job will be to go around and try to tag as many people as possible. I’m going to choose another person to be “The Healer”. Their job will be to blow bubbles on those who have been tagged. If you get tagged by “It” you will have to kneel down where you are and weep (cry) *(demonstrate for the children and then have them try it.)* You must keep on weeping (crying) until “The Healer” comes and heals you by blowing bubbles on you. One more thing you need to know—no one is allowed to run in this game. Everyone must move around the room by taking giant steps only. Every minute or so I will blow my whistle and we will change the “It” and “The Healer” *(Play the game for about 5 minutes until your students start to lose interest. Then gather everyone together in a circle.)*

Ask: **What was fun about playing this game of tag?** *(Allow for responses.)*

Ask: **What was it like weeping and crying while waiting to be healed?**

*(Allow for responses.)* Ask: **When are times that people weep in real life?**

*(When something bad, scary or confusing has happened to them.)* Ask: **What**

**was it like to be the healer?** *(Allow for responses.)* Ask: **Can you think of**

**anyone in real life who helps those who are in need?** *(Allow for responses,*

*these could include: Jesus, ambulance workers, fire fighters, and parents, etc.)* In our

lesson today we’re going to hear about someone who helped and cared for

someone in need.

**Key Verse Review:**

Allow the young people opportunity to recite last week’s key verse to you. If you have a larger group allow them to say it in pairs. Optional: give out small rewards.

**Homework Assignment: Notes of Encouragement**

Allow opportunity for the young people to share their notes of encouragement that they wrote to each other during the week. Be sure that everyone receives at least one note. Don’t forget to give praise and encouragement to all for following through on their assignment.

## LESSON:

*Materials Needed: Bible, eye glasses, paper heart, gloves, map from [page 104](#) and arrows (cut apart) from [pages 105-107](#).*

Today, I'm going to read you a story from the Bible about a man who was hurt and needed someone to care for him. Jesus told this story to some leaders who had asked Jesus to tell them who their neighbour was. *(Read **Luke 10:25-37** to your students out of an easy-to-read version.)* Ask: **Why do you think the Priest and the Levite, who were fellow Jews, went around the hurt man?** *(Allow for responses.)* Ask: **Why did the Samaritan, an enemy to the Jews, stop and help the man?** *(He felt sorry for the man.)* The Samaritan showed love to those who hated him. He tore his own clothes to make bandages, he cleaned and bandaged the man's wounds and then put him on his donkey and took him to an inn. There he paid the inn keeper to keep the man and to take care of him, and promised to come back with more money. The Samaritan man didn't know the hurt man, but he went out of his way to care for him and to help him. The Samaritan man risked his own life to help this man and he never received or wanted a reward for what he did. Ask: **Why do you think Jesus told the story of the good Samaritan?** *(He wants us to help all people, not just those we know.)* Ask: **Why does Jesus want us to be like the good Samaritan?** *(Allow for responses.)* Ask: **Who can you share love and care for? Who can you help?** *(Allow for responses.)*

Jesus wants us to love and care for others, even our enemies, because Jesus loves everyone just the same. We can show love and care by being kind to our friends and those who are unkind to us, by making people feel welcome in our church, by using kind words to the people in our families, as well as helping those who are sick and hurting and who are lonely because others ignore them.

In the church there is a word we use when we talk about helping others. That word is "ministry". There are things that we need to be aware of when we are involved in ministry, in helping others. *(Ask for a volunteer and place large eye glasses on them.)* Ask: **Now, what do you think the first step is?** *(Allow for responses).* The first step in ministry is that we have to see the needs of those around us.

*(Put a large oversized heart on a string around the volunteer's neck.)* Ask: **Who can tell me what the second step needs to be?** *(Give time for responses.)* The second step in ministry is we have to feel the needs of those we see.

*(Give the volunteer a large pair of work gloves or rubber gloves to put on.)* Ask: **What do you think the third step to ministry might be?** *(Allow responses.)* The third step is, we have to do something about it.

As part of God's Church, The Salvation Army has been involved in ministry almost since its beginning. William Booth recognized that he needed to help people at their point of need if he wanted them to listen to what he had to share about Jesus. William Booth knew it was important to serve and care for others just as Jesus did.

Around the world The Salvation Army offers many different types of ministry to those in need (*place map from page 104 on bulletin board*). The ministries include things such as (*as you share about each ministry allow a student to put it's arrow on the bulletin board pointing it toward the world map*):

- **Addictions Programs** for those who suffer from addiction to drugs and alcohol
- **Family Services** for those who need assistance providing for their families due to job loss, illnesses and other reasons
- **Food Banks** for those who cannot afford to buy their own food
- **Hospices** for individuals who are suffering and dying from terminal illnesses
- **Seniors Homes** for those who are no longer able to care for themselves
- **Community Care Ministries** which helps those who are ill at home or in the hospital, or are shut-in at home
- **Correction Ministries** for those who are in jail and for their family members
- **Christmas Toy Drives** provide toys for children who might not otherwise receive Christmas presents from their families
- **Day Care Centres** for parents who work and need someone to take care of their children
- **Children's Homes** for children who have no family or who have been living on their city's streets
- **Emergency Services** provides meals, blankets, shelter to those who have lost everything due to an emergency and they provide assistance to the emergency workers like fire fighters and relief workers
- **Shelters** are available to those who have no where else to go at night
- **Drop In Centres** provide hot meals to those who have no where else to go
- **Job Training Centres** for those who need to learn new skills in order to apply for a job
- **English As A Second Language** classes for those who are new to our country and cannot speak our language

*(Be sure to add any ministries that The Salvation Army uses to reach out in your community that have not been listed above.)*

Wow! As you can see, there are many ways in which The Salvation Army reaches out and helps those who are in need. Ministry to others is important to the Salvation Army and its mission.

### **APPLICATION:**

*Materials Needed: Construction paper, markers and scissors.*

Today, I'd like you to think of one person you know who could use some help or care. They could be anyone; someone who is new at your school, someone who is sick or who has lost their job recently. Ask: **Who have you thought of today?** (*Allow for responses, provide encouragement or suggestions if needed.*) Ask: **How do you think they might be feeling?** (*Allow for responses.*) Now, I'd like you to think of one thing you can do to help that person. Maybe you could visit them during this week, or write them a note, maybe you could invite the new person at school to play with you at recess or to sit with you at lunch. (*Ask each child how they can help the person they mentioned.*)

I wonder if any of you have ever had to write a note on your hand to remind yourself to do something? Sometimes we might write someone's phone number, or "don't forget to study for history" or "bring permission slip tomorrow". Well today, we're going to make hand reminders. Working with a partner I'd like you to trace each other's hands onto a piece of paper, and cut them out. Next, I'd like you to write the name of the person who you thought of who could use some help or care, and how you are going to show your care to them. I'd like you to write the same things on both hands. One hand you are going to take home as a reminder and the other hand I'm going to keep so that next time I can see if you remembered to "minister" or show your care to that person. *(Allow time for the young people to work on their hands, providing assistance and guidance as needed. Have the students write their own name on one of the fingers. Take each child's second hand and put it on either a bulletin board or a piece of poster board, adding the title "Helping Hands". Be sure to check with the kids at the next class time to see if they remembered to show their care.)*

Don't Forget:  
"You've got mail!" We all love to hear those words. Be sure to send home (or email) the Parent Letter and the Student Note.

*(Gather the children back together.) Let's spend a few minutes in prayer today remembering those who we know that need someone to minister to them. (Thank God for the love that has been shown to us by others, and ask Him to help each of you to remember to share His love with others by helping them in some small simple way this week. Pray for the people that your children have identified as needing help.)*

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

### Worship Songs:

All Things Are Possible  
Open The Eyes of My Heart  
I Could Sing of Your Love Forever  
Trading My Sorrows (Yes Lord)  
He Knows My Name  
Let Your Light So Shine  
What a Beautiful Name

**Scripture:** See [page 108](#) for a responsive reading.

### Key Verse Game: Unwrap the Verse

*Materials needed: Index cards, marker, wrapping paper, masking tape, and music.*

*Ahead of time write the words of today's Bible verse onto index cards. Make a fist sized ball with some of the wrapping paper and tape one index card to it. Wrap with another layer of wrapping paper and tape. Continue until all the word cards have been used. Give one final layer of paper and tape.*

Pass or toss the ball around the circle until the music stops. The student holding the ball when the music stops can unwrap a layer of paper and place the word card in the middle of the circle. Continue playing until all of the word cards have been unwrapped. Then have the students work together to put the verse in the correct order.

### **Game: Actionary**

*Materials Needed: A large box or tub, a variety of items to be used as props in skits such as a loaf of bread, purse, blanket, bandage, doll, Bible, stationery, sleeping bag, canned food, frying pan, baseball bat, basketball, etc.*

Have each student to choose an item from the box. Students will take turns performing short skits that illustrate ways in which people need help and how they can minister to those in need. Students may work together in groups of two or three. Encourage them to remember some of the ministries that The Salvation Army has. They must use the item they have chosen from the box in their skit. After each skit ask: **How do you think the person in need feels? What can we do to offer help?**

### **Craft: Tubs of Play Dough or Slime**

*Materials Needed: Salt and Flour Dough: flour, cornstarch, salt, water, food colouring, measuring cups and spoons, mixing bowl, wooden spoon, zip-lock bags or empty icing tubs.*

*Kool-Aid Dough: flour, salt, 2 packages of dry unsweetened Kool-Aid, water, cooking oil, two mixing bowls, measuring cup and spoons, wooden spoon, zip-lock bags or empty icing tubs.*

*Have students wash their hands before and after making the play dough. Divide the class into groups with no more than six students. Students work together to make the play dough and each of these recipes will make enough dough for six to eight children. Have the students take turns measuring, mixing and kneading the dough. Add more water or flour as needed for desired consistency.*

#### **Salt and Flour Dough:**

Have the students mix 1½ cups flour, 1 cup cornstarch and 1 cup salt. Add 1 cup of warm water and several drops of food colouring. Students take turns kneading the dough until it is soft and pliable. Seal in an airtight container. If you are using icing tubs, have students create a new label for the tub. If putting it in a zip-lock bag create labels to be attached.

#### **Kool-Aid Dough:**

In a large mixing bowl, have the students mix together 2½ cups flour, ½ cup salt and 2 packages of dry unsweetened Kool-Aid. In a small bowl, have them mix 2 cups boiling water with 3 tablespoons cooking oil (*Do not use peanut oil in case of peanut allergies.*). Students then pour the liquid mixture into the dry ingredients and stir with wooden spoon until it forms a ball. As mixture cools, have students take it out of the bowl and knead it until it is soft and pliable. Seal in an airtight container. If you are using icing tubs, have students create a new label. If putting it in a zip-lock bag create labels to be attached.

#### **Glitter Slime**

*Supplies Needed: 1 bottle of Elmer's Glitter glue per child, warm water, borax, two bowls.*

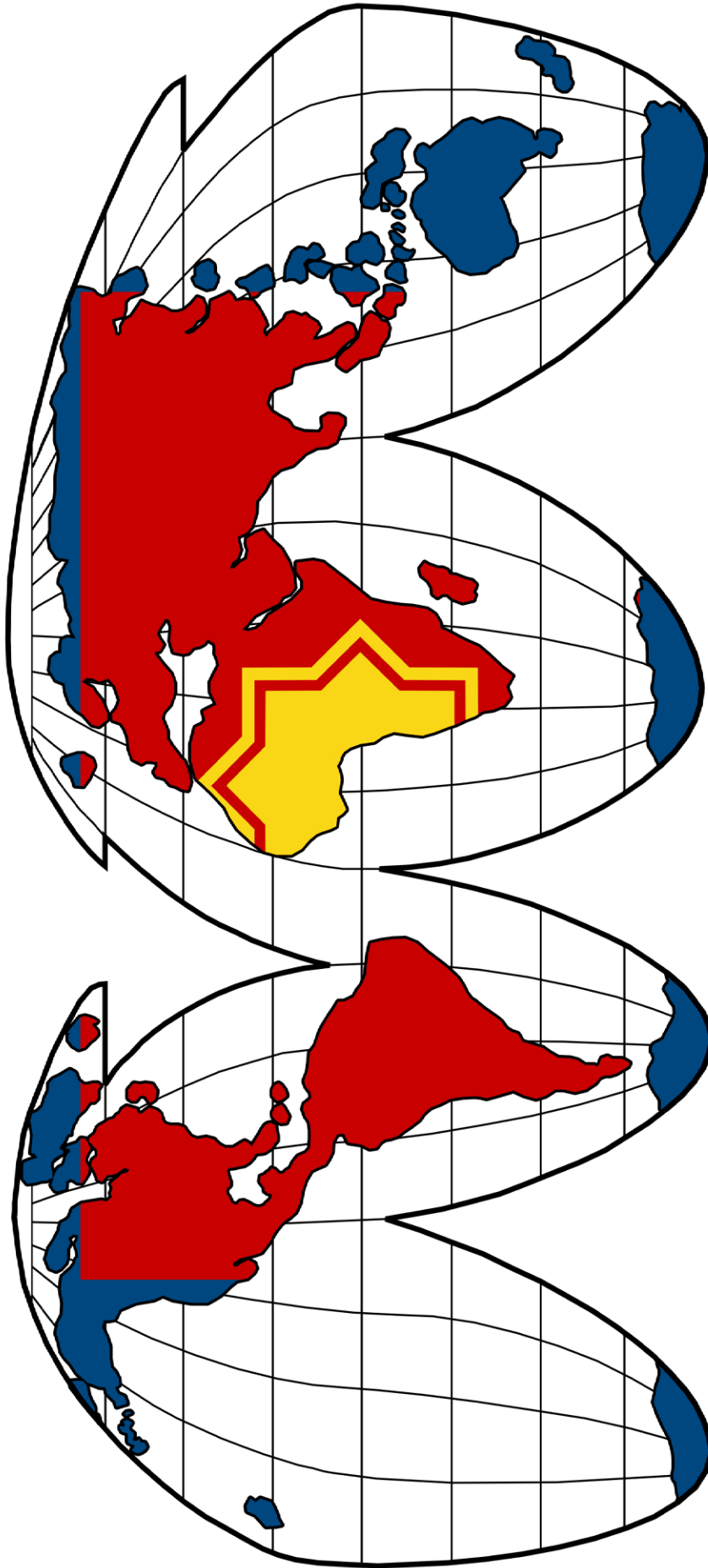


Empty the Elmer's glue into a bowl, then add 1 tbsp of water and stir together with a spoon. In a small bowl mix 1 cup of warm water with 1 tsp of Borax until dissolved. Pour the borax mixture into the bowl of glue and mix until slime forms. Don't leave the slime mixture in the borax water too long or it will become too hard. Be sure to keep slime stored in an airtight bag or container.

Present these packages of play dough or slime to your local family services office or a family shelter to be given to the children of the families that are receiving assistance.

**Activity Sheets:** Distribute copies of today's activity sheets to your students. These should be sent home to help reinforce what was learned during your time together.

# THE SALVATION ARMY MINISTERS IN 130 COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD





**Addiction  
Programs**



**Family Services**



**Food Banks**



**Hospices**



**Seniors Homes**



**Community Care  
Ministries**



**Correction  
Ministries**



**Christmas  
Toy Drives**



**Day Care Centres**



**Children's Homes**



**Emergency Services**



**Shelters**



**Drop In Centres**



**Job Training  
Centres**



**English as a Second  
Language**

# YOU DID IT FOR ME!

## A Responsive Reading based on Matthew 25:34-40

**Reader 1:** Jesus said, "I was hungry."

**All:** And we fed you?

**Reader 1:** Jesus said, "I was thirsty."

**All:** And we gave you a drink?

**Reader 1:** Jesus said, "I was a stranger."

**All:** And we invited you into our home?

**Reader 1:** Jesus said, "I was naked."

**All:** And we gave your clothes?

**Reader 1:** Jesus said, "I was sick."

**All:** And we cared for you?

**Reader 1:** Jesus said, "I was in prison."

**All:** And we visited you?

**Reader 1:** Jesus said, "Yes, you did all those things."

**All:** And we said, "When, Lord?"

**Reader 1:** And Jesus said, "Remember when you shared your lunch with that person who forgot theirs?"

**Reader 2:** "Remember when you helped your church give out water at a local marathon?"

**Reader 3:** "There was that time when you saw someone alone and afraid and said you would be their friend, remember?"

**Reader 4:** "You even gave a coat for that person who was cold and didn't have anything to keep them warm."

**Reader 5:** "Remember when you made those care packages for kids who were in the hospital and too sick to go home for Christmas?"

**Reader 6:** "Remember when you prayed for those who went to jail because they believed in me?"

**Reader 1:** "Remember those times? I do, because when you did these things for those in need, you were doing it for me!"

# God's Helper



## Parent Puzzler

**Q:** What was the relationship between the Jews and Samaritans?

**A:** They were enemies.

Jesus wants us to love and care for others. In the church we use the word **MINISTRY** when we talk about helping others.



**SEE THE NEED**

#

Number the pictures 1, 2, and 3 to show the order in which we can help someone in need.



**FEEL THE NEED**

#

## TODAY I LEARNED

### KEY VERSE:

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10

### KEY POINT:

I can help meet the needs of others.

#



**DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE NEED**

Do you know someone who could use some help?

What could you and your family do to help? What could you and your Church do to help?

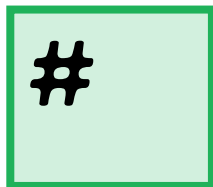


### Parent Puzzler

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Jesus wants us to love and care for others. In the church we use the word **MINISTRY** when we talk about helping others.



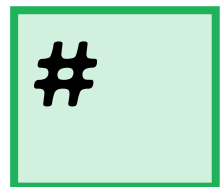
**FEEL THE NEED**

There are three steps to helping others.

Can you put the steps in the right order by numbering them?



**SEE THE NEED**



**Is there someone you've noticed, who could use some help?**

What could you and your family do to help?  
What could you and your church do to help?

## TODAY I LEARNED

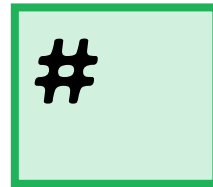
### KEY VERSE:

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10

### KEY POINT:

I can help meet the needs of others.



**DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE NEED**



week  
5



loving • worshipping • serving God

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We began our time together today encouraging each other. It was wonderful to hear the notes of encouragement the young people gave to each other. It is truly a good thing to give encouragement and to receive it.

Today we spent time learning about serving one another. The church calls serving one another "Ministry". We spent a few minutes reviewing the story of the Good Samaritan and how the Samaritan man gave up his time and money to help or serve his enemy, the Jew. It is important for us to remember that we need to help anyone who is in need, not just our friends and family.

In order to help someone in need, the young people learned that they must first **see the need**, then **feel the need** and finally **do something about the need**.

The Salvation Army here in our town and around the world has been seeing the need since our beginnings. Your child/ren discovered the many different ways that The Salvation Army reaches out into the community where they are and helps those who need it.

Our memory verse this week talks about that ministry:

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10*

We encouraged your child/ren to ask God for opportunities to serve others this week, both as a family and with our church.

Have a great week!

Social Media Student Notes can be found in the Student Note Folder. This note can be posted on-line or emailed home to the students.

See Week Five sample below:

Isn't it great to know that we can help people in need?  
At Church we call helping people "ministry".  
Can you remember the three things we must do  
to minister to someone?



We need to:



THE NEED



THE NEED AND THEN



SOMETHING

This week's key verse reminds us that we are to help others:

**Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others,  
faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.**

1 Peter 4:10

## Helping Hands



Don't forget about your "Helping Hands" homework assignment:

1. Think of someone who could use some help.
2. Think about how they might be feeling.
3. What are you going to do to help them?

We're going to share about how we've showed someone we care at our next class.



**KEY VERSE:** *And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus. Colossians 3:17*

**AIM:** That each student will have a personal understanding of making a promise.  
That students will become familiar with the wording of The Junior Soldier Promise.  
That students will be given the opportunity to become junior members of The Salvation Army.

**INSIGHTS FOR INSTRUCTORS:**

*Lesson Six focuses on The Junior Soldier Promise that each young person will be invited to sign. Time will be spent looking carefully at what the promise means for their lives. It is important that you take your time sharing this lesson with the young people and stress the importance of making a promise. The promise they will be making is between themselves and God and should not be entered into lightly.*

*It is also important that you remember to send home the Application to Junior Soldiership that is found on [page 15](#) of this instructor's manual. Junior membership within The Salvation Army requires a parent's signature.*

**FOCUS:**

**Option One:**

*Materials Needed: Bible, empty pizza boxes and water balloons (one balloon and box per team), and masking tape.*

*(Fill the balloons with water and use the masking tape to make a line 10 feet away from one wall.)*

Have the students form teams and line up along the wall. Give each team an empty pizza box and one filled water balloon. Each team will select one person to be the first to hold the box on top of their head, then balance the water balloon on top of the box. The object of the game is for a person from each team to walk to the line and back without allowing the water balloon to fall off the box or touching it with any part of the body. The person then will pass the box and balloon to the next person of their team, who must complete the same action. Team members may use their hands to pass the boxes and balloons to the next players. If a player drops the water balloon they return to their team and the next player takes their turn with a new water balloon. *(If playing with a small group, have the students compete against each other to see who*

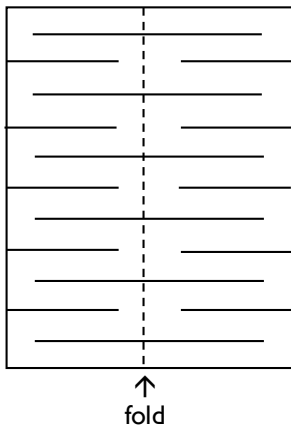
can carry the pizza box and water balloon back to the wall the fastest.)

Allow the students to play the game and when everyone has had a turn ask these questions: **What was easy or hard about balancing the balloon?** (Allow for responses.) **What is easy or hard about keeping promises that we make?** (All for responses.) **How do we sometimes “drop” our promises to others?** (Allow for responses.) Today we are going to look at how God always keeps His promises to us and that we should keep the promises we make too.

### Option Two:

*Materials Needed: Bible, brown bag, mandarin oranges, scissors and a 3” x 5” index card.*

Sample of 3 x 5 card and how it should be cut.



(Before class time practice cutting the 3” x 5” card. Fold it in half length ways. Cut it in ½ inch intervals. The first and last cut should be made on the fold side of the card and the cuts in between should alternate between the folded side and the unfolded side (see diagram). When you have finished cutting, cut through the middle fold of all but the end strips. Stretch the card open into a circle.)

As your students arrive show them your brown bag filled with unpeeled oranges and ask them: **Would you believe me if I promised to give you a treat that has never been touched by human hands? How many of you would believe a promise like that?** (Allow for responses.) Ask: **Who put the orange wedges in there?** (Allow for responses.) **Has any person ever touched these orange wedges before?** (No.) **Then did I keep my promise to you?** (Yes.) Good, because you should be able to trust the promises made by your teacher.

Now, show your 3” x 5” index card to the group, and ask: **Would you believe me if I promised to make this card go over your head and around your neck?** (Allow for responses. Keep asking until someone believes your promise.) (Take the card and cut it as you practiced before class time. Place the cut card over a volunteers’ head and neck.) **When I first made these promises to you, how many of you believed me 100 percent? Why?** (Allow for responses.) **For those of you who didn’t believe my promises, why didn’t you?** (Allow for responses.) **When I kept my first promise about the untouched treat, was it easier to believe my second promise?** (Allow for responses.) **When people make promises, how do you decide whether to believe them or not?** (believe them if they’ve kept promises before, depends on their reputation.) Today we’re going to look at how God always keeps His promises and that we should too.

### Key Verse Review:

Allow the young people opportunity to recite last week’s key verse to you. If you have a larger group allow them to say it in pairs. Optional: give out small rewards.

### Homework Assignment: Helping Hands

Allow opportunity for the young people to share about their “Helping Hands” assignment. Encourage them to share what they did to follow through on their assignment. Don’t forget to give praise and encouragement to all for following through on their assignment.

## LESSON:

Materials Needed: Bible, words of The Junior Soldier Promise from [pages 121-123](#), and a copy of The Junior Soldier Promise from [page 124](#).

Today, we are going to be thinking about promises. Ask: **Can anyone tell me what a promise is?** (Allow for responses.) Those are great answers. A promise is an assurance we give someone that we will or will not do something.

In the Bible we can find many promises that God has made. Ask: **Can you think of a Bible story where God made a promise to someone?** (Allow for responses.) In Genesis we read about Noah and the promises that God made to him. (Read the story of Noah and the Ark from Genesis 6:9-14, 17-18, 22, 7:24-8:1, 8:13-21, 9:12-17 to your students from an age-appropriate translation.) Ask: **What promises did God make to Noah in this story?** (Promise of the flood, promise to keep him and his family safe, promise never to flood the earth again.) Ask: **Why do you think Noah obeyed God and built the ark?** (He trusted God, he believed God, he wanted to make God happy.)

Noah respected and trusted God, so he obeyed God and built the ark. Even when his neighbours were laughing at him and making fun of him, Noah continued to trust God. Noah believed God's words over his neighbours and friends. Noah did what God asked him to do because he believed that God would keep His promises.

**What are some promises that God makes to us?** (To be with us, to take care of us, to give us what we need, to help us do right, to hear our prayers, to take us to heaven when we die.) In the Bible we can find promises that God made to many, many people. But we cannot find one time when God did not keep a promise. God kept His promises to people in the Bible and God will keep his promises to us!

Today we want to take some time to look at the promises we make to God when we become junior members of our church, The Salvation Army. (Be sure to show your students a copy of The Junior Soldier Promise from [page 124](#).)

Let's see what kind of promises we make to become a junior soldier. Each one of you will have the opportunity to sign this special promise before you are enrolled as junior soldiers. (Show your students the promise they will sign.)

(Show your students [page 121](#) and read it together.)

***I know that Jesus is my Saviour from sin.  
I have asked him to forgive my sins,  
and I will trust him to keep me good.***

To become a junior soldier you must follow the ABCDE plan. Ask: **Can anyone remember what each letter stands for?** (Allow for responses. If students do not remember review lesson two with them.) That's right, let's say it together once more:

### Teacher Tip:

Remember, this lesson has been prepared for territorial use. Only you can 'tailor' it to meet the needs of your young people.

**All** have sinned  
**Believe** in Jesus  
**Confess** your sin  
**Decide** to obey God, and remember that...  
**Everyone** who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved!

Ask: **Are you willing to live by God's Plan?** (Allow for responses. Be prepared to stop and answer any questions a child may have.)

(Show **page 122** to your students. Have them read the words together.)

**By his help, I will be his loving and obedient child  
and will help others to follow him.  
I promise to pray, to read my Bible,  
and to lead a life that is clean in thought, word and deed.**

We have learned about God's plan and have decided to follow it. We also learned that we must decide to follow God's advice on how to live as a Christian. We have to decide to spend time with God. Ask: **How many of you have a good friend? What did you do to become good friends?** (Spend time together, talk to each other, hang out at school, play together, join teams together.) We become friends with other people when we spend time with them. We have to talk to our friends, find out what they like to do, and we have to do things together. As we spend time together we get to know each other better. The same is true about our relationship with God. We get to know God more by talking and listening to Him (*prayer*), reading His book, the Bible and by spending time with other Christians at church. As Christians, and junior soldiers, we promise that we will spend time with God, so that our relationship will grow stronger.

Ask: **Are you willing to spend time doing these things so that your relationship with God will grow?** (Allow for responses.)

(Show your students **page 123**, and read the words together.)

**I will not use anything that may injure my body or my mind,  
Including harmful drugs, alcohol and tobacco.**

God's advice on how to live as a Christian involves deciding to put on His armor. By putting on God's armor we have the Holy Spirit's help and protection against Satan's attacks. Ask: **Who can tell me about the armor?** (Allow for responses.) Let's see if we can say together what we promise to do when we put on God's armor:

**Speak** the truth (*belt of truth*)  
**Do** what is right (*breastplate of righteousness*)  
**Go** where God wants you to go (*shoes fitted with the gospel of peace*)  
**Exercise** your faith when you've got questions (*shield of faith*)  
**Guard** your mind (*helmet of salvation*)  
Remember to **read** the Bible (*sword of the Spirit*)

God cares for us so much that he has provided protection from things that will damage our relationship with Him. Satan uses many different things to keep us from God, and to keep us from loving, worshipping and serving him. Ask: **What do you think some of the things are that Satan uses to keep us from loving God?** (Allow for responses. Encourage some of these ideas: fighting with brother/sister, being disrespectful to parents and teachers, talking about other people, feeling bad about ourselves, guilt, cheating, lying, using bad language, watching bad shows on television/movies/videos, playing or watching violent video games, reading inappropriate books/magazines, listening to certain kinds of music, thinking church and church activities are not important, ignoring people who need help, participating in activities that will harm us.)

Another means Satan uses to attack us is through bad habits and how we take care of our bodies. Some people destroy their bodies by smoking, vaping, taking drugs not prescribed by a doctor and drinking alcohol. Others starve their bodies by not eating enough food while some eat too much. Such activities can make us sick. As members of The Salvation Army, we promise God that we will take care of the bodies that he has given us. We promise not to get involved in activities that are harmful to us.

Gambling is another way Satan tries to distract us from God. Gambling is spending money on the chance that we will get more money. It is not a good idea to buy lottery tickets or to play poker on-line because if we win, we are getting something we have not earned. Gambling wastes money that God has allowed us to earn.

We have to decide to turn our back on those things which will harm us. We have to decide to go where God asks us to go and to tell others about Him. We have to remember it is not enough to BELIEVE, we must consciously DECIDE to take up God's armour in order to really GROW in our relationship with God. We have to ask His Holy Spirit to help us.

Ask: **Are you willing to rely on the Holy Spirit to help you wear God's armor?** (Allow for responses.)

### **APPLICATION:**

*Materials Needed: Bible, food colouring, cooking oil (not peanut), water, clear plastic cups, and stir sticks.*

*(Ahead of time, fill cups half full of water and label them "The World". Depending on your class size, provide one per student or pair of students. Have food colouring close by. Also have a cup for each student labeled "The Christian" and have it one-quarter full of cooking oil.)*

*(Set the water glasses in front of your students.)* When Jesus lived on earth He lived a perfect life. We are not able to do that. So, when Jesus returned to heaven He sent His Holy Spirit to help us. Look at the glass in front of you. It has been labeled "The World". The water in the glass represents the world we live in. The

Don't Forget!

Be sure to give parents or email home this lesson's [Parent Letter](#) together with a copy of the [Enrollment Application for Junior Soldiership](#) (see pages 15 & 16). This form must be filled in and signed before a young person may be enrolled as a junior soldier in The Salvation Army.

Don't Forget:

To send or email home  
the last Student Note to  
your students.

world is full of things that make it sinful. I'd like you to think about things that are in this world that displease God, things that Satan uses to attack us. Ask: **What are some things that Satan uses to make the world sinful?** (Have your students call out things that they feel make the world sinful. Encourage them to think of things such as bad shows on television/on-line, cheating on a test or helping someone else cheat, stealing something from someone. For each suggestion they give have all the students add a drop of food colouring to their water.) As you can see the world has many things we should avoid.

Now, let's take our cup that is labeled "The Christian" and pour it into the cup that represents the world. Take your stir stick and stir the two together. This represents us. We have to live here on earth, but God doesn't want us to become part of this world. Ask: **What happened to the oil?** (It came to the top.)

The oil came to the top and separated itself from the water. You can stir as hard as you like, but the oil will always separate. That's what God wants us to do with His Holy Spirit's help. He wants us to stay away from sinful things in this world. Ask: **What are some things we can do with the Holy Spirit's help to separate ourselves from the world?** (Read the Bible, pray, memorize Scripture verses, think about Jesus, walk away from temptation, have Christian friends, go to Sunday school or Ready to Serve classes, learn more about God, wear God's armor, follow God's ABCDE Plan, etc.)

God knows that the things in this world can be difficult for us to avoid. That's why He sent His Holy Spirit to help us. God also gave us church where we can go and worship with other Christians. At church we can encourage each other to follow God's ABCDE Plan and to wear His protective armour. The Salvation Army is one place where you go to learn more about God and grow closer to Him. By becoming a junior soldier at The Salvation Army you are publicly promising God that you want to live as His child.

*(Spend time today in prayer allowing your young people to ask God to help them think about promises they make and to rely on His help to keep them. Be sure to thank God for His ABCDE Plan and for His armour which helps protect us against Satan's attacks. Ask God for His help to love, worship and serve Him, and to know Him better.)*

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

### Worship Songs:

I Could Sing of Your Love Forever  
I Give You My Heart  
Who You Say I am  
Every Move I Make  
You Are My King  
Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus  
Every Giant Will Fall  
Forever



**Scripture:** See [page 125](#) for a responsive reading.

### **Key Verse Game: Cup Stacking**

*Materials Needed: plastic cups (different colours if playing in teams), marker.*

*(Write each word of the today's Bible verse on the side of the cups. Keep in mind that every other cup will be upside down: bottom cup upside down, next cup upside right and so on.) Teach student today's verse and then divide into two teams and race to see who can stack their cups the fastest and with their verse in the correct order. If you only have a couple of students time each of them to see who can stack their cups the fastest and in the correct order.*

### **Game: Pass the Peanuts**

*Materials Needed: Bible, latex rubber gloves for each student, spray adhesive, four large bowls, garbage bags, Styrofoam packing peanuts, a tarp.*

*(This game is best played in a well ventilated area or outside.) (Divide your Styrofoam peanuts into two of the bowls, set out the tarp. Have the two bowls of peanuts at one end of the tarp and the two empty bowls at the other end. Pass out the latex gloves to each student. Divide your students into two equal teams and have them line up in between their team's two bowls. When your students are all lined up, spray their gloves well with the spray adhesive.) When I say "Pass the Peanuts" the first person in each team should pick up a handful of peanuts and pass them to the next person, and then down the line. The last person on the team dumps them into the team's empty bowl. Are you ready? Pass the peanuts!*

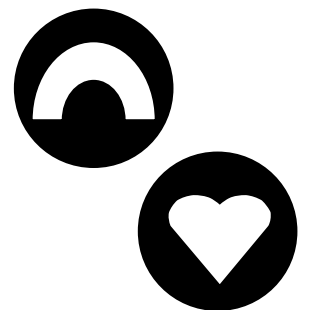
At the end of this fun game, clean up and then ask the following questions: **Did you think this game would be easy or hard? Why was that?** The adhesive made the peanuts stick to your hands. **How is that like getting stuck in harmful activities? How can God help you choose to avoid harmful activities?** Have a student volunteer read today's key verse, **Colossians 3:17**. Harmful activities are one of Satan's ways of keeping us from loving God. We get stuck to them just like the peanuts got stuck to our hands in this game. We need to remember to ask God's Holy Spirit to help us when we make choices.

### **Craft: Promise Keeper**

*Materials Needed: Two 6-inch black construction paper circle for each student, two 1-foot lengths of wax paper per student, different colours of tissue paper cut into 6-inch strips, glue and water mixed in equal parts, paintbrushes, hole punch and ribbon or yarn.*

Have each student think of a symbol that will help them remember that God keeps his promises and that he wants us to be promise keepers too. Suggested symbols could include a heart, a cross, a dove or a rainbow arch. Have your students draw their symbol in the centre of the black construction paper circle and cut the same shape out (see *illustrations*) on both black circles. Next students place their circle on a sheet of wax paper and then brush the glue mixture around the edges of their cut-out shape. Place coloured tissue paper squares over the open spaces and press them against the glue. When they have finished attaching their tissue paper have them glue the second black circle over the

Sample Symbols:

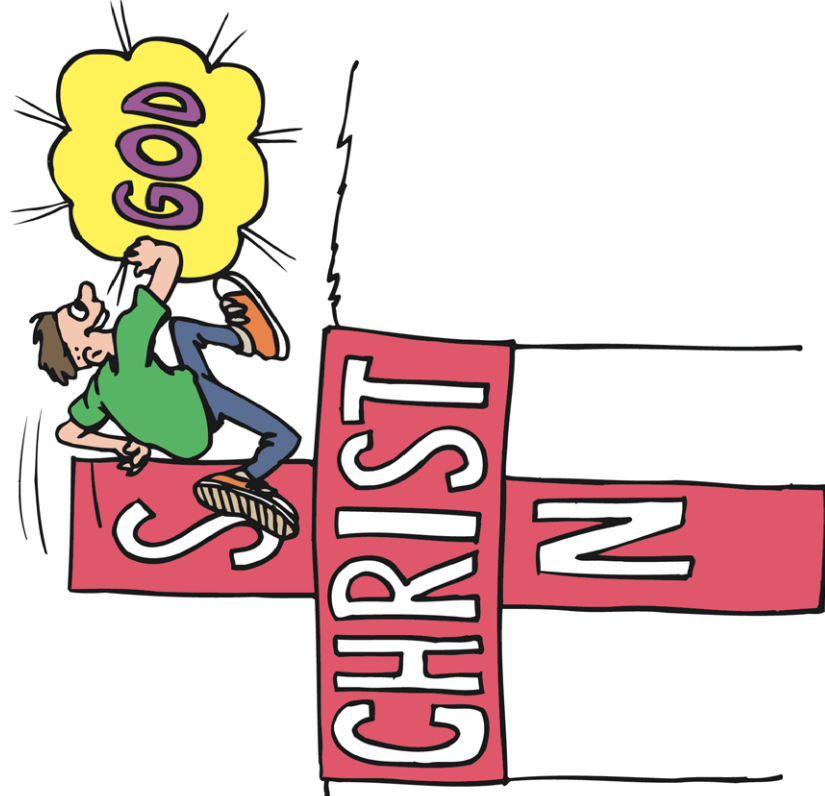


tissue to cover it up. Then have your student lay their circles onto a clean sheet of wax paper to dry. When the sun catcher is dry, let each student punch a hole at the top and attach a piece of ribbon or yarn so that they can hang it in a window at home.

**Activity Sheets:** Distribute copies of today's activity sheets to your students. These should be sent home to help reinforce what was learned during your time together.

**I know that Jesus  
is my Saviour from  
sin.**

**I have asked him to  
forgive my sins,  
and I will trust him  
to keep me good.**



**By his help, I will be his loving and obedient child, and will help others to follow him.**



**I promise to pray,  
to read my Bible, and to  
lead a life that is clean in  
thought, word and deed.**



**I will not use anything that may injure my body or my mind, including harmful drugs, alcohol and tobacco.**

## **The Junior Soldier Promise**

I know that Jesus is my Saviour from sin.

I have asked him to forgive my sins,  
and I will trust him to keep me good.

By his help, I will be his loving and obedient child,  
and will help others to follow him.

I promise to pray, to read my Bible,  
and to lead a life that is clean in thought, word and deed.

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I promise to pray, to read my Bible,  
and to lead a life that is clean in thought, word and deed.

I will not use anything that may injure my body or my mind,  
including harmful drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

# THE PROMISE KEEPER

## A Responsive Reading

**Reader 1** God has promised

**Reader 2** to each person he created and who loves him in return

**All** “I will never leave you alone.” (Deuteronomy 31:6)

**Reader 1** God has promised

**Reader 2** to each person he created and who loves him in return

**All** “There is no where you can go that is hidden from me.” (Psalm 139:7-12)

**Reader 1** God has promised

**Reader 2** to each person he created and who loves him in return

**All** “I am the One who comforts you.” (Isaiah 51:12)

**Reader 1** God has promised

**Reader 2** to each person he created and who loves him in return

**All** “When you ask me to forgive your sin, I will do it and I will never remember it again.” (Psalm 103:12)

**Reader 1** God has promised

**Reader 2** to each person he created and who loves him in return

**All** “There is nothing that can separate you from my love for you.” (Romans 8:38-39)

**Reader 1** God has promised

**Reader 2** to each person he created and who loves him in return

**All** “I have engraved your name on the palms of my hands and I will never, ever forget you.” (Isaiah 49:15-16)

**Readers 1&2** Our God is faithful and keeps every one of His promises.

**All** He will help us keep the promises we make to Him today.

# God's Witness

## TODAY I LEARNED

### KEY VERSE:

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Colossians 3:17

### KEY POINT:

God is able to help me keep my promises.

God loves and cares for us so very much. But He knows that Satan uses many harmful activities to destroy that relationship. So, he provides His Holy Spirit to help us.

Ways the Holy Spirit helps me

Draw a picture or write down two ways that you know God's Holy Spirit helps you keep your promises.

Draw a picture or write down two activities that Satan uses to distract us from God.

HARMFUL ACTIVITIES SATAN USES



## Parent Puzzler

**Q:** How many times in the Bible did God break a promise?

**A:** None, he's never broken a promise.





# TODAY I LEARNED

## KEY VERSE:

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus.  
Colossians 3:17

## KEY POINT:

God is able to help me keep my promises.

**God loves and cares for us so very much. But He knows that Satan uses many harmful activities to destroy that relationship. So, He provides His Holy Spirit to help us.**



## Parent Puzzler

**Q:** How many times in the Bible did God break a promise?

**A:** Non, he's never broken a promise.

Look at the bottom of the circle.  
Are there any harmful activities that you know Satan uses with you?  
Circle them or write down your own.

Now look at the top of the circle.  
Are there things you need to do more often to strengthen your relationship with God? Circle them or write down your own.

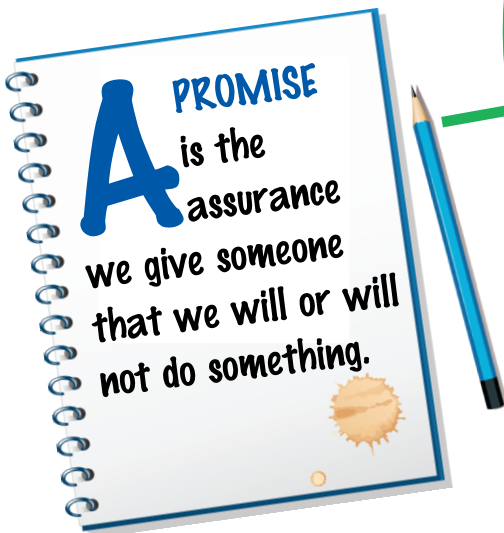
Stop right now, pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you.

**Ways the Holy Spirit helps me**

- walk away
- close the book
- talk to God
- shut off the computer
- put on God's armour
- read my Bible
- turn off the TV
- go to church
- talk to other Christians
- memorize Bible verses

- cheating
- smoking
- watching too much TV
- listening to music that tears people down
- playing violent video games
- watching bad Youtube videos
- arguing
- fighting
- stealing

**HARMFUL ACTIVITIES SATAN USES**



week  
6



loving • worshipping • serving God

Dear Parent/Guardian

We can hardly believe we are at the end of our junior soldier preparation classes. We have really enjoyed the time we have had with your child/ren, getting to know them better. Thank you for your cooperation, encouragement and the incredible help with those memory verses. It was a true team effort!

Today we looked at the story of Noah and the Ark to introduce the topic of keeping promises. Throughout the Bible we are able to find promises that God has made to individuals and that He has made to us. Did you know that there is not one story in the Bible about God not keeping His promise? God is faithful to His word, and wants us to be the same.

God also knows that there are many things that Satan uses to distract us from keeping our word. But God, in His great love and wisdom, has provided us with many things to help us. He has given us His ABCDE Plan and offers us salvation and a place in his family. He provides us with His Armour to help fight Satan's attacks. He has given us Church where we can be encouraged to wear His Armour, follow His plan, to pray and read His Word, and to love, worship and serve Him. Most importantly, He has given us the Holy Spirit to help us keep our promises.

Our junior soldier promise provides our young people with the opportunity to profess their faith in Jesus Christ and to make a public commitment to live a life that is consistent with a disciple of Jesus Christ.

We'd ask that you prayerfully review this promise with your child/ren to determine if he or she is ready and willing to make this commitment. If they feel they are ready we'd ask that you fill out the enclosed "Junior Soldier Enrollment Application Form" and return it to myself. On Sunday, \_\_\_\_\_, during the morning worship service, we will be holding a very special Junior Soldier Enrollment ceremony for all children who are ready to sign the promise. We will be contacting you to confirm your child/ren decision and to answer any questions you may have.

One last verse we'd love your child/ren to memorize as they considered their Junior Soldier Promise is:

*And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus.  
Colossians 3:17*

Thank you so much for the trust you have given to us over the last six weeks.

Sincerely,

Social Media Student Notes can be found in the Student Note Folder. This note can be posted on-line or emailed home to the students.

See Week Six sample below:

We've spent time looking at our Junior Soldier Promise. As you read it over this week, spend time talking with God about it. Our hope and prayer is that you will decide to become a junior member of The Salvation Army, and make this promise.

God always keeps His promises - never forget that! He is always with you and loves you very much. God knows that it can be difficult for us to keep our promises. He knows that Satan will do anything to mess up our relationship with God. But God promises to help us. He sent His Holy Spirit to help us fight Satan's attacks. Can you remember some of the ways the Holy Spirit can help you when you feel under attack?

Here's our last key verse from **Colossians 3:17**, we hope you'll remember it too!

**And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of The Lord Jesus.**

**Junior Soldiers**  
loving • worshipping • serving God

