

TERRITORIAL VISION ENGAGEMENT

# SMALL GROUP GUIDES

## FOR TEEN MINISTRY



MOBILIZE **2.0**



## SERIES OVERVIEW

*We are an innovative partner,  
mobilized to share hope wherever there is hardship,  
building communities that are just  
and know the love of Jesus.*

### MAKING CHRIST-CENTRED, OTHERS-FOCUSED DISCIPLES

Our vision for who we are as a Salvation Army, what we look like, and how we live as Salvationists in our communities is not bound by age or generation.

This is why we at *Canada Bermuda Youth* have engaged young adults and youth workers from across our territory to contribute to the development of this series of small group lessons for teens connecting to each of the main points of our new territorial vision statement.

We see this, not only as a way to help youth learn more about the movement they are a part of, but also to see the vision as *theirs*, and as something that is an expression of their own discipleship: living out a CHRIST-centred, OTHERS-focused faith.

Use these guides in the way that works best for your setting: ...As an eight-week series. ...As stand-alone lessons, one each month that help your teens engage the vision throughout the year. ...Or however else you feel would be effective with your group.

Each small group guide is slightly different than the others, since they were written by individuals representing each of the eight divisions across Canada and Bermuda. Some are more discussion-based, others lean into teaching, a few reflect the personal stories and experiences of those who wrote them, and all include some practical encouragement for youth to live out the vision individually or as a group.

We are committed to resourcing you in a way that helps you make **CHRIST-centred, OTHERS-focused disciples**.

Through the eight lessons in this series, your students will touch on each aspect in some way, as indicated in the chart and lesson descriptions below:



<i>CHRIST-centred</i>	<i>OTHERS-focused</i>
CANON	OUTWARD FOCUS
HOLY GOD	TENACITY OF FAITH
REDEMPTION	HOLY LIVING
INWARD CHANGE	ENGAGED IN MINISTRY
SET APART	RESPONSIBILITY
TRIUMPH	SALVATIONISM

**Lesson 1 — WE ARE:** Jenna Reid (NL division) helps emphasize the importance of a healthy spiritual community that embraces everyone, and encourages youth to see themselves as vital to the life and mission of The Salvation Army.

**Lesson 2 — INNOVATIVE:** Shannah Hillis (BC division) introduces the traditional Indigenous medicine wheel as an innovative tool to help teens discern and evaluate holistic discipleship and mission personally, and as a church.

**Lesson 3 — PARTNER:** Madison Wombold (ABNT division) helps teens recognize the importance of Christian unity, as well as the greater strength and effectiveness in mission found when Christians do faith and life together as ONE.

**Lesson 4 — MOBILIZED:** Jim & Natasha Burkett (MAR division) encourage teens to develop an organized plan, helping them to become actively engaged in ministry and mission, as an expression of their faith in Jesus.

**Lesson 5 — SHARE HOPE:** Jessica MacKenzie (PRA division) helps teens understand that our hope as Christians is anchored in Jesus, and that is worth sharing boldly, with gentleness and respect.

**Lesson 6 — WHEREVER THERE IS HARDSHIP:** Shona Burditt (ONT division) applies principles from the parable of the good Samaritan, to help teens see themselves as conduits of grace and mercy, recognizing that the places hardship exist are central to the mission of The Salvation Army.

**Lesson 7 — BUILDING COMMUNITIES THAT ARE JUST:** Wendell Anderson (BDA division) provides a framework for teens to examine and discuss areas of injustice in their world, seeing justice as an expression of God’s loving character.

**Lesson 8 — KNOW THE LOVE OF JESUS:** Elizabeth Borgela (QC division) helps teens see the depth of God’s love for us in Jesus, and encourages them to live so that others experience that love through them.



## WE ARE

Contributed by:  
Jenna Reid - NL division

### LESSON AIM

Help students recognize that they are a part of the Salvation Army.

### MAIN POINTS

- We Are is inclusive to everyone.
- We can represent The Salvation Army everywhere.
- Greater purpose brings greater responsibility.

### SCRIPTURE BASIS

Reference in Main Point #1

**Psalms 139:14**

*I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.*

Reference in Main Point #2

**Colossians 3:23**

*Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.*

Reference in Main Point #3

**Ezekiel 37:10**

*So I spoke the message as he commanded me, and breath came into their bodies. They all came to life and stood up on their feet—a great army.*

**Matthew 5:15**

*No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house.*

### SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Bibles
- Flashlight (cell phone can be used)
- Box/ basket



## INTRODUCTION

Get everyone in the room to introduce themselves. It doesn't matter if yours is a group where everyone has known each other for years, or this is first time meeting.

Introduce yourself LAST.

Get each individual to share:

- their name,
- their age or what grade they're in,
- and their favourite thing to do (it all ties in!).

### Examples:

*"Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_, I am in grade 10, and my favourite thing to do is play sports."*

*"Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_, I am in my first year of university, and I love to sing."*

**Note:** Feel free to acknowledge that ice breakers may feel weird or pointless in a specific context:

*"I know having to introduce yourself to each other probably seems pointless because a lot of you already know each other, but there is a greater purpose behind this"*

OR

*"I know having to do an ice breaker like this can be awkward but I promise there is a greater purpose."*

Leader Introduce yourself

Example: *"My name is Josh, I am the youth leader at \_\_\_\_, and I enjoy playing guitar"*

\*Leads to transition in conversation—move away from ice breaker\*

We are introducing ourselves tonight because you all are fearfully and wonderfully made, different in interests, age, and name. However, being here, in many cases, is a part of The Salvation Army.

## BACKGROUND

The Salvation Army in Canada and Bermuda recently adopted a new vision statement:

*"We are an innovative partner, mobilized to share hope wherever there is hardship, building communities that are just and know the love of Jesus."*

However, each of this statement can be broken down, and that is what we will be looking into. First, by starting with **WE ARE**.



### Discussion Question #1

- *What do you think about when you think about the Salvation Army?*

Note: If students are quiet, say, "It could be uniform? Band? Food banks? Camp?"—there is no wrong answer. Feel free to take your own spin on answering this question and responding according to others answers.

### Say something like:

When you're thinking about The Salvation Army, sometimes the church isn't the first thing that comes to mind because **WE ARE** an organization that serves through many different avenues. For example, thrifting has become popular among Millennials and Gen Zers. It is trendy, sustainable, cheap, and eliminates the shame that some may feel if they do not have the income to shop elsewhere. So, for some, when you think of The Salvation Army-thrift stores will be the first thing to come to mind. However, many people don't know that The Salvation Army is more than a thrift store or a food bank. This is why we are placing particular emphasis on the fact: **WE ARE** The Salvation Army.

The Salvation Army Canada and Bermuda territory is comprised of thousands of people.

**WE ARE** more than an organization.

**WE ARE** a movement of people, a vast army (Ezekiel 37:10).

**WE ARE** everyone who serves through, worships with, works for, supports, and identifies with our Army and our mission as part of a unified movement in Canada and Bermuda.

Note: \*Stress importance\*

You are not just the future of The Salvation Army; you are the present. This is because, as a whole, Salvation Army youth, young adults, and children all make up part of what The Salvation Army is right now. You are a part of that "thousands of people."

Regardless if you're in the band, wear a uniform, go to camp, attend church, or come to youth group on Friday nights; **WE ARE** (indicate with hand motions around the room) The Salvation Army right now.

Those thousands of people are not just officers and seniors. There are so many people across Canada and Bermuda that are exactly like everyone here because, again, Together, **WE ARE** The Salvation Army.

And that is because:

## MAIN POINT #1: "WE ARE" IS INCLUSIVE

Note: \*Encourage youth to open Bibles if they have them, get one person to read\*



**Psalm 139:14**

*"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."*

**Say something like:**

We introduced ourselves because each of us in this room is entirely different. None of us look the same, we don't all have the same interests, we don't all have the same gifts. For example, one of us might be really good at playing piano or singing; maybe you play a brass instrument like a member of the staff band and the person next to you doesn't, but someone else is excellent when it comes to playing soccer.

Every single person here is good at something regardless if you believe that or not because God made us in His image, fearfully and wonderfully made, which is why

## **MAIN POINT #2: "WE" CAN REPRESENT THE SALVATION ARMY EVERYWHERE**

Think back to the answers to discussion question #1 (What do you think about when you think about the Salvation Army?)

Many would have answered what The Salvation Army does or has (i.e., band, Christmas Kettles, Uniform, etc.)

But we cannot forget that we are also a movement of people who want to live like Jesus, represent Him everywhere in our acts, and help others.

**Say something like:**

Being a part of The Salvation Army is not just about wearing a uniform, playing in the band, or going to camp. It is about living your life for Jesus. It is about embracing a Christian lifestyle: loving God and loving others; being a CHRIST-centred, OTHERS-focused disciple.

## **TENSION**

**Discuss:**

- Are you open about your faith outside of church?
- Would people be surprised if you told them you were a Christian?
- Faith in Jesus is often portrayed through acts (things you do). Are your acts (the things you do, people you engage with, etc.) beneficial to your faith?

Note: There is a chance students won't respond to these questions; tension will likely be created. THAT IS OKAY.

**Read the following experience/ story to students:**



(Background: This is a 19 years old's high school experience, being known as a "church kid"):

*When I was in high school, I was known for being a "church kid." My friends knew I was a Christian, and they knew I was a part of The Salvation Army. I was in bands, helped with Sunday school, did devotionals, was a senior soldier. Essentially, I did all the things that I thought made me a "good Christian" in The Salvation Army. However, if I am brutally honest with myself, my faith was not displayed outside of the church. I would water it down, not talk about it, and laugh at the comments people made to me about it. In high school, I would curse a little bit. It was easy to get caught up in gossip, and I often lost sight of the ministry of different church groups I was in because I simply went to be with my friends. My lifestyle in school known as a "church kid," was not an accurate representation of what it meant to be a member of The Salvation Army or a follower of Jesus. Once you leave high school, no one is going to force you to go to church. Your spiritual life, in many cases, becomes a personal choice, a personal pursuit. For myself, through prayer and a pandemic, I made a choice to truly pursue God and own my faith rather than try to fit in with the world, because the two do not go together. I started with reading the Bible for myself and then reading many Christian books to broaden my perspective. Although everyone's spiritual walk and faith look different, I have learned being known as the "church kid" is not enough because we represent Jesus everywhere. We represent the church everywhere. And we represent The Salvation Army everywhere.*

#### **Say something like:**

You don't just represent The Salvation Army when you wear the uniform, play in a band, stand on a kettle, or wear yellow, red and blue. You represent The Salvation Army in your schools and campuses and jobs. You represent The Salvation Army when you're with your friends and family too. This isn't because that is where you choose to spend an hour on a Sunday morning, but because The Salvation Army is comprised of thousands of people who want to live for and represent Jesus Christ. The Salvation Army is a Christian movement, a branch of the evangelical church—which is all about sharing the good news and gospel of Jesus.

## **MAIN POINT #3: GREATER PURPOSE BRINGS GREATER RESPONSIBILITY**

In Ezekiel 37:10, God revived dry bones and made them come alive. However, he didn't do this for them to then live in their own comfort. Instead, they were revived to form a great army that would live by the commands God gave them, the creator who gave them life: *"So I spoke the message as he commanded me, and breath came into their bodies. They all came to life and stood up on their feet—a great army."*

When Jesus died for our sins, as Christians, our "dry bones" were brought to life because we were granted eternal life. We live with greater purpose as a result, and **WE ARE** an army who seek to serve under the commands of God because, like the dry bones, our Creator gave us eternal life.

As Christians, we have been taught the gospel of Jesus and believe we are saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8). We can live knowing Jesus' unconditional love for us, and that regardless of what we do, we can be saved from our sins because of Christ who loves us.





It is because we know and experience this good news, we are given a greater purpose. We are a part of this great Army that serves Jesus and chooses to live under His commands; we have greater responsibility.

Greater purpose brings greater responsibility.

**Say something like:**

I know hearing this might seem intimidating to some, because as youth, teenagers, young adults, we don't always like to hear about our responsibilities. This "greater responsibility" isn't meant to be a stressor or a nag like what we may perceive from our parents when cleaning our rooms or making our beds. Instead, because We know God loves us and that we are gracefully saved, we should be eager to share this with others! The love of Jesus is meant to be shared, not kept secret or hidden. Our faith is not meant to be watered down like the example we read above.

**Matthew 5:15 (NLT)**

*"No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house."*

## OBJECT LESSON

Let's visualize this verse:

Turn on the flashlight (cell phone flashlight, or normal one) and put it under a box, container, etc.).

**Say something like:**

*You can barely see the light in there. However, (\*raise container) if we take off the "basket," the light is visible—valuable. It gives light to everyone around us.*

*Our faith is like this because obviously, it's pointless to turn on a flashlight and then cover it with a basket—there is no light that way. You're back to square one.*

*It is the same with our faith in Jesus.*

*We know the Good News of Jesus, seek to serve Him, live out loving God and loving others, but do we sometimes decide to hide our faith? Of course, you're not going to hide in a physical box, but what about the box we put ourselves in through high school?... We might put ourselves into this box to fit in, whether it is in the way you dress, the way you act, participating in foul language, etc. Consider the content you engage with online.*

**Ask:**

*Do you ever "put yourself in some sort of box" to fit in?  
(Leader: think of a personal example if you have one)*



Note: Acknowledge that students might not want to hear the next point in a light-hearted funny manner...

But as Christians, we are not meant to fit in.  
Instead, we are told to stand out!  
Be different, stand out.

**Read Romans 12:2 (NLT)**

*"Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."*

This is why we have a greater purpose. Jesus has granted us eternal life, and a greater purpose to living. This can be transformative to the way we think when we realize that everything we do can be for God's glory.

This is why we say, "**WE ARE** The Salvation Army."

God has granted us a significant purpose—one that will transform the way we think. It changes the way we serve in our community, in our churches, and in our world.

We represent The Salvation Army everywhere because we represent Christ everywhere, because we have experienced the good news of Jesus. **WE ARE** inclusive because it is not based on the many things that we sometimes allow to define us. Rather, it is about one thing: Knowing and sharing the love of Jesus.

**Ask:**

- What are some of the things that we allow to define us?
- How can allowing the fact that “we know and experience the love of Jesus” to become our “defining” identity and characteristic help us live more inclusively?

**Remember:**

The Salvation Army Canada and Bermuda Territory is comprised of thousands of people. We are more than an organization; we are a movement of people, a vast army (Ezekiel 37:10). We are everyone who serves through, worships with, works for, supports, and identifies with our Army and our mission as part of a unified movement in Canada and Bermuda.

**Note:**

You may want to clarify that sharing the love of Jesus is not about forcing our beliefs onto others, but instead loving God and loving others as it says in Mark 12:30-31.



## LIVING THE VISION

### Say something like:

Today we have focused on the first part of the vision statement for The Salvation Army in Canada and Bermuda: **"WE ARE** an Innovative Partner..."

This correlates with The Salvation Army's mission statement *"The Salvation Army exists to share the love of Jesus Christ, meet human needs and be a transforming influence in the communities of our world."*

We are more than an organization; we are a movement of people—a vast army (Ezekiel 37:10).

We are everyone who serves through, worships with, works for, supports, and identifies with our Army and our mission as part of a unified movement in Canada and Bermuda.

### Individual Activity

This week I encourage you to do ONE THING to show the love of Jesus to others, and then pray for that person.

Actions speak louder than words, and faith without works means nothing.

Example:

Pay it forward in the drive-thru of Tim Hortons and pray for the person behind you.

### Group Activity

Have students make sandwiches or order donuts and give them out to the homeless in your community. Then pray for each person you gave a sandwich to as a group when you return to your original meeting location.

OR

Find someone in your community who is struggling and for whom you can do something as a group.

Example:

Bring a family a meal or babysit someone's children (at no cost) if they cannot take much time for themselves since the pandemic. If a family is struggling financially, deliver them a meal or fulfill whatever needs they need now. Then pray with the person individually and/or as a group once you get back to your original meeting location.



## INNOVATIVE

Contributed by:  
Shannah Hillis - BC division

### LESSON AIM

Discussion and goal-setting for innovation in personal faith, as well as local church & youth ministry efforts, using an Indigenous Medicine Wheel.

Creativity and innovation in service of mission is a hallmark of William Booth's vision. Facing more challenges in recent times, we have responded by finding new ways of connecting with people, meeting human needs and sharing the love of Jesus. We will boldly build upon our pioneering tradition to best respond to the needs of the communities in which we serve.

### SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Chart Paper
- Markers

### SCRIPTURAL BASIS

#### **Romans 12:2**

*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

#### **Say something like:**

In this passage, Paul encouraged the Christians in Rome to give themselves fully to God by leaving behind the self-centred, greedy, and grasping ways of the world to focus on a Christ-centred and giving life.

With this verse, I encourage us to think of how we as a group can become more Christ-centred in our approaches.

#### **Ask:**

- *What does it mean to be Christ-centred?*
- *Are there verses or passages of scripture that help you understand what it looks like to be Christ-centred?*



## MEDICINE WHEEL

### Say something like:

Today we are going to be looking at, and using, a Medicine Wheel—a tool used in many Indigenous cultures.

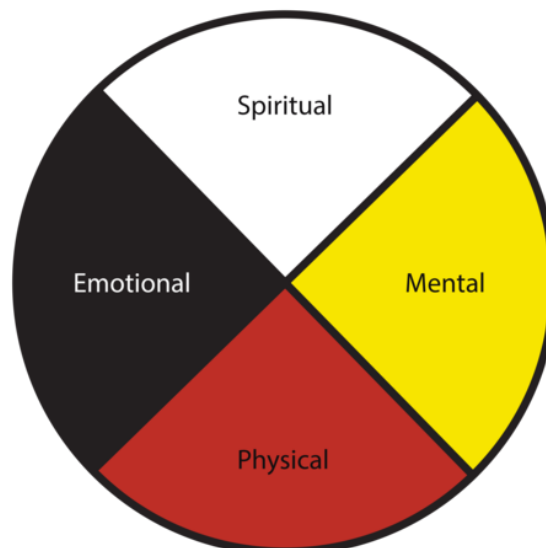
For many, this will be a new experience and an unfamiliar tool. For those for whom this is new, it can become an innovative exercise: one that helps us learn about and better understand Indigenous culture, as well as how cultures and peoples from different backgrounds can experience faith, and the truth of the gospel in different and innovative ways. What may be traditional and familiar to Indigenous peoples, may be experienced as new and creative to those from other backgrounds and cultures.

The medicine wheel is seen as a circle of awareness of the individual self. The circle shape represents the interconnectivity of all aspects of one's being, including the connection with the natural world. This wheel can represent the stages of life, seasons of the year, elements of nature, animals, and aspects of life.

With our medicine wheel today, we have four sections:

- Physical
- Emotional
- Mental
- Spiritual

For us to be complete and healthy, we need to make sure that each section is being maintained.





Display the image of the medicine wheel found at the end of this lesson, in a place where your whole group can see it. Or, print and distribute copies for each individual.

**Physical:** We think about the body.

- How do we keep our bodies well?
- Eating right, staying active, medicine.

**Emotional:** We think about our feelings.

- How do we handle tough situations?
- Support one another, share how we are feeling with those around us, take a break.

**Mental:** We think about our thoughts and influences.

- How do we take care of our mental well-being?
- Express ourselves, reflect, set goals, practice mindfulness and meditation.

**Spiritual:** We think about our relationship with God, our Creator.

- How do we take care of spiritual well-being?
- Pray, practice our spiritual disciplines.

## OBSERVATION

**Say something like:**

Now that we have thought about the medicine wheel in relation to ourselves, we are going to look at the medicine wheel in relation to our church, The Salvation Army, and our faith:

**Physical:**

**Matthew 28: 19 – 20**

*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*

We are going to think about ourselves as a group: Our congregation. Our people in the community.

**Ask:**

- How many people are there?
- What supports are available?
- What programs are available?



**Emotional:**

**Romans 12:15**

*Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.*

We are going to think about how we are feeling.

**Ask:**

- What is the environment of our group like?
- How do we support each other in hard times?

**Mental:**

**John 13:34 – 35**

*“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

We are going to think about leadership.

**Ask:**

- Who are your leaders? How are they doing?

**Spiritual:**

**Psalms 31:3**

*Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me.*

We are going to think about our relationships with God.

**Ask:**

- How do we make sure that God's message and love are being heard and experienced by us
- How do we make sure that God's message and love are being shared with others?

## LIVING THE VISION

**Say something like:**

Now that we see how our church is doing in the current state, we're going to ask ourselves some questions that can help us think of new ways to take steps forward in our church, community and world:



**Ask:**

- What are some things that are working?
- What are some things that are not working?
  
- What are some ways that we can improve or would like to see started?

Think of short-term goals (that can be started now or in the next few weeks or months) and long-term goals (something that will require more planning and continual growth).

- How can we improve our church physically?
- How can we improve our church emotionally?
- How can we improve our church mentally?
  - How can we encourage and support our leaders?
- How can we improve our church spiritually?

Find a time to share your ideas with your leaders.

Get started!

## PRAYER

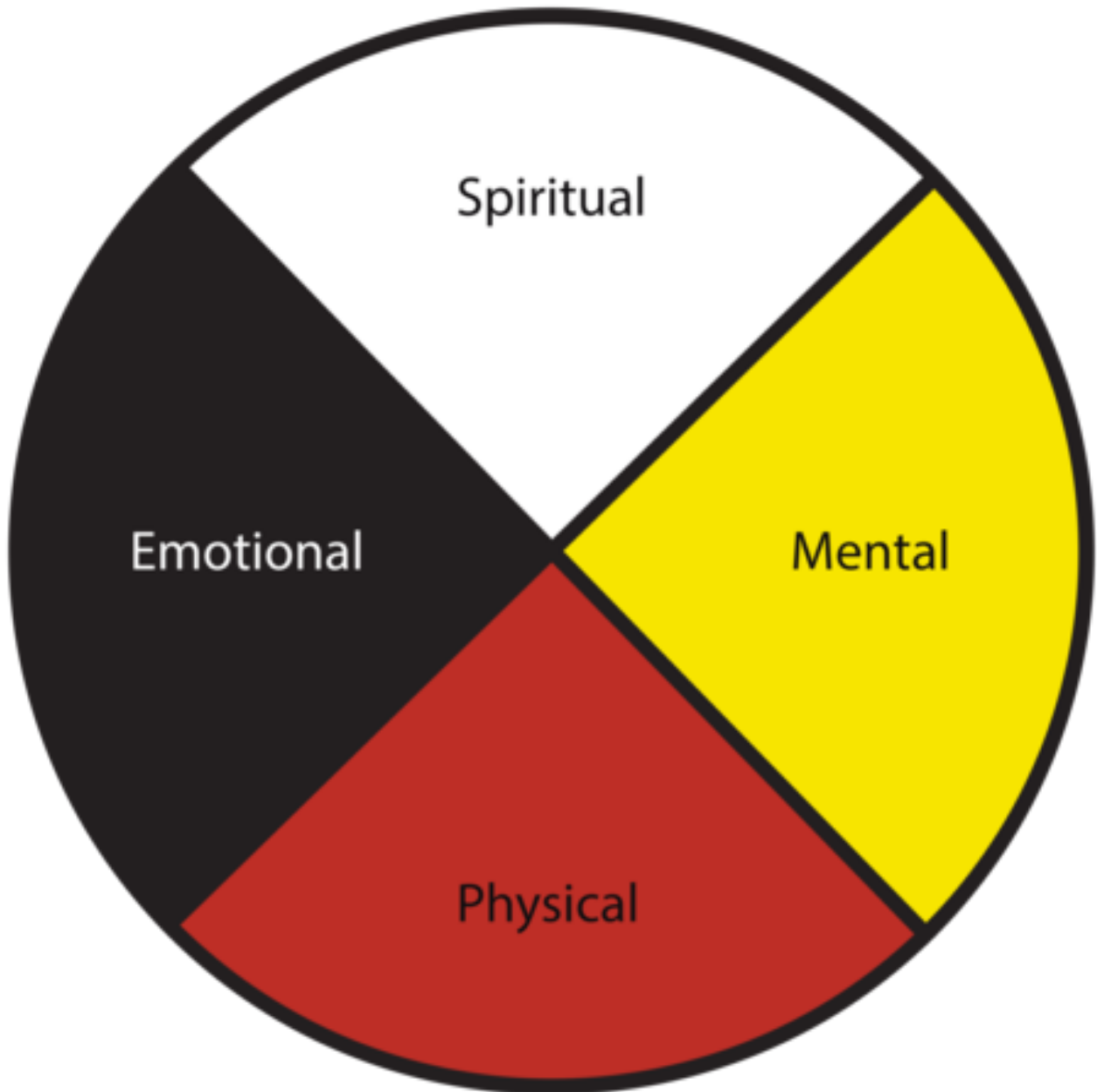
Pray for your leaders.

Pray for the Physical, Emotional, Mental, and Spiritual well-being of yourselves and your church.

Pray for Change.

Pray for God to guide you as you consider and implement innovative ways to build and strengthen the ministry of your church.







## PARTNER

Contributed by:  
Madison Wombold - ABNT division

### LESSON AIM

To help students realize that as Christians we need to work together and nurture relationships with those around us—not just with other Christians or those directly in our church, but also with anyone God is working through, in order to better serve God’s will.

#### **What does being a partner in The Salvation Army look like?**

To be relevant and effective in fulfilling our mission, we cannot do it on our own. Fostering strong partnerships with others, both internally and externally, working together, is critical to serving the diverse needs of our communities. We need hearts open to a fresh wind of God’s spirit, seeking to join him where he is already at work.

### BOTTOM LINE

ONE is better than one.

### SCRIPTURAL BASIS

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

### SUPPLIES NEEDED

Food items, such as cold cooked spaghetti, raw peeled potato or apple, plain breadcrumbs or cracker crumbs, flour, or a couple of peeled grapes.

### INTRODUCTION

Tell an anecdote about a time you partnered with someone which made things easier (If you cannot think of a good story to share feel free to share the one on the following page).



*“When I was 16, I worked at The Salvation Army Pine Lake Camp as a counsellor. I was responsible for a group of 8-10 young campers 24/7 for 5 days a week all summer. I lived and worked in a cabin with two other counsellors and 2 other groups of campers. One of my fellow counsellors and I grew very close that summer and ended up kind of merging our groups and our responsibilities to make the weeks go more smoothly. I am very much a night owl and love to sleep-in in the mornings, whereas my co-counsellor was a morning person and liked to go to be up early. A couple weeks into the summer we were both feeling rundown and tired (camp is exhausting, and those early flag brakes and late-night campfires take a lot out of you, am I right?!). My fellow counsellor saw how exhausted I was and let me sleep in a little bit one morning. She woke up all my campers for me and made sure they were up and dressed for the day with their teeth brushed, hair combed, faces washed and ready to go to breakfast. The gratitude I felt waking up that morning was immense as I took my campers down to the dining hall feeling rested and ready for the day. That night I wanted to return the favour. After cabin devotions I told my co-counsellor to go to sleep, and I took the liberty of making sure all her kids had eaten their nighttime snack, brushed their teeth, showered, changed into their pyjamas, and were tucked into their bunk. This system was so rejuvenating for us as counsellors that we used this system many times throughout the summer, working together to ensure our campers had the best week possible and were not subject to cranky, tired, and burnt-out counsellors. We could have worked as one (individuals), and settled for a mediocre result, but instead we worked as ONE (a team) and gave ourselves and our campers the best experience we could.” – Madison Wombold, youth leader at Edmonton Temple*

## OPENING ACTIVITY

Prepare a food such as cold cooked spaghetti, raw peeled potato or apple, plain breadcrumbs or cracker crumbs, flour, or a couple of peeled grapes. Pick something that it is not obvious just by touching/ smelling/ tasting.

**Note:** Make sure your group has no allergies prior to participating.

Ask for 4 volunteers.

One volunteer will be hearing the food be prepared/moved around, one will be touching the food, one will be tasting the food, one will be smelling the food. Provide them all with blind folds. Provide ear plugs/noise cancelling headphones, and nose clamps to those who it applies, if available.

1. Send the 4 volunteers out of the room. Explain to any remaining group members that we will be testing the senses of some group members to see if they can identify a particular food item. Group members should be careful not to give anything away while watching. Volunteers should not communicate what they experienced to each other while out of the room.



2. First, bring in your “hearing volunteer” who will be blind folded and plug their nose. Let them listen while you peel the apple, move around cold spaghetti, lift and drop crumbs etc. Try to make as much noise as possible. Let them guess what the food item is. Then ask them to leave.
3. Next, bring in the “smelling volunteer” who will smell the item while blind folded and plugging their ears. Let them guess what it is. Then ask them to leave.
4. Bring in the “touching volunteer” who will feel the item without seeing, smelling, or hearing it. Let them guess what it is. Then ask them to leave.
5. Lastly, bring in the “tasting volunteer” who will lick or nibble at the food item without touching (use a fork or a spoon, OR you or another group member can even feed them if they are comfortable with it), seeing, hearing, and without smelling (this is very important as your nose greatly helps you to taste things. If you do not have a nose clamp ask them to plug their nose with their fingers). Do not let them take a gigantic bite of the item. Let them guess what it is. Then ask them to leave.
6. Bring everybody back into the room and ask them to share what they tasted, smelt, heard, and felt. Ask them to make a guess together based on all their gathered data. Once they have guessed, reveal the object to everybody.
7. Discuss how working together made it much easier to identify the item. Point out that whether or not someone got it by themselves or not, having more information and partnering together made them understand the item better and allowed them to be more confident in their guess.

## ALTERNATE ACTIVITY FOR AN ONLINE FORMAT

Use the following activity for an online format, or for those who do not have the time or resources to prepare the activity above:

Get 5 volunteers.

Tell them that you will give them each one clue to get them to guess a word.

Take each volunteer one by one into a breakout room online, or if in person, bring them into the space you are meeting in one at a time.



Give the following clues and let them guess only once at what word you are trying to get them to guess:

- Volunteer 1 Clue: **Tent** (they might guess camping, shelter etc.)
- Volunteer 2 Clue: **Stripes** (they may guess pattern, lines, etc.)
- Volunteer 3 Clue: **Elephant** (they may guess animal, Africa, etc.)
- Volunteer 4 Clue: **Ring** (they may guess jewelry, engagement, etc.)
- Volunteer 5 Clue: **Performance** (they may guess a play, the ballet, etc.)

Record all their answers and ask them to reveal what their clue and guess was to the group. Only after they collaborate and work as a group should they solve the puzzle and realize the answer is circus. Whether or not someone got it by themselves or not, having more information and partnering together made them understand the item better and allowed them to be more confident in their guess.

## SCRIPTURE

**1 Corinthians 12:12-27** - Unity and Diversity in the Body

Have somebody, or several people read the passage of scripture found in 1 Corinthians. If nobody volunteers, read it aloud yourself.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Note:** Use the questions below to create meaningful conversations. Adjust the questions as needed, and don't feel like you need to answer all of them.

1. What jumped out at you from the passage we just read? What did it make you think of?
2. How did our opening activity relate to this scripture passage? (*We are better together. We all have our own gifts and things to offer and when we partner those talents together, we are stronger.*)
3. Reread and discuss verses 13-14 specifically from the scripture reading. **Ask:** How is ONE is better than one? ...Meaning that partnering together as one group and one body of Christ is better than one person working alone.



4. How does our scripture passage about the body of God illustrate how God wants us to interact and partner with each other?
5. When is a time you have had to partner with someone else to achieve a goal? How did it go? In what ways did you have to lean on another or give help to someone else? (*School projects, working with a co-worker, being on a sports team, leading a group or activity, helping with family stuff, teaching someone something, etc.*)
6. When is a time you have felt alone, unqualified, or unequipped to do something and wishing you had a partner to work with?
7. What are some of your strengths/gifts as a person and Christian that help you serve God?
8. How could you offer up these strengths/gifts to partner with those around you? How does working together offer better help to those who need it? (*Our communities have diverse needs and therefore need diverse gifts*)
9. How do you think our communities would look different if we actively sought out people and situations within the church and outside of the church who needed our help and offered it as best we can?
10. Is there someone, or a particular situation that you can think of in your life, church, or community that could use your help and partnership? Alternately, is there an area of your life or ministry where you feel like you need help and someone to partner with?

## LIVING THE VISION

Ask the group to brainstorm ways they can build better partnerships and relationships with those around them. Have them think of people they know or real-life situations in which they could offer their help and strengths. Or have them think about something in their own lives that they could reach out to someone and ask for help in.

If they are having trouble thinking of things, instead ask them to reach out to someone tonight or this week that they are currently partnering with in their lives or have partnered with in the past and thank and encourage them for their help.



## PRAYER

Ask for prayer requests and include them in your prayer. Feel free to pray your own prayer or to use the template provided:

*“God, thank You for bringing all these awesome young people together today to better learn about You and our call to partnership. I pray that You will help us to find our place in Your ONE body of Christ, rather than trying to do things on our own. Help us to partner with those around us, both within and outside of the church, and to use our strengths to better serve You and Your will. I pray that as we move through our coming days and weeks, we will feel comfort in knowing we are not alone as one—as individuals, but rather that we are ONE with others made in Your image. Help us to keep our hearts open to Your Spirit and seeking to join You where You are at work. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.”*



## MOBILIZED

Contributed by:  
Jim & Natasha Burkett - MAR division

### LESSON AIM

To help students realize that being prepared, organized and people of action is what it means to be mobilized.

### BOTTOM LINE

- Tape (painter or masking)
- Construction paper or paper plates (one per person)

### SUPPLIES NEEDED

We must be ready (prepared and organized) to serve God and put our faith into action.

### SCRIPTURAL BASIS

Luke 10:25-37  
2Timothy 3:16-17  
Romans 12: 1-2

### INTRODUCTION

To introduce this Bible study, have the students begin by playing the **Hot Chocolate River Activity** (below).

The idea of this game is to show the students that they need to be prepared and organized to succeed in this game. They also must put their plans into action (by trying to cross the river) to complete the task. Tell the students that being prepared, organized and people of action is also what it means to be mobilized.





## HOT CHOCOLATE RIVER ACTIVITY

**Objective:** To get everyone on your team across the hot chocolate river safely.

**Set up:** Using the tape mark 2 strips on the floor (one will be the start of the river and the other the finish line of the river). These strips should be 15-20 meters apart. They are the banks of the river.

**How to Play:** Your group has arrived at the edge of the Hot Chocolate River and your goal is to safely get everyone across. The river is deadly because of its extreme heat and chocolatey-ness, which means that setting any part of your body in the actual river will kill you.

Each member will be given a marshmallow (the construction paper or paper plate) that they can stand on in the river. The marshmallow is light however and will float away if it doesn't have a body part holding it down (leaders may take any marshmallow that someone is not touching when it is in the river).

You may walk on, and share, the marshmallows. You also may move your marshmallows anywhere you would like in the river. If any part of a student's body touches the river, the whole team must head back to the river's edge and begin again. You must work as a team to ensure that everyone reaches the other side of the river.

**Variation:** If you have the numbers, or a very competitive group, you can split your students into 2 or 3 groups to compete against each other. You could also set a time limit and have them repeat the crossing while trying to beat their old time. If your group finds this game easy, try taking away a marshmallow or 2 to increase the difficulty.

Here is a demonstration and explanation of the game if you would like more information:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gMJxZglpgUc>

## TENSION

In today's world we often see a lot of people who have big ideas and opinions about how things are and the way they should be. Often people like to talk about what needs to be done, but when it comes time to do something about it, they are not willing to act. These people may know what to do, but do not put their knowledge into service.

**Ask:** *Can you think of a time when someone has shared a strong opinion about something but did nothing to act upon it? How did you feel about them and their suggestions?*



We also live in a world where some people are passionate about doing something to help others, or serve God, only to fizzle out once the initial feeling starts to fade. These people want to do something but need more preparation and organization to help them reach their goal.

**Ask:** *Have you ever seen a passionate person start something up but not be able to see it through? How could planning and preparation have helped them accomplish their goals?*

These 2 problems are at the heart of why we must be mobilized to be truly effective soldiers for Jesus Christ. We need to be prepared and organized so that we can put our faith into action that will have lasting impacts.

## TRUTH

### **Say something like:**

The definition of word mobilize is “to prepare and organize for active service.”

In the context of mobilizing God’s people, this is also a great definition.

**Ask:** Do you agree with the definition of mobilization? Why/why not? How would you define the word?

As Christians, we must always be prepared and organized, so that we can be active in any service that God calls us to. To be fully mobilized for Jesus we need to include these 3 steps:

1. **We must be prepared.**
2. **We must be organized.**
3. **We must be active in service.**

### **We must be prepared.**

Let’s look at the first step: being prepared.

No army would go into battle without first training their soldiers. If they did, I believe they would not be too successful. As a matter of fact, the opposite is true: armies spend their time, energy and efforts getting ready for battle.

Just like soldiers in an army, God calls each of us to prepare our heart, mind and soul for His service. We must sharpen our spiritual life and keep it ready at all times to live in a manner that shows others God’s love in all of our actions.



**Read:**

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

Here Paul is stating that the key to all of our training is knowing God's will through scripture. We must understand God's word to teach us how to live right, rebuke any false truths, correct any areas of our life that aren't of Him, and train us how to live righteously.

**Ask:** *What are some areas that reading scripture can help you grow closer to God: to live right, find truth/ rebuking false teaching, to help correct ungodly behaviours, for training? How could your church, or this group, help you develop these areas?*

Some of the most effective ways we can study scripture is through personal devotions, having spiritual mentors and other mature Christians guide us, listening to the Word at church, worshiping with scripture-inspired music, and a regular prayer life that seeks to know God better every day.

We must sharpen our spiritual skills to be prepared to mobilize for Jesus.

**We must be organized.**

**Say something like:**

The second step in mobilization is that we need to be organized.

Going back to the metaphor of an army: If soldiers devoted themselves to being prepared for battle but didn't have a leader that could gather them together and send them into the right place to use their training, all that preparation would have a very little impact on the battle. They need an organized leader that can guide them.

The same is true for Christians.

If we are not focused on Jesus Christ, our leader, to guide us and show us where we should go, we will lose our effectiveness. Jesus is our purpose, guide, and leader who will show us the opportunities to use our well-prepared lives for His service.

**Read:**

**Romans 12:1-2**

Remind students that we must give our selves as living sacrifices (this is our preparation part of mobilization) and then we will be able to see what God's will (His organized plan) is for our life.

**Ask:** *Do you know what God's plan is for your life (this could be in big plans for your life, or smaller moments)? What unique opportunities do you have in your life that God could be leading you to serve in?*



**Say something like:**

When we are living a holy life and seeking God’s will, His Spirit will guide us to the unique places that we can serve.

**We must be active in service.**

Finally, the last step in mobilization is action.

Once an army is fully prepared (trained), and organized (with an effective leader), that army must go and do what it was created to do (to protect its nation and defend against wrongs).

Christians are also called to this type of mobilization. After dedicating our lives to preparation (living a godly life) and seeking God’s leadership (organizing us and directing us where He wants us), we must be ready to stand up and act—to put our faith in action. The Holy Spirit is leading you and giving you opportunity to serve God in your daily life, and we must act.

**Read:**

**Luke 10:25-37** (The Parable of the Good Samaritan)

After reading, remind the students that God placed 2 religious leaders: a priest (who could have been so busy doing what he thought God wanted him to do, that he missed seeing God’s will in his life) and a Levite (who could have been more interested in understanding God’s law, rather than living God’s law), to help the man that was robbed. They both missed the action portion of mobilization. They missed their opportunity to serve.

The Samaritan didn’t. When he came upon the man that was beaten, he cared for him.

Jesus was telling the expert of the law and everyone else listening, including us today, that we must act when God gives us the opportunity. In verse 37, He tells all of us that we must “Go and do likewise.”

We must always be ready to serve and love in His name.

**Ask:** *Are you willing to act when the Spirit directs? What could prevent you from acting? How can your church, or this group, help you?*

## LIVING THE VISION

When we look at mobilization, it is clear that we must be prepared, organized (led by God), and willing to act, so what does that look like? How can we live this out?



The Salvation Army was formed and built by many people that mobilized their lives for Jesus. We are a movement that seeks to live holy lives, look to Jesus for our strength and guidance, and act in any way that we can for Him.

An example of this mobilization is a man name George Scott Railton. Railton became William Booth's (the founder of the Salvation Army) secretary, and eventually a missionary for The Salvation Army. He led a holy life and dedicated his life to seeking God's will and acting on it.

Seeking God's will, George Scott Railton, was called to start up The Salvation Army in New York city. In 1880, he took 7 ladies (to train as officers) and headed from England to New York. With the help of his 7 'hallelujah lassies' he quickly built up the ranks of The Salvation Army throughout the east coast of USA.

In 1881, Railton was transferred back to England and his ship had a stopover in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Being a prepared man and feeling God speaking to him, he left the ship during the stop and began the first 'unofficial' Salvation Army service in Canada right there on the docks (March 24, 1881). He was so engaged in his preaching that he missed his boat, which gave him a whole week to preach in the churches and corners of Halifax.

Within the next year, The Salvation Army would officially enter Canada and become the church it is today.

Railton was a mobilized Christian. He was prepared (living a holy life), organized (because he let God guide him), and acted when he was led (living his faith out in every opportunity).

How can you mobilize today?

Perhaps your group can design a service project that you could prepare yourselves for, organize (seeking God's guidance), and commit to doing.

Some ideas could include:

- ministering to shut-ins from your corps,
- creating a prayer chain,
- developing a mentoring partnership for younger Christians in your church,
- practical work (cleaning/sorting/helping) at the local Salvation Army Community and Family Services,
- or any other projects that God places upon your hearts.

**Ask:** *Can you think of any examples in your life when you, or someone else, was mobilized the way God calls us to be? Would you share?*



## LANDING

God has raised The Salvation Army to be a mobilized church.

That means that each one of us (remember WE ARE The Salvation Army) must continue to be prepared (live God-pleasing lives according to scripture), be organized (led by God's Holy Spirit), and act (putting our faith in action) in every situation that we find ourselves.

That will help us become the Christians that God has called us to be.

**Ask:** *Will you be prepared to live a holy life, be organized through following Jesus, and live out your faith in action?*

Close in prayer, remembering to ask God to help your students live holy, seek God, and help them live out their faith.



## SHARE HOPE

Contributed by:  
Jessica MacKenzie - PRA division

### LESSON AIM

To help students understand and promote a spirit of togetherness as we join in solidarity with those we serve. We will come alongside people and communities with respect, compassion and dignity, knowing we are all children of God. Recognizing God is at work in our world, together we discover hope and take bold new steps.

### SCRIPTURAL BASIS

#### 1 Peter 3:15

*"In your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to anyone asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect"*

### INTRODUCTION

Share the following personal example from Jessica, a young adult from the Prairie division:

*"I grew up really, really shy. ...Like super shy.*

*I could barely talk to my peers, I never raised my hand in class. If I was called on I almost always forgot everything I knew for a few minutes.*

*That shyness stuck with me all the way to high school. Suddenly, I was in grade 12, still too shy to go up and talk to somebody, too shy to ask questions or speak up in class, and I was far too shy to be myself in front of other people.*

*After years of giving in to that fear and allowing it to control my life, I got really lonely. For years, I was broken, wondering where God was and if he had left me alone in my hurt. I became shyer than I had ever been, more fearful than I had ever been, and I thought all hope was lost...until God stepped in.*

*In an instant, years of loneliness, brokenness, and years of living in and by fear were gone like they had never existed before. God reassured me of his great love for me. He showed me that he saw me when I thought I was invisible. He knew me when I didn't recognize myself, and he loved me when I thought I was unlovable.*



*God renewed my hope, and now I get to share the hope I have in him with anyone and everyone who will listen. And that is exactly what we're talking about today: sharing the hope of Jesus.” — Jessica MacKenzie, PRA division*

## TENSION

**Sometimes sharing our hope in Jesus is hard.**

**Ask:** *Have you ever been excited for something really big? Did you talk to your friends about it? Were they excited about it too?*

*(Maybe high school graduation, a really cool trip, or getting to visit someone after so long in quarantine. There are so many things in our life that we have to look forward to, that we hope for. )*

*Have you ever regretted not doing something? Not sharing something?*

*What's your favourite kind of cookie? If you had one of your favourite cookies right now, would you share it with a friend? Would you share it with a stranger? What if you had an unlimited amount of your favourite cookies? Who would you share it with then?*

Students might share their favourite cookie with a friend or with someone they love, but they probably wouldn't want to share their only cookie with a stranger. Help them see that if they had an unlimited number of cookies, they would probably be much more inclined to share with anyone who wanted some.

## TRUTH

**Ask:** *How do we know that Jesus has enough life and love to give to everyone and that we can put our hope in him? (This is not a trick question!)*

That's right! The Bible tells us. Let's take a quick look at John 3:16

### **John 3:16**

*“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.”*

**Ask:** *What does this tell us about the life that Jesus has to offer us?*





**Say something like:**

The key is in the word *whoever*.

Whoever believes will have eternal life. There is no limit—it's for everyone. Just like we would share our favourite cookie with anyone and everyone who asked for one (or some), Jesus gives not only unlimited life, but unlimited love and hope to everyone who believes in him.

If you have an unlimited amount of cookies, it's so easy to share it with everyone. The life, love, and hope that Jesus offers us is unlimited, and yet, many Christians still find it difficult to share it with others.

**Ask:** *What is "hope"?*

**Say something like:**

Today, when we say that we're hoping for something, what we really mean is that we are wishing for something. Maybe you're hoping to get a job, or you're hoping for a good grade in that class; or maybe you hope that your friend will finally agree to come to church with you. You are wishing for something to happen. When we hope for things to happen, we are desiring something that we do not yet have.

But our hope in Jesus is different.

Christian hope is actually confidence.

When we hope for something in Christ, that is called faith; we are trusting that God will provide. And faith means being confident in the things that we hope for, and it is assurance about things that we cannot see

**Read:**

**Hebrews 11:1**

This hope we have in Jesus is not rooted in our own desires, but in God's character: He is trustworthy and reliable. Our hope in Him is a reflection of what we believe about who he is.

**Ask:** *What is the hope that we have in Jesus?*

**Say something like:**

The hope that we have in Christ is not only that he has really forgiven us of all our sins, but also that we are free from sin—we are no longer enslaved to it—and that we will spend eternity with our God in Heaven.

We have faith that Christ has forgiven all of our sins, has freed us from the power of sin, and given us hope of eternal life with our God.

**Ask:** *How is our hope in Jesus different from the hope that the world offers?*



**Say something like:**

When we hope for things to happen (e.g., you hope to get a job, you hope that you'll get a new phone or computer, you hope to be able to get a car, or a puppy, etc.) we're placing our hope in things that are completely circumstantial. Not only that, but it is based on things that we desire.

But our hope in Jesus does not depend on the circumstances—which means that even when life is tough and everything is hard, and overwhelming, and exhausting, we still have reason to hope in Christ.

Our hope in Christ is based not on what we desire, but on the promises God has made. Therefore, our hope is rooted in his character, not ours.

The world will tell you that you have to do everything yourself, to be strong and completely independent.

It will tell you to take care of yourself first. It will show you how to get back at the people who hurt you.

It will tell you to trust only in "what you can see" and to follow your heart and to do the things that make you happy.

But what we believe as Christians is actually contrary to all of this: God tells us that He will never leave or forsake us (**Hebrews. 13:5**), and that we can trust him with all our heart (**Proverbs. 3:5**).

God tells us to rely on Him because he will fight for us (**Exodus. 14:14**), and to seek His kingdom and He will give us all that we need (**Matthew 6:33**).

He shows us how to forgive and to love the people who hurt us (**Ephesians 4:32; Romans. 5:8**).

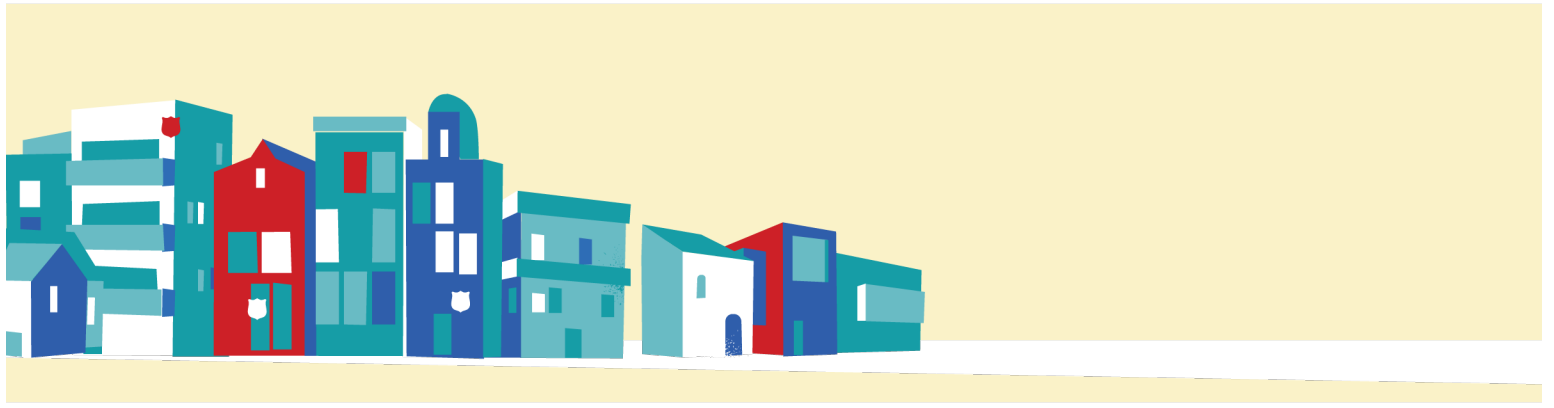
He tells us that in Him all things are created (**John 1:1-5**). And God tells us that our hearts are deceitful (**Jeremiah 17:9**) and that we should deny ourselves and follow Jesus (**Matthew 16:24**) because he is the only way, the only truth, and the only life we could possibly hope to gain (**John 14:6**).

Thank God that we do not have to do everything ourselves. Thank God we don't have to work for salvation or forgiveness.

We have the freedom to love others in ways that make them stop and wonder, "How? Why do they love me?"

We have the freedom to forgive others who hurt us. We don't have to carry that burden of bitterness, and we don't have to carry the weight of anger.

We don't have to rely solely on science to explain the unexplainable or only on medicine to see healing.



We have reason not to do the things that will give us temporary pleasure but are later accompanied by regret. We do not have to rely on mere things to make us happy—we get to experience God’s lasting joy.

Our hope is not that we would simply be happy in this life, but we have faith that we will get to spend joyful eternity with our Saviour, our first love, and that God will accomplish his redemptive purposes for our world fully.

**Ask:** *Where is your hope? Is it in the world, or is it in Jesus?*

*Why is having hope in Jesus Christ so significant?*

**Say something like:**

Christianity is the only religion where people are saved by grace. There is nothing that we have to do—there is nothing that we can do—to earn our way into heaven. Ours is the only God who stepped down from his throne and into human flesh, and who willingly took on the consequences of our sin. There is nothing we can do to earn our own salvation. It had to be done for us by the only one who could possibly accomplish it: Jesus Christ.

Our part in this is only to trust that Jesus has really done it.

This means that our eternal destiny is in someone else’s hands—it hinges on the work that someone else has done and on his promises to us (the promises we find in scripture).

**Ask:** *What does it mean to revere Christ as Lord?*

**Say something like:**

Before you can revere Christ as Lord, you need to understand that Jesus is God. To help you understand this, read **John 1:1-18; 14:9-11**.

There are a few aspects of lordship that we don’t often discuss:

First of all, lordship means that we obey the Lord, whether we like it or not.

Think about Jonah and how he tried to run away because he didn’t want to obey the LORD.

...He did obey eventually, and an entire city came to know God because of it.

We obey God and we know that he is good and that he loves us. The responsibility of a lord is to care for his subjects. We call God our Lord, and we trust that he will take care of us.

We can’t just say that Jesus is Lord...we actually have to live it. And trust that He is living it as well.



There are a lot of things that try to influence our actions, whether it's our teachers, peer pressure, social media, advertisements, or anything else that tries to guide your actions.

Setting Christ apart as Lord means that we make a conscious decision to only consider to those things after we listen to the guidance and direction that Jesus gives us first.

**Ask:** *What does it mean to be bold?*

Being bold can also mean standing out. I trust that you are all familiar with bold fonts. Bold font is always used to set some text apart from the rest of the text so that it **stands out** and is **easily visible**.

Being bold in our faith and in the gospel also means standing out for what we believe...but this needs to be done in a specific way.

If you scroll through social media, it won't take you long to find somebody being bold in what they believe, even if it causes them to become aggressive, unnecessarily offensive, or careless. This is where a simple media post turns into trolling or name-calling. That is not how Christians should stand out. Instead, we should stand out for what we believe, but we need to be doing this gently and respectfully.

When it comes to our faith in Jesus, being bold means being confident and courageous for the sake of the gospel, and in obedience to Christ. Maybe it means refusing to deny Jesus even when you are faced with physical danger or harm. Maybe it means loving the unlovable, or befriending the outcasts. Maybe being bold means stepping outside of your comfort zone in order to show God's love or to tell someone about Jesus. Maybe that means speaking up, or standing up, for what is right and just, but doing so with gentleness and respect.

Being bold in your faith is not comfortable—it never is—but it is so powerful. So let go of any unwillingness to step outside of your comfort zone.

**Ask:** *Why is it important for us to share hope with gentleness and respect?*

The gospel can be offensive. No one wants to hear that they are a sinner, and that they're not good enough to make it to heaven by themselves. Yeah. That wasn't pleasant, was it? (Thankfully, that is not where our story ends!)

If you didn't know about Jesus and you heard someone yell this at you, how would you respond? I would probably try to run as far away as I could. It is very difficult to love others when we are not kind to them. It is best to always treat others with gentleness and respect.



## LIVING THE VISION

### Say something like:

I want you to walk away from this study being equipped to **share the hope** that you have with **BOLDNESS**.

**Ask:** *What might it look like for you to share your hope at school? At home? On social media? (e.g.: What does your Instagram look like? What about your home page?) How are you going to share hope where you are?*

Discuss tangible, concrete ways that your group will share hope with others this week.

Maybe teens can invite someone to church, spend time with someone to talk about the hope we have in Jesus. Maybe they want to write an essay in school that approaches the topic from a biblical viewpoint. Maybe you can decide to put on a potluck or bbq as a group and invite friends who do not yet know the love of God.

**Ask:** *How might you share your hope with boldness, gentleness, and respect?*

Discuss with your group some possibilities for sharing their hope in Jesus with boldness, gentleness, and respect.

Maybe it looks like sharing a simple post on social media saying that they believe the gospel. Maybe it means standing out in the way that they live or how they spend their free time.

**Ask:** *How can you set Christ apart as Lord in your life and context? How will you do that this week?*

Discuss ways that teens can set Christ apart as Lord.

Maybe you commit to going to church or small group regularly. Maybe you commit to inviting someone new to church. Maybe you commit to being intentional about spending time with God every day. Maybe you commit to praying for God's direction before you make any important decision. Some ways that you could do this is to start memorizing scripture, or learning how to witness/evangelize.

### Say something like:

We've all got at least one friend (if not more) who does not know the love of Jesus. *Who is that person for you?*

Here is your challenge: invite them into your church community, whether it's Bible Study, church, youth group, or any other sort of gathering among members of your church family. Share with them the hope that you have in Jesus, and the reason that you have that hope—but remember to do it with gentleness and respect.

Close your time together in prayer, ask God for courage and opportunities to share hope with those your group comes in contact with this week.



# WHEREVER THERE IS HARDSHIP

Contributed by:  
Shona Burditt — ONT division

## LESSON AIM

To help students realize that this is our core mission field. We recognize that anyone can experience times of overwhelming challenge and human need, and we will be with them where they are in those moments.

## SCRIPTURAL BASIS

Luke 10: 25-37

## SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Blindfold
- Candy (for the winning team, but really... everyone)
- Minute-to-Win-it type games (don't need to be completed in a minute though)

## INTRODUCTION

### OPENING GAME: HELP ME!

#### Preparation:

For this game, teams will help a team member who is blindfolded and has one arm behind their back complete some challenges.

This will help demonstrate the theme of compassion for today's lesson.

Split the group into teams of 4-5 (one of these team members will be blindfolded and instructed to have one arm behind their back helped by the other students throughout the game).

**Variations to blindfolding if that's too difficult:** hop on one leg, both arms behind their back, having another team member slot their arms through as the first member has both hands behind their back to have them complete the tasks with their team member's assistance.



## HOW TO PLAY THE GAME:

Have each team choose which team member to blindfold and have one arm behind their back.

Instruct the students that he/she may not remove the blindfold or remove their arm from behind their back, or their team is out of the game.

Create an obstacle course with 3 or 4 challenges that the team must complete together. (You can add more obstacles if you would like.) Teams can accomplish these challenges however they determine. In other words, the team can help the member who is limited work on the challenge. There are no rules for this—as long as one of the team members is limited and the challenge gets completed by some, or all, members of the team.

Whichever team crosses the finish line first is the winner!

**Ask:** *How difficult was it to complete the challenges as the team member who was limited?*

*What difference did it make when your team members help you accomplish the task?*

*What difference does it make in life when you are struggling and others come along side to help you, whether it's practical, emotional or spiritual support you need?*

## TENSION

### Say something like:

Today's game shows us that it really does "take a village" at times to help you get through difficult times. Today we are looking at the portion of our Territorial vision statement that says, "**where ever there is hardship.**"

In The Salvation Army, this is our core mission field. We recognize that anyone can experience times of overwhelming challenge and human need, and we will be with them where they are in those moments.

The Salvation Army began its work in Canada in 1882 and has grown to become one of the largest direct providers of social services in the country. We give hope and support to vulnerable people in 400 communities across Canada and in 131 countries around the world. We offer practical assistance for children and families, often tending to the basic necessities of life, providing shelter for people experiencing homelessness, and rehabilitation for people who have lost control of their lives to an addiction.

*But what does all that actually mean for you? Where do you fit in with all of the above?*



## TRUTH

Let's start to unpack this by looking at the passage of scripture found in **Luke 10: 30 -37**. To put this question into context read verses 25-30 first.

A lawyer was trying to test Jesus and ask Him what he had to do to receive eternal life. Jesus answers him back with a question regarding what the law says. This person would have known the law and the right thing to say and yet when Jesus tells him he is correct, he pushes back again asking who is my neighbour? So Jesus uses this, what has become a very familiar parable, to help him really understand what being a neighbour means.

### Read:

#### **Luke 10:30-37**

Use the following questions as a guide for your discussion, but don't feel you have to stick 100% to it. See where your group goes with their thought process.

- *What happened to the man who was travelling from Jerusalem? (verse 30)*
- *What did the priest and the Levite do when they saw the man lying on the side of the road? (verses 31 &32)*
- *Why do you think they did that? (too busy, didn't want to get their hands dirty)*
- *Who did stop to help the beaten man?*
- *Why was the fact a Samaritan stopped to help such a big deal? (Samaritans and Jewish people did not mix at all, Samaritans were considered inferior and Jewish travellers would travel way out of their way to avoid travelling through Samaria)*
- *What did the Samaritan feel for the man left for dead on the side of the road? (verse 33, compassion)*
- *How did he take care of the man? (verses 34-35)*
- *What was Jesus' question to the lawyer? (verse 36)*
- *What was Jesus' challenge to the lawyer when he answered? (verse 37)*
- *What does that challenge mean for us today?*





**Say something like:**

This passage really speaks to the heart of what it means to have compassion for others and why we need to be alert to those who are suffering so we can be there for them.

## APPLICATION

So what does this mean for you and I? Let's explore these questions and talk about what we can do to help each other understand our role in being there for others.

- *If you talked to the two men who passed the injured man and asked them why they didn't stop to help, what might their excuses have been?*
- *Have you ever had a time when you didn't stop to help someone in need? What did that feel like?*
- *What about a time when you have helped someone who needed your help? What prompted you to do that? How did it make you feel?*
- *The Samaritan felt compassion for the man. What do you think having compassion for someone means? (Compassion is not the same as pity; pity is passive, removed emotionally. Compassion urges you to action)*
- *The man travelling from Jerusalem fell into hardship unexpectedly because he was attacked. What are some other examples you can think of that would fit the description of hardship? (unemployment, addiction, mental health concerns, people experiencing food insecurity and homelessness)*
- *The Salvation Army puts feet to its faith and helps others. What are some practical ways you can help someone experiencing hardship?*
- *Practical support is only one way to help. What are some other ways to support someone experiencing hardship? (learning their story, listening—not to respond but to understand, journeying with them through their difficult time, letting them cry without feeling the need to give advice)*
- *Think about hard times that you've gone through. What were the best ways that people supported you? What are some ways that really didn't work and what are some ways you wish you had been supported?*
- *What are some things to remember when supporting someone? (Don't judge a person because of their circumstances. Listen first and don't assume that practical assistance is all they need. Always seek advice from a trusted adult if what has been shared with you is about harming themselves or harming someone else)*



- *How can supporting someone experiencing hardship point them towards Jesus?* (an opportunity to show them how much they are loved; sharing the gospel with them and introducing them to Jesus; encouraging them to recommit themselves to Jesus)

## LIVING THE VISION

### Say something like:

Helping people experiencing hardship can be done in many different ways and we each have a responsibility to step up to be there for our neighbours in any way we can. That may mean practical support as well as emotional support and spiritual support. Sometimes all a person needs is someone to sit there with them and listen.

Here are some challenges for you to consider to be there **wherever there is hardship**:

### Pray.

- Pray for those people in your life who are experiencing hardship in any form.
- Pray for all those involved in offering support through The Salvation Army.
- Pray for opportunities to be a neighbour to someone.

### Practical

Pick some practical ways to help people experiencing hardship.

This could include:

- having a food drive to support your local Salvation Army foodbank,
- contacting your local shelter for people experiencing homelessness and asking for what practical needs they may have for their residents,
- creating a fundraiser for Home Missions.

Be innovative! *What are some creative ways you can think of to raise money to help support the work at your local Salvation Army level?*

### Personal

- Practice listening skills. It takes time and patience to learn how to listen well to others.
- Learn to, and share your faith story with others in a way that is able to offer hope and comfort to someone who may be struggling.
- Step out your comfort zone and be ready to step in if you see someone who needs assistance, (keeping safe while doing so).



## BUILDING COMMUNITIES THAT ARE JUST

Contributed by:  
Wendell Anderson - BDA division

### LESSON AIM

Educate our youth about the realities of social injustice, so they feel inspired and empowered to be mobilized to address these issues, while making connections with others and sharing the love of Jesus.

### SCRIPTURAL BASIS

#### Isaiah 1:17

*“Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed.  
Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow”.*

#### Romans 2:10-11

*“But glory, honour and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then the Gentile. For God does not show favouritism”.*

#### 1 John 3: 18

*“Dear child, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth”.*

#### Micah 6:8

*“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.  
And what does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy  
and to walk humbly with your God.”*

### INTRODUCTION

Use the following talking points to explore what knowledge and/or experience teens in your group have regarding social injustices in their world:

**Ask:** *How would you define social injustice?*

(Social injustice is the actions on those who are being oppressed, and who are not being treated as equals.)



### Historical and current examples of social injustice:

- Slavery/Black slave trade
- Human Trafficking
- Racial Profiling
- Residential Schools
- Poverty
- Food Insecurity
- Inability to access Affordable Housing
- Inequality
- Unfair wages
- Systemic Racism

### Some examples of what can drive social injustice:

- Greed and profit
- Lack of Education
- Complacency
- Consumer preference for fast and cheap
- Unjust Systems
- Privilege

### Some examples of local and global social injustices

- Inequality of Class/Social Status
- Inability to access Affordable Housing
- Need for Better Education for all
- Systemic Racism

## TRUTH

**Ask:** *What can we learn from the bible about social justice and injustice?*

### Old Testament

#### Genesis 1:27-28/2:15

When God created the world, he gave humanity the ability and the power to rule over earth and take care of it.

After the ancient Israelites migrated to the promised land, the prophet Moses gave them a set of rules to live in harmony with God and others, in order to stay in his land.

#### Deuteronomy 10:17

*“For the Lord your God shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing.”*

#### Deuteronomy 27:18

*“Cursed is anyone who leads the blind astray on the road.”*

#### Deuteronomy 27:19

*“Cursed is anyone who withholds justice from the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow.”*



### **Deuteronomy 27:25**

“Cursed is anyone who accepts a bride to kill an innocent person”.

### **New Testament**

In the New Testament Jesus shows us how we can care for those who are often castaway and reach out with respect and love.

In Mathew 8 Jesus healed a leper and cared for the woman who was caught in adultery in John 8. These are examples of how we should address the social injustice in our communities.

### **Matthew 8:3**

*“Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing”, he said “Be clean!” Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy.*

**Ask:** *How did laws in the Old Testament speak to situations of injustice?*

*Where was social injustice experienced?*

*Would you agree that these are still examples of social injustice today? Why or why not?*

## **APPLICATION**

### **The Gospel and Social Injustice—What would Jesus have us do?**

Discuss the ways the following actions can help to build just communities:

#### **Share Love of Jesus**

- Showing the love and compassion to others.
- Be the one people can talk to when they need a listening ear.
- Being respectful to others.

#### **Share Hope**

- Giving others love and care.
- Make others feel like they have dignity and deserve happiness.
- Offer support to those in need.
- Show appreciation.
- Make others feel like they belong.



### Share Faith

- Share or lead devotions.
- Listen to uplifting music.
- Read and meditate on scripture.
- Stay involved in your church community, and contribute to its life.

### Share in Prayer

Make the following actions areas of focus in prayer—and then put action to you faith by allowing God to use you as an answer to your prayers for others experiencing injustice:

- Restore hope to others.
- Give others guidance and help them understand that God is always there for them.
- Strengthen others' love for Jesus through your words and actions.

**Ask:** *How can Mobilize 2.0, and making the new territorial vision statement a reality help teens become empowered and inspired to “build just communities”?*

- Transform lives
- Restore Dignity and Respect
- Community Engagement (connecting to others)
- Be relevant when meeting the needs of others (spiritual, mental, social, emotional, and physical needs)

## LIVING THE VISION

The following are some ways that teens can engage in different ventures within The Salvation Army and are able to contribute to community outreach:

### Food Bank

- Engaging with food bank clients
- Giving spiritual support
- Offering help and guidance

### Feeding Program

- Community engagement
- Giving help and support
- Giving the level of compassion and respect

### Youth and Children's Ministry

- Opening them to a spiritual connection with God
- A place of leadership
- A sense of responsibility

### Research & Action Projects

- Look for an existing cause that supports justice
- Raise money to help the cause
- Volunteer, or write your government official to advocate for justice in this area



# KNOW THE LOVE OF JESUS

Contributed by:  
Elizabeth Borgela — QC division

## LESSON AIM

To help students realize that as followers of Jesus, we should be familiar with his love in our lives and be able to share the knowledge of Christ's love for us in the communities around us.

## SCRIPTURAL BASIS

John 3:16  
1 John 4:7-21

## INTRODUCTION

Open up the discussion with a conversation on love.

**Ask:** *What is your understanding of love?*

*How can love be expressed differently within different relationships?  
(friendships, romantic, parent/child, etc)*

Tell a personal story about a situation that you struggled to demonstrate love.

## TENSION

Everything about our mission as Christians and as Salvationists is meant to be rooted in love. Because God loved us first, we are meant to know and share His love within our communities.

Jesus's life and purpose were founded upon the love The Father had for humanity—that he loved the world so immensely that he lived the perfect life according to the law of God to free us from sin through his death on the cross.



It is because of that sacrifice that we not only receive salvation, but can know and experience what true love is.

Sometimes demonstrating love is easy (i.e.: close friends, family members, etc)

Other times, it can be challenging (i.e.: whenever we disagree with others, confronting those that have offended us, etc)

## TRUTH

### Say something like:

In his first letter, John is addressing Christians who were faced with false teaching within their congregations. One of the false teachings surrounds the understanding of love and how it is shared with others.

When we read through the gospels and examine the life of Jesus, we can see that in everything that he did, he acted in and out of love. Through every miracle, healing, and parable, Jesus was sharing the love of God

The ultimate declaration of that love was demonstrated on the cross—when Jesus, blameless of sin, took on the sins of the world and was a sacrifice.

God's love: There is nothing that we can do, say, or think that would keep us from His love. And it's when we know God personally, that is when we can know that love most personally.

### 1 John 4:7, NIV

*Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.*

Once we've accepted Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, and we know God's love, we have a responsibility to demonstrate that love through our own lives. Acting in a way that is Christlike is founded in love.

Because God never changes, how we demonstrate the love of God shouldn't change either. We follow the standard of love that God has set and demonstrated for us through the person of Jesus.

Jesus acted as a servant, despite being fully God. He willingly chose to demonstrate a selfless love that glorified God. And as believers, we are expected to follow in his footsteps—to go out of our way to show the love of God in everything we think, say, and do.

**Important note:** Bear in mind, Jesus did not love others in a way that compromised truth. Jesus didn't deny the reality of sin within the lives of others, but he did use love as a way that demonstrates something greater than what the world could offer: the love of God for all.





And as believers, we are called to reflect and demonstrate that love as well. To act in a way of servanthood while never compromising the gospel.

Without a deep, true understanding of who God is, we ourselves cannot know love. And how can we show love if we don't know the source of love?

## APPLICATION

Acting in and out of love can be challenging, especially when we are faced with situations where love wouldn't be our first response. But not only do we know the source of love, but we can also go to God in prayer to guide us through His love.

**Ask:** *How are we as a group, or church, showing the love of God?*

*How can we as individuals show the love of God?*

Something important to remember is that we must know God's love for ourselves before we can share it with others. Once we have knowledge of God's love, we can go into our communities and demonstrate it, intentionally, through everything that we do.

## LANDING

**Say something like:**

God's unchanging love is a promise and a gift that we can fully know: why wouldn't we invite others into that truth as well?

With so much uncertainty within the world we live in, genuine, unbiased love is rare. But we serve a God who demonstrates that love and pours it out in abundance. It is through that love that "whosoever will," can receive salvation and know God's joy and peace.



## LIVING THE VISION

Suggest ways students can demonstrate love within their communities:

- Share the gospel with someone who does not know Christ.
- Acts of service (i.e.: volunteering at a food bank, making and delivering a meal to a family in need, spending time with those who are lonely/outcasted)
- Serve within your corps family (i.e.: lead Sunday School, fellowship set up/clean up, welcoming committee, etc)

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wherever there is hardship,  
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**Learn  
Live  
Lead**

We are more than an organization - we are a movement of people. We are everyone who serves through, worships with, works for, supports and identifies with our Army and our mission.

We must be organized, equipped and inspired—ready to live out our mission in the places and streets of our communities.

Boldly building upon our pioneering tradition, we will find new ways of connecting with people, meeting human needs and sharing the love of Jesus.

Fostering strong partnerships with others, both internally and externally, is critical to serving the diverse needs of our communities.

**We are an innovative partner, mobilized to share hope wherever there is hardship, building communities that are just and know the love of Jesus.**

We give hope through the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We recognize that anyone can experience times of overwhelming challenge and human need, and we will be with them where they are in those moments.



By living our core values—hope, service, dignity and stewardship—in all that we do, we will be equipped and prepared to contribute toward communities where people can flourish.

Our mission is clear: “The Salvation Army exists to share the love of Jesus Christ.” All that we do supports the fulfillment of this mission.

**LEARNING THE VISION:**  
*Unpacking the Language*