



As A Family We Celebrate Together



THE MISSION AIM

To believe that celebration unites us and builds community so that together we can achieve our mission.



KEY VERSE

Zephaniah 3:17: "The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing..."



Pre-Mission Activity



Supplies Needed

- Option 1: Chart with three columns: What went well? What you would have done differently? Were there any new challenges that you thought of during the week?
- Option 2: On separate cue cards, write out the individual words of Zephaniah 3:17 and put them in a gift bag for recruits to unscramble
- Option 3: A parcel wrapped for a game of pass the parcel; each layer should have part of Zephaniah 3:17 on an index card (remember to start at the end of the verse as you wrap the parcel), Tape for taping the cards to the wall after the layers have come off, Music

Directions

Have recruits choose one of the following activities:

Option 1) SAY: On the chart on the wall, fill in how your "helping challenge" went this week. What went well? What you would have done differently? Were there any new challenges that you thought of during the week?

Option 2) SAY: Use the words in the gift bag and unscramble them to put together our key verse for the week.

Option 3) SAY: Today we will talk about celebrating. Let's play Pass the Parcel. Under each layer there is part of our key verse for the week. As you get a part of the verse, stick it up on the wall.



Mission Uplink 1



Have ready YouTube playlist: "Season 1 – Partners In Mission Episode 6: As A Family We Celebrate Together"

Play "Partners In Mission (S1) Episode 6 (1/4)". Episode begins with the *Ready to Serve* theme song, followed automatically by the MISSION # 1 VIDEO. Pause the video when the MISSION # 1 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 1.

If using PPT for video, have PIM-Episode_6-Celebrate_Together.pptx ready and play slide one. Pause on the MISSION # 1 CARD so you and your recruits can complete Mission # 1.



Mission #1



Supplies Needed

- Party hat template from the website: ohhappyday.com/2011/02/party-hats-diy-template/ for each recruit drawn on Bristol board (or have a few tracers that they can use to create their own template)
- Fabric elastic for the hats
- Stickers
- Markers
- Stapler
- Tape
- Scissors



Mission Assignment

SAY: It's hard to believe that this is the last lesson in "Partners in Mission". What a great way it is to leave our missions...Celebrating! Who here likes to party? I know that I do. Guess what? God likes to celebrate too. Just as families celebrate special occasions our faith family celebrates too. These celebrations unite us, build us up as a community and encourage us. It is good to celebrate accomplishments and successes in the local and global mission.

SAY: Christie is sending through our assignment right now. Here it is...drum roll please.... (Reading mission card from satellite uplink), "Recruits, your mission is to discover 'Why does the amazing Creator God of the universe celebrate? What does God celebrate?'"

SAY: Let's take a look at some Scripture verses that tell us why this amazing God of ours celebrates. First off let's look up Zephaniah 3:17 together. It's a tough one to find so if you need to, use the table of contents at the beginning of your Bible.

DO: Once the recruits have found the verse have them read it aloud together.

SAY: Why does God celebrate? (*He celebrates because he delights in us, we are His beautiful creation.*) Take a moment to write down that verse on this party hat template. If you need help, ask a friend to write it for you.



DO: Continue to have the recruits look up the following verses or have a leader read them aloud. After each verse is read, discuss why God celebrates and have the recruits write that reason on their hats. They can also draw pictures if that is easier for them. Once all the verses have been referenced, have the recruits finish their hats by colouring or decorating with stickers. Tape the hats together, add a piece of clothing elastic with a stapler and have the recruits wear their hats if they choose.

Psalm 147:11 – God celebrates when we fear Him (honour Him, obey Him, put Him first) and when we believe in Him

Psalm 149:4 – God celebrates because we are His

Psalm 18:19 – God celebrates when we are rescued from hard situations

Proverbs 11:20 – God celebrates when we make good choices

Proverbs 15:8 – God celebrates when we pray (talk) to Him

Psalm 35:27 – God celebrates when we are taken care of



Prayer Huddle



YouTube: Play “Partners In Mission (S1) Episode 6 (2/4)”. Pause the video when the PRAYER HUDDLE CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the prayer huddle.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when PRAYER HUDDLE CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the prayer huddle.



Supplies Needed

- Streamers cut for each individual (about one metre long)
- Pencils
- Pencil crayons
- Praise music and a player
- Tape to hang streamers

Directions

SAY: I hope that all of you are amazed at the fact that God, the creator of the universe celebrates you and is so happy that you are His creation. No wonder Brittany noticed how much we always celebrate in The Salvation Army, we know that we are God’s divine creation.

SAY: In light of the fact that God has created everything and that He delights in us, we are going to take a few minutes right now to thank and praise God for who He is and for what He has done. What are some reasons we can thank God and celebrate Him? (*He is our Saviour, He made the world, He made the animals, He made nature, He answers prayer, He loves us, etc.*) Now that we have some reasons to praise God, let’s write or draw them on our streamers here. Remember to write/draw gently so that you don’t rip your streamer.



DO: Hand out the streamers that you have prepared and have recruits write or draw their prayers of thanksgiving on them.

SAY: Now that you have written your praises let's raise our streamers up to heaven and say a huge Thank You Jesus." "Thank you Jesus!"

DO: Put on some praise music and let the recruits dance, run and jump with their streamers to praise the Lord. Then have them hang their streamers on a wall or doorway as decorations.

SAY: What a great chance we have to praise and worship God. Now let's get back to the Recon Team and find out what they are up to.



Mission Uplink 2



YouTube: Play "Partners In Mission (S1) Episode 6 (3/4)". Pause the video when the MISSION # 2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 2.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when MISSION #2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 2.



Mission #2



Supplies Needed

- Chocolate coins hidden around outside or inside the building
- Adult volunteer prepared to dramatize part of the lesson (please see the lesson)
- Ice cream, dishes, spoons (have someone getting it served up while the kids are hunting for the lost coins (try not to let them see it though)
- Bunch of balloons with tags on them (you can store them in garbage bags or go all out and have them filled with helium); on the different tags write the ways that we celebrate as The Salvation Army – Junior and Senior Soldier enrolments, weddings, dedications, commissioning of cadets, certificates of welcome (write down ones that your corps celebrates specifically as well)



Be sure to check with parents regarding any possible food allergies before class time.



Mission Assignment

(Make sure your volunteer actor/actress is out of the room and prepared to come in)

SAY: Well recruits, we know that we have reason to celebrate because God celebrates us but it goes beyond that. We too are called to celebrate. Christie alluded to our second mission of the day. Drum roll please... (Reading mission card from satellite uplink), "Recruits find out why we as partners in the world wide mission celebrate AND find out what The Salvation Army does to celebrate." (Just as you are finishing announcing the mission, have volunteer come in weeping.)



Volunteer: (Comes in weeping and wailing). "Oh my, I'm so distraught. I brought (20) coins to RTS today and I've somehow misplaced every one of them. Please recruits, help me to find them. I've only been (*identify your parameters for where you have hidden the coins i.e., in the gym, on the field etc.*). Can you please help me? I know that we only have five minutes but I need your help. Go and find my coins but when you hear me blow the whistle, come back so that you don't miss any more of your time. Please try to bring every one back to me."

DO: Send recruits out to find the lost coins. Be sure to have leaders in place for crowd control.

Volunteer: "I'm so excited that you have found my lost coins. That's just what it's like when someone comes to Jesus. We are so excited for them. We rejoice and the angels rejoice. Hallelujah! We all help to celebrate. So, let's celebrate, I (or the name of another leader) want to read you some parables from the Bible but while I do, let's dig into some ice cream. After all, we are talking about celebrating."

Reader: (Reads Luke 15 to the recruits in a dramatic and clear voice.) "Isn't it amazing how the shepherd, the woman and the father celebrated when they found what was lost? When we fulfill our mission of telling people about Jesus and they come to know Him it's amazing and we want to celebrate! We want to celebrate when people stand up and say, I'm choosing Jesus! We want to celebrate when people tell the world they love each other! We want to celebrate when a baby is born! Everyone take a balloon and look at the tag attached to the balloon. What are some ways that The Salvation Army celebrates? Read your balloon tag and tell us how we celebrate."

DO: Allow the kids to share as a group.

SAY: Wow! We should celebrate more often. Well let's get back to the Recon Team and find out how their celebration preparation is going.



Mission Uplink 3



YouTube: Play "Partners In Mission (S1) Episode 6 (4/4)". Pause the video when the FIELD MISSION CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when FIELD MISSION CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.



Field Mission Project



Supplies Needed

- A copy of the Testimony Template from attachment page 7 for each recruit (some recruits may not need something like this but it can be helpful for those who need it)
- Pens
- Pencils



Mission Project

SAY: You heard Christie. Sharing what God is doing in our lives is always a reason to celebrate. It is not only a chance for others to celebrate with us but a chance for us to give God thanks for all that He is doing in our hearts and lives. When we share our story about our relationship with God and how we are learning and growing, it's called giving a testimony. I'm sure that you've figured it out by now, this leads into our third mission...drum roll please... (Reading mission card from the satellite uplink) "Recruits, it's your turn to celebrate by sharing your own story! Write out your testimony about your relationship with Jesus and think about when you can share it with someone." Let's take a few minutes now, to write down our testimonies. Then, maybe some of you will have the courage to share with a friend or maybe even in church next week how God is working in your life.

DO: Spend time working with the recruits on their testimonies. Talk about when and with whom they can share their testimony. Perhaps some of them would be interested in sharing their testimony next week at church. If they are willing make arrangements for the recruits to share their stories next week at church. If they cannot share them in the worship service perhaps they could share them at Sunday school.

SAY: Well recruits, this has been an amazing six weeks. We've learned that we are a world-wide family, we need each other because we all have unique gifts, we need to pray for each other, we need to encourage each other and we need to help each other! Now that is reason to celebrate!

NOTES



Testimony Template

- Hi my name is _____
- I am _____ years old.
- When I was _____ I accepted Jesus into my life.

That means that I realized that God loves me, that I have sinned, that Jesus died for me and that I have decided to live for God.

- It was very _____ (*feeling*) when I became a Christian.
- When I became a Christian _____

(Some things that happened when I became a Christian... my family was excited, my family was mad, my friends thought I was crazy, etc.)

- The hardest thing about being a Christian is _____
- The best thing about being a Christian is _____
- Since becoming a Christian I have learned _____

(A verse of Scripture, how to tell friends about Jesus, about how others follow Jesus, how to pray, how to control my anger)

- One thing that I'd like you to know about Jesus is _____
(He loves you; He wants you to love Him, etc...)
- Please pray that I will _____