



Shoes of Readiness



THE MISSION AIM

Christian soldiers are called to put on the Shoes of Readiness and to be prepared to share their faith eagerly and easily.



KEY VERSE

1 Peter 3:15: "...Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have..."



Pre-Mission Activity



Supplies Needed

- Optional: Two different colours of sticky notes (one for "glow" and one for "grow")
- Pens

Directions

DO: As recruits enter, have them buddy-up and share one "glow on" and one "grow on" about their attempts to protect their spiritual hearts with their "Breastplates of Righteousness". (For example, a recruit might glow on his choice to change the radio station when an inappropriate song came on, but needs to grow in his ability to watch age-appropriate television.) You may choose to have sticky notes for students to write these down and put up in the room.



Mission Uplink 1



Have ready YouTube playlist: "Season 2 – Armour of God Episode 3: Shoes of Readiness"

Play "Armour of God (S2) Episode 3 (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 AOG-Episode_3-Shoes_of_Readiness.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

- A box with a variety of shoes inside such as flip flops, slippers, and athletic shoes, etc. Make sure that all are way too big for your recruits. The number of pairs will depend on how many recruits you have.
- Skipping ropes
- Chart paper for each group of two
- Sticky notes
- Markers
- Copies of the shoe hand out (attachment page 10)



Mission Assignment

SAY: It's time to get to it recruits, let's read our mission together (reading mission card from satellite uplink) "1 Peter 3:15 states, '...Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have...' In order to help Sadie, we need you to figure out what we must be prepared to share and what can happen if we're not prepared."

SAY: Alright, recruits! As you heard, we are looking at the shoes of readiness today. Sadie, the recruit who needs our help, said that she KNOWS how important it is to share our faith with others, but she still has trouble actually doing it. Before we can think about why she has trouble sharing her faith, we need to think about what she's supposed to be sharing- that we all should be sharing. When we are asked to share our faith, what things/information are we actually sharing?

SAY: Find a partner and jot down everything that you think we should be sharing with our friends and family. You can use words and pictures.

DO: Handout chart paper and markers to each group. Some ideas that might come up are:

- God loves us no matter what
- God saves us from our sins
- He sent his son, Jesus, to die for us
- We love God, because of all He has done for us
- God created the world around us
- God is good
- God sent the Holy Spirit to help us make good choices
- The Bible is God's word
- God is always with us
- Etc.

DO: Give groups two or three minutes to jot all their ideas down. As groups are finishing, tell them to each pick their favourite idea to share with the whole group. Bring the whole group back and have each recruit share their favourite idea.



SAY: All great ideas, recruits! Did you notice a lot of the things you thought of related to the Gospel Truths we talked about when we looked at the “Belt of Truth”? The reason why is because they are at the centre of all that we believe. Thinking about what the Recon Team shared about Sadie, do you think she’s having trouble knowing what those truths are? Why or why not? *(No- she grew up in a Christian home, she goes to Sunday school all the time, she said she knows about God, etc.)*

SAY: You’re right! It isn’t knowing what the truths are or why we should share them that Sadie is struggling with. It’s actually sharing when the opportunity arises. She is not equipping herself with the “Shoes of Readiness”! What happened to Michael today that made him feel unprepared to do his job? *(He lost his boots, had to wear his Sunday shoes.)*

SAY: That’s it! And because Michael couldn’t find his proper shoes, his good Sunday shoes ended up getting all mucked up with food and spills. He wasn’t ready for the job he needed to do.

SAY: That brings us to the second job in our mission! We need to think about what happens when we aren’t prepared for the job we need to do; in this case sharing our faith. The Recon Team has sent some supplies for us to use to help find an answer.

DO: Pull out a box of various shoes.

SAY: I have a box here that is full of shoes. Depending on the shoe you are wearing, you will have a different job to complete. But first, let’s put on some shoes!

DO: Hand out the shoes and have each recruit put on a pair.

SAY: Let’s start with the slippers. All recruits wearing slippers, please join me at the front. Okay, your job today is to tap dance. Ready? Go!

DO: Let the few recruits wearing slippers try to tap dance for 30 seconds. (If you are in a carpeted area, it will be even better!) As they are trying, you may want to make some comments like “Anytime you’re ready... I can’t hear you... where’s the tapping?”

SAY: Time’s up! What happened?! I gave you the simple job of tap dancing, and I got nothing! *(Recruits may say something like, these don’t have a hard bottom to tap with; they aren’t the right shoe for tap dancing).* Ohhhh! So, because you didn’t have the right tools for the job, you couldn’t even do it! Sorry about that! Thanks for trying!

SAY: Well, let’s see if the next job is a bit easier. Everyone wearing flip flops come on up!

DO: Bring up the recruits with flip flops and hand each of them a skipping rope (you will need space for this).

SAY: Okay, flip flop wearers, as you probably guessed, your job is to skip. You have 30 seconds. Go!

DO: Give recruits 30 seconds to try skipping.



SAY: How was it doing that job? Was it any better than tap dancing? *(Possible responses: It was a little better. I could kind of do it, but it was still hard. The flip flops got caught/in the way.)* I noticed that you sort of did the job, but the flip flops made it difficult to do it well. Well, maybe our last job will be even more successful. Everyone wearing running shoes come on up!

DO: Bring up the recruits with running shoes on. Make sure they are all too big.

SAY: Alright, recruits! The final job today is to run to the end of the hall and back. *(If you don't have the space or ability to have students run down the hall, you could have them do jumping jacks, instead.)*

DO: Let the students wearing large running shoes run down the hall and back again (or do 20 jumping jacks, if altering activity).

SAY: How did it feel to do that job? *(Possible Answers: I could do it, but it was very difficult. The shoes kept slipping off. It was tricky to run in shoes that weren't my size.)*

SAY: Hmm... so it sounds like the Recon Team sent us the wrong tools for the jobs. Since we didn't have the right shoes on for the tasks we were given, it made the job more difficult and in some cases, impossible! We weren't ready for the job. If we had known what the Recon Team wanted us to do, we could have gotten the tools we needed, but we were surprised by the tasks.

SAY: This is the same thing that can happen when sharing our faith with others. If we don't have the right tools for the job, we can't accomplish the task. Often, opportunities to share our faith come when we least expect it, so we need to always have our "Shoes of Readiness" on. The best way to do this is to make sure we are confident in what we need to share.

SAY: How can we be sure that we are ready to share our faith, and that we are confident in what we are sharing? Let's brainstorm some ideas together.

DO: Hand out a copy of the shoe page to each recruit. Take their ideas for preparing to share and jot them on chart paper. Have recruits put the ideas down in the shoe.

Possible Answers:

- Read the Bible
- Memorize key verses
- Think up some questions friends might ask and write answers down
- Talk to parents and other trusted adults
- Pray for courage to share
- Practice with other Christian friends
- Know who you can go to for answers when you aren't sure how to answer a question (i.e., your pastor, a Sunday school teacher...)
- Pray for opportunities to share

SAY: These are all excellent ways to get ready for sharing your faith! Let's head back to the Recon Team and see how they are coming along, and if Sarai has made it to headquarters!





Mission Uplink 2



YouTube: Play "Armour of God (S2) Episode 3 (2/4)". 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

- **Option 1 Letters:** Lined paper, pens/pencils, envelopes, stamps, names of missionaries from your division or the territory (optional)
- **Option 2 Skype:** Connection with a current missionary (contact your DHQ or check with your corps officer for possible missionaries), internet, computer, SKYPE (free download at www.skype.com), chart paper, markers
- **Option 3 Care Packages:** Chart paper, markers, items students decide to include (won't be needed until next lesson), box (won't be needed until next lesson), copy of "Missionary Care Package" note for each recruit participating (see attachment on page 11)



Mission Assignment

SAY: We've got our next mission, let's see what it says (reading mission card from satellite uplink), "Recruits, your next mission requires you to find a way to help spread your faith by helping others to put on their "Shoes of Readiness". Working with your Squad Leader, you are going to help provide support and encouragement to those people who make it their life work to spread the Gospel."

SAY: The Recon Team made an interesting point: you don't have to always be the "star of the show" in order to use your "Shoes of Readiness". Sometimes one of the most important ways we can spread God's message is by helping those who make their career in helping spread their faith. Today we are going to help boost the courage and confidence of those individuals.

DO: Have one leader lead each of these options or pick one that will interest your recruits the most, or let your squad choose from the three suggestions and work together.

Option 1: Letters to Missionaries

SAY: In the Salvation Army, we have many officers and lay people too, who take on work as missionaries. These are people who go out into the world to share their beliefs and help others to become believers. Often, these people have to go to places that are far from home, have very different ways of living, have a different language and may even be dangerous, because some people don't want them there. Because this work requires them to live so differently from what they are used to, it can sometimes be scary and lonely. One way that we can help boost their courage and strength is by sending them words of thanks and encouragement.

SAY: What are some words of thanks or encouragement you might say to a missionary if you could?



DO: Write the ideas that recruits suggest on chart paper for them to refer to when writing their letters. Here are some possible suggestions they may make:

- Thank you for spreading God's Word
- Thank you for being willing to go so far from home
- We are proud of what you do
- We are praying for your safety
- We are praying for you to know what to say and do
- Thank you for always being ready to tell others about God
- Don't forget to wear the "Armour of God"!

SAY: I love all your ideas for how to boost their courage! Your mission now is to use those ideas to write a letter to a missionary. You may choose to use words and pictures, if you'd like. Once we write these letters, I will mail them to different missionaries around the world.

DO: Have recruits each write letters to a missionary. You may choose to find out some names/locations of missionaries from your area, or keep them generic. If you have a recruit who struggles with writing, partner them with another recruit or scribe for them.

SAY: These letters will let so many missionaries know that we support them, are proud of them and are thinking of them. It will provide that boost needed to help them be ready to spread God's Word! Let's head back to our Recon Team and see what they're up to!

Option 2: Skype With A Missionary

SAY: In the Salvation Army, we have many officers and lay people, too, who take on work as missionaries. These are people who go out into the world to share their beliefs and help others to become believers. Often, these people have to go to places that are far from home, have very different ways of living, have a different language and may even be dangerous, because some people don't want them there. Because this work requires them to live so differently from what they are used to, it can sometimes be scary and lonely. One way we can support them in their mission is by taking an interest in the work they are doing.

SAY: If you could talk to a missionary, what are some words of thanks or encouragement you might say? What are some questions you might ask? Take a few minutes to talk to the recruits around you.

DO: Give recruits one or two minutes to share thoughts with each other.

SAY: I love all your ideas for how to boost their courage and take an interest in their work! Next week, we are going to start our time together by skyping a real missionary. Your mission now is to think about these ideas you just discussed, and pick your favourite question and favourite comment that you want to actually ask the missionary we talk to next week. I'm going to go around the room and ask each of you to contribute to our comments/questions page. I will keep this page for us to use next week when we talk to a missionary.

DO: Write the ideas that recruits suggest on chart paper for them to refer to when Skyping next week.



Possible Ideas:

- Thank you for spreading God's Word
- Thank you for being willing to go so far from home
- We are proud of what you do
- We are praying for your safety
- We are praying for you to know what to say and do
- Thank you for always being ready to tell others about God
- Don't forget to wear the "Armour of God"!
- What is it like to live where you are?
- What is the most exciting thing that has happened there? Or most difficult thing?
- What made you decide to be a missionary?
- How do you know what to say to people?
- Etc.

SAY: These questions and comments will be great for our skype date next week. Taking some time to talk to a missionary will let them know that we support them, are proud of them and are thinking of them. It will provide that boost needed to help them be ready to spread the Word! Let's head back to our Recon Team and see what they're up to!

Option 3: Care Package For a Missionary

SAY: In the Salvation Army, we have many officers and lay people, too, who take on work as missionaries. These are people who go out into the world to share their beliefs and help others to become believers. Often, these people have to go to places that are far from home, have very different ways of living, have a different language and may even be dangerous, because some people don't want them there. Because this work requires them to live so differently from what they are used to, it can sometimes be scary and lonely. One way that we can help boost their courage and strength is by sending them a care package to let them know we are thinking of them.

SAY: Missionaries often have to go without some of the comforts and treats that we have access to all the time. What are some small things that a person living in a developing country might like to get from Canada?

DO: Take ideas from recruits and list them on chart paper.

Possible Ideas:

- candy
- peanut butter
- gum
- Kraft dinner
- travel lotion
- travel shampoo
- tooth brushes



- books
- colouring books and crayons (for their kids or to give to kids)
- socks
- hair brush/comb
- tooth paste
- magazines
- notepads and pens
- etc.

SAY: These little things are a practical way to show our support for those who make it their life mission to spread the Word of God. By keeping their morale up, we are helping them to concentrate on wearing their “Shoes of Readiness” each day. Next week, we are going to pack a box to mail out to a missionary working with the Salvation Army. Let’s work as a group to decide how we will collect these things.

DO: Get recruits to sign up to bring in various items. (Try to keep things as inexpensive as possible by choosing small items or finding gently used items where appropriate). As recruits choose an item or two to bring in, have them write the item down on the Care Package page. These will go home to families.

SAY: Taking some time to send these little extras to a missionary will let them know that we support them, are proud of them and are thinking of them. It will provide that boost needed to help them be ready to spread God’s Word! Let’s head back to our Recon Team and see what they’re up to!



Mission Uplink 3



YouTube: Play “Armour of God (S2) Episode 3 (3/4)”. 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.



Prayer Huddle



Supplies Needed

- A copy of “A Prayer for Missionaries” for each recruit (see attachment page 12)

Directions

SAY: For our Prayer Huddle today, I want us to read a prayer for all missionaries. Each one of us is going to read a line, as we reflect on everything missionaries do and how we can learn from them.

DO: Give each recruit a copy of A Prayer for Missionaries. Read prayer line by line with recruits.





Field Mission Project



YouTube: Play "Armour of God (S2) Episode 3 (4/4)". Pause the video when the RTS SHIELD 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 RTS SHIELD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.



Supplies Needed

- Shoe laces (two pieces per recruit)
- Pony Beads (two of each: navy, red, white, green and yellow)
- Copies of "Mighty Warrior Combat Boot Beads" (one per recruit) (see attachment page 13)
- Pens

Mission Project

DO: Have the recruits demonstrate how they are doing memorizing the Declaration Prayer.

SAY: You are all doing a super job with learning that Declaration Prayer! I'm impressed. Today's part of the Armour of God was the "Shoes of Readiness". To finish our lesson today, we are going to make a quick tool to help you share your faith with someone this week.

DO: Show recruits an example of the "Mighty Warrior Combat Boot Beads".

SAY: These beads are sometimes called Salvation Bracelets, because they are a simple way of explaining the story of Salvation (the Gospel Truths) to others. Today you are each going to make two of these: one to wear and one to share. The front of these cards shows you the order you need to put the beads on.

DO: Pass out the supplies for making "Mighty Warrior Combat Boot Beads" (two kits for each recruit) and read the card out loud to the recruits. Help recruits string on the beads to their own shoelaces if they have tie-up shoes on. Then have them string the beads onto one of the shoelaces you have provided and attach a card to the shoelace for a friend. Suggest that the recruits add their beads to a pair of tie-up shoes at home if they are not wearing a pair today. Encourage them to be ready to tell anyone who asks what the beads represent.

SAY: Before you go, I want you to think about one person that you feel you should share your faith with this week. It may be a family member, a friend, a neighbour, whoever! Think of that person and write their name on one of your "Mighty Warrior Combat Boot Beads" cards.

DO: Let recruits write the name of the person on one of their kits.

SAY: Take a moment know to close your eyes, think about that person and ask God silently to give you the courage you need to share with them this week.

DO: Have a moment of silence to think of those that recruits will share with this week.

SAY: Strap on those "Shoes of Readiness", take those "Mighty Warrior Combat Boot Beads" and be ready to serve this week. See you next time!

DO: DON'T FORGET TO MAKE SURE RECRUITS TAKE HOME ALL THEIR PAPERS THIS WEEK!



Squad leaders, be sure to send out a reminder this week to the recruits about the missionary care package supplies.



Getting On Our Shoes of Readiness



1 Peter 3:15 states,
“...Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks
you to give the reason for the hope that you have...”

Missionary Care Package

Dear Families,

Our recruits are working on spreading the Word of God by supporting those who spread God's Word every day! Your recruit has offered to bring the following items to put into a care package for missionaries who work with the Salvation Army:

Thank you for helping our team let a missionary know we care about them and our proud of all that they do.

Thanks,

RTS Squad Leader

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Thanks,

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A Prayer for Missionaries

Awesome God, Thank you for missionaries.

For the men and women who spend their lives taking your message of love to people all around the world.

Thank you for the people who reach the lost with the Gospel.

Missionaries are amazing people, God.

Bless them with your love and strength they need to continue your work.

Prepare them with the "Shoes of Readiness", so that they will always be ready to share their faith.

Encourage them for their work is often thankless and forgotten.

The results of their sharing is not always an instant thing.

It can take a long time for someone to accept the Truths of the Gospel.

Help them to realize they are planting seeds that will one day grow.

Help them to realize that their work is valued by us.

Help me to be more like them.

Help me to be courageous in sharing what I believe with others.

Give me the strength, words and actions I need to spread your love to others.

In your name,
Amen!



MIGHTY WARRIOR COMBAT BOOT BEADS:

Navy: I was lost in the darkness of my sin. Romans 3:23

Red: Jesus died and shed His blood for me. 1 John 1:9

White: Now I am clean and my sins have been forgiven. 1 John 3:5

Green: I am growing in my relationship with God. 2 Peter 3:18

Yellow: I have the promise of eternal life to walk the streets of gold. John 3:16



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