



# God's Plan



## THE MISSION AIM

To help recruits know and accept God's plan of salvation for mankind.



## KEY VERSE

**Romans 5:8:** "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."



## Pre-Mission Activity



## Supplies Needed

- Various newspapers, books, internet printouts and/or magazines with short articles about events. Choose them based on the interests and ages of your recruits (i.e., if they like funny and strange things, try using Guinness World Record books or a "Ripley's Believe It or Not" book)

## Directions

**DO:** As recruits enter, allow them time to browse through the articles/stories you have available. Encourage them to share what they discover with the other recruits. Discussion and noise is a desired result for this activity! Try and boost excitement by getting involved in the conversations.



## Mission Uplink 1



Have ready YouTube playlist: "Season 3 – Witnessing Episode 1: God's Plan"

Play "Witnessing (S3) Episode 1 (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 W-Episode\_1-Gods\_Plan.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

- Option 1: Resources from opening activity, chart paper, markers, dictionary
- Option 2: Chart paper, markers, dictionary



## Mission Assignment

**SAY:** Recruits, how about a drumroll for our first mission today? (Reading mission card from satellite uplink) "Your mission is to get chatty! Practice witnessing by sharing some stories. Then, discuss what WITNESSING MEANS and report back with a definition."

**SAY:** How exciting, team! It's always great to hear about new members to RTS. I'm glad that Julie's friends, and what they have shared with her, have made her want to check out church! How about you, have you ever had a friend, who isn't from a church, ask you about what being a Christian is all about? Have you ever told a friend, who isn't from church, what being a Christian is all about?

**SAY** (if recruits respond with yes): That's awesome that you have been sharing about your relationship with Jesus with those who may not have a church family!

**SAY:** One of the best ways to get others excited about God is to talk to them, face to face, about our own lives and experiences. Let's practice talking to each other now!

**DO:** Choose either option one or two.

### Option 1: Sharing interesting stories

**SAY:** When you first came today, you were reading some articles/stories about events that have happened around the world. Take a couple minutes to choose ONE thing that you read about to share with the group. Don't forget to be ready to give us as much information and detail as you can!

**DO:** Give recruits a couple of minutes to pick what they'd like to share. Then, go around the room and allow each recruit to share with the squad. Be sure to ask questions and encourage them to elaborate on what they are sharing.

### Option 2: Sharing personal stories

**SAY:** I want you to take a couple of minutes to think of one of the most interesting things that has happened to you. It may be something from this past week, or an experience from a while ago. Choose ONE story that you would like to share with the group. Don't forget to be ready to give us as much information about what happened as you can!

**DO:** Give recruits a couple of minutes to pick what they'd like to share. Then, go around to each recruit and let them share their story. Be sure to ask questions and encourage them to elaborate on what they are sharing.



This will take up a big chunk of time today! It's important, though, to try and do this as a whole group. If necessary, break into two smaller groups.



**SAY:** Thanks for sharing with all of us! Now, even though what each of you shared was different, they do have something in common. Why did you choose to share what you did? (*It was exciting, fun, funny, important...*)

**SAY:** That's right! Even though the actual stories were different, they are the same because they were all something that you thought was WORTH sharing. It may be worth sharing because it's something special, new, exciting, important... but all of them were WORTH sharing.

**SAY:** There is a special type of sharing called WITNESSING. The last part of our mission asks us to come up with a definition of what that means. What do you think it means to witness?

**DO:** Write the word WITNESSING on chart paper and list all the ideas your team thinks of.

**SAY:** Those are all excellent thoughts and ideas! One of the best ways to really understand what a word means is to use a dictionary to look it up. Let's take a look in the dictionary and see what other ideas it can add to our understanding of the word witnessing.

**DO:** Look up WITNESSING in the dictionary. ("to see, hear, or know by personal presence and perception." Dictionary.com)

**SAY:** Let's use our ideas and what the dictionary defines WITNESSING as to create our own.

**DO:** Create your own simple definition with your team. (For example: To share things we have experienced with others, because they are exciting or important.)

**SAY:** As Christians, we are called by God to be witnesses to what God has done for us. Just like Julia's friends shared with her about their church families and lives as Christians, God wants us to share our experiences and beliefs with others. By sharing our Christian experiences, they can know and experience God too! Let's send our definition back to Recon Team and see what they are up to now.



### Mission Uplink 2



YouTube: Play "Witnessing (S3) Episode 1 (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

- "God's Plan of Salvation" Scripture Reference Page (see attachment pages 7 and 8)
- Copies of Good Bad Awesome Signs (see attachment pages 9, 10 and 11)
- Adhesive to attach signs to walls or chairs





## Mission Assignment

**SAY:** Let's have a countdown to read our next mission. Ready? 3, 2, 1 (reading mission card from satellite uplink) "Your mission is to use God's Word to remind yourself of his Plan of Salvation. That way you have the "tools" needed to be an amazing witness for God!" This is such an important mission for us as God's witnesses! How can we share about God if we don't know exactly what his plan is?

**SAY:** Kate mentioned that God's plan includes some good news, bad news and awesome news. What did Kate and Christie say was the...

**Good news?** (God sent His Son to die for our sins)

**Bad news?** (We all sin)

**Awesome news?** (Jesus rose from the dead)

**SAY:** We're going to play a quick game to get our bodies moving and learning about what the Bible specifically says about these three pieces of news!

**DO:** Get three volunteers to attach the signs "Good, Bad, Awesome" to different walls around the room (one sign on each wall). If you don't have walls, attach them to the back of chairs and place the chairs in different corners around the room.

**SAY:** I am going to read a portion of Scripture from the Bible. While I am reading it, everyone is going to stand together in the middle of the room. After the scripture is read, I will shout "Go Witness!" That is your signal to run to the sign that you think the scripture relates to. (Bad- sin, Good- God sent Jesus to die, Awesome- Jesus rose from the dead). Once you get there, find a partner to witness to. Explain to them why you think the scripture matches the sign.

**DO:** Play several rounds of the game. Make sure they all meet back in the middle when finished each round.

**HINT:** This works best in a gymnasium space! If you have an older group of recruits, you may want to throw some "trick" Scripture in- verses that don't relate to any of the three points of Salvation!

**SAY:** Nice work, recruits! It is important that we know what the Bible says and where it says it. When witnessing to others, it might not be enough to simply tell them about God's plan of Salvation. Some people will ask you how you know. That is why we need to know the Scriptures!

**SAY:** Let's send these verses back to the Recon Team, and see what they think!





### Mission Uplink 3



YouTube: Play "Witnessing (S3) Episode 1 (3/4)". 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

- None

### Mission Project

**SAY:** Are you ready for our final mission? Let's read it together, (reading mission card from satellite uplink) "Have you ever accepted God's Plan of Salvation? Have you accepted it, but forgotten? Now is the time to pray and focus on YOUR decision! Embrace or renew His plan, so you can spread the news!"

**SAY:** How awesome is it that Christine's youth program is getting that extra support simply because of something that happened to that store owner years ago!? What did the man say was his reason for providing new shoes and tights for all the kids in the dance program? (*He was homeless and the Salvation Army helped his family, took him to Sunday school, shared God's love for him...*)

**SAY:** Because of those people who witnessed to him when he was a boy, that man is now giving back to others and sharing God's love through his giving!

**SAY:** Julia (our new recruit) has made changes in her life that can be seen right now! (Going to church, going to RTS, asking questions about God.) But, it's not always like that! Sometimes it can take years to see how your witnessing has made a difference. Sometimes, you never get to see the impact it had at all! But does that mean that your witnessing is less important? (*No, it's all part of God's plan.*)

**SAY:** In Luke 13:19 it says... "The kingdom of God... It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds perched in its branches." Sometimes our impact may seem as small as a seed, but over time it grows and grows! Faith is not always something that is instant and easy. Each person grows it in their own time.





## Prayer Huddle



YouTube: Play "Witnessing (S3) Episode 1 (4/4)". 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

- Copy of the Decision Time Prayer (See attachment pages 12 and 13)

## Directions

**SAY:** Whether the results of your witnessing are quick and bold, or slow and secret, your witnessing for God matters. But before you can truly witness, you need to decide for yourself: Do you believe God's Plan for Salvation? (Don't expect a verbal response)

**SAY:** Some of you may have never really accepted God's Plan to be true. Some of you may have accepted it, but forgotten what it really means. Wherever you are in your faith, now is time to reflect on God's Plan and consider how you want to respond.

**DO:** Have all recruits spread out to a private place in the room where they are comfortable. This may be on chairs, on the floor, huddled somewhere secret, wherever they can find peace with God!

**SAY:** I am going to lead you all in prayer today. This prayer is going to be focused on making a decision. Deciding if you believe the news about God's Plan: the bad, good and awesome! I'm going to ask that you keep your eyes closed during this time, as each one of us may be at different places in our faith. We need to decide this for ourselves, not because of what our friends are choosing.

**SAY:** While I'm praying, I may ask you to raise a hand or repeat some words. Please do what you feel you need to do, there is no judgement in this room. We are a team that loves and supports one another!

**DO:** Read aloud the Decision Time Prayer. You may wish to turn off lights, have soft music playing, etc. You know your recruits, so set the scene to be as personal and God-focused as you can for their needs.

**SAY:** Thank you all for your help today. I'm excited to know that God has such a wonderful group of warriors to witness in the world for him! If there is anyone who would like to stay and talk about any questions or concerns they have about your faith journey, please stay. Now go spread the bad, good, awesome news through what you say and do this week!



It is hard to say how this time will go, as each group of recruits are different. Please be ready to adapt your prayer time to meet the feeling in the room!



## **God's Plan of Salvation Scripture Reference Page**

### **Matthew 25:45-46 (BAD)**

"He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

### **1 John 4:14 (GOOD)**

And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

### **James 4:17 (BAD)**

Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

### **John 6:38 (GOOD)**

For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.

### **1 Thessalonians 4:14 (AWESOME)**

For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

### **Romans 3:23 (BAD)**

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

### **Hebrews 7:24-25 (AWESOME)**

But because Jesus lives forever ... he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

### **John 3:16 (GOOD)**

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.

### **Isaiah 64:6 (BAD)**

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

### **Romans 5:8 (GOOD)**

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

### **Romans 6:4 (AWESOME)**

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

**John 12:47 (BAD)**

"If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world."

**1 John 1:7-9 (BAD AND GOOD...tricky!)**

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

**Luke 24:1-7 (AWESOME)**

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'"





**GOOD - Jesus  
died for us**

**AWESOME**

**- He lives!**

## Decision Time Prayer

**TO RECRUITS:** Close your eyes and find a personal space for just you and God, as we pray.

**Awesome God,**

**You have a plan for our Salvation! The Bible tells us that none of us is perfect, but you love us so much that you were willing to sacrifice your life for us. To make the ultimate sacrifice for us! Because of you, we are free, but only if we choose to accept your plan.**

**Today, I bring my squad before you. Each one of them is a unique and amazing masterpiece that you have designed. Each person here today is thinking about your plan and deciding for themselves if they believe it.**

**Some of them may not be ready yet. We know that everyone's faith grows differently, just as we are all different. If there is someone here today who isn't ready to accept your plan as true, God, I pray that you will touch their hearts. Help them to take time to think more on what the Scripture says and how they want to respond to it.**

**To Recruits:** Recruits, if you are not ready to make a decision today, please know that we love you and are here to help you make that leap of faith when YOU are ready.

**Lord you know some recruits ARE ready to accept your plan for the first time.**

**To Recruits:** Recruits, if you are accepting God's plan for the first time today, raise a hand out to God. **(WAIT)**

**Lord, be with them today.**

**Some of us have already accepted your plan Father, but need to renew our faith- remind ourselves of your plan today.**

**To Recruits:** Recruits, if you are renewing your belief in God's plan, raise a hand out to God. **(WAIT)**

**Lord, be with them today.**

Recruits, if you are accepting or renewing God's Plan in your heart at this moment, repeat these words after me:

**Amazing Father** (repeat)

**I believe we all sin** (repeat)

**This fact is a part of my life** (repeat)

**Just as it is everyone else's** (repeat)

**I accept this bad news** (repeat)

**But that is not the end** (repeat)

**For I know that after the bad, comes the good** (repeat)

**Because of my sins** (repeat)

**You were willing** (repeat)

**To sacrifice your only Son** (repeat)

**So that I** (repeat)

**Can be washed clean** (repeat)

**Jesus took the punishment for me** (repeat)

**Even though I don't deserve it** (repeat)

**I believe your Son died to save me** (repeat)

**But it gets even better** (repeat)

**For the awesome news** (repeat)

**Is that Jesus rose from the dead** (repeat)

**He beat death** (repeat)

**And I want him** (repeat)

**To live in my heart now** (repeat)

**I want him to be** (repeat)

**The reason for all I say** (repeat)

**Think and do** (repeat)

**Help me to never forget this** (repeat)

**So that I may be a witness for you** (repeat)!

**Amen!**