



God's Gifts



THE MISSION AIM

To inspire recruits to be creative in sharing God's Plan.



KEY VERSE

1 Peter 4:10: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."



Pre-Mission Activity



Supplies Needed

- Circle of chairs (one less than the number of people)

Directions

DO: Have recruits sit in a circle of chairs and play "Swap a Seat". One person starts in the middle (preferably you) and says the phrase: "Swap a seat, if..." and then say something you can do or have done. Any recruits who have done it or can do it have to get up and run to another seat. The person in the middle has to try and get a seat too. The last person standing is in the middle and has to think of the next phrase.

Examples of phrases:

Swap a seat if...

- you can curl your tongue
- you have snowboarded
- you can sing
- you play hockey
- you can hop on one foot



Mission Uplink 1



Have ready YouTube playlist: "Season 3 – Witnessing Episode 4: God's Gifts"

Play "Witnessing (S3) Episode 4 (1/3)". 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_4-Gods_Gifts.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

- Sticky notes
- Pencils
- Chart paper
- Marker
- Access to a computer and internet (if possible)



Mission Assignment

SAY: Recruits, we've got our first mission. Let's stand and read it together (read mission card from satellite uplink). "Your squad's got talent! Create a chart with all the different talents you have in your team. Follow up by researching how others have used their talents for God."

SAY: I love this mission, because I get to learn even more about you as an individual. God has blessed each one of you with unique skills and abilities. Because each one of us is unique, God has also blessed us with the ability to witness to others in different ways. What types of skills or talents do the members of the Recon Team have? (*Simon - music, Kate - inventor, Michael and Christie - encourager, leader...*)

SAY: Just like them, you all have different skills and talents. I'm going to pass out some sticky notes and pencils. Your job in the next minute or so is to write all the skills and talents that you have on sticky notes. When time is up, I want you to pick your two favourite ones to share with the group.

DO: Pass out sticky notes and pencils. Give a minute to brainstorm. While they work, put up a chart paper with the title "Talents and Skills in Our Squad" up on wall.

SAY: Time's up! We are going to go around the table and share your two favourite talents or skills. After you are done, you can take all your sticky notes and put them up on our chart paper.

DO: Let recruits take time sharing. Allow them to put their sticky notes up on the chart paper.

SAY: By raising your hand, how many of you wrote a talent down that someone else had? How many of you wrote a talent down that no one else had?

SAY: Whether you have a similar talent as others on our team, or you are entirely different, God gave you those talents for a reason! So, why not use them?!

SAY: Too often, we get stuck into patterns about how we should witness. For some of us, having a conversation with someone is easy. But, maybe there are some of us, like Josette, who want to find a more creative or unique way to express ourselves; a way that uses our skills and makes us more comfortable with sharing.



SAY: Let's take a look at some people who use their talents to share their faith.

DO: Take time to browse through some videos, websites, etc. of Christians with various talents. You may choose to allow your group find their own, if they have access to the web, or you can show them some of your own examples.

Suggestions of people to search:

Note: Search YouTube for "Christian drama" or "Christian drama kids" and you will get lots of ideas.

Tim Hawkins (Christian comedian)

Debbie Chavers (visual artist)

Down Here (musicians)

The Skit Guys (drama)



Squad leader, preview anything you are going to share, as some may be better suited for your age group.

NOTE: If you don't have access to the internet, you may wish to save some site images or videos on a laptop or print some info from websites. Your recruits are likely very tech savvy, so you may choose to let them find things to share. Recognize that some videos may be longer, so allow time to view. It would also be great to show your recruits videos of kids being creative.

SAY: All these people are very different in how they witness, but they do have one thing in common, they use their strengths to share their belief in God and his plan.

SAY: As Kate tried to say, and Michael did say, 1 Peter 4:10 tells us, "Each of you should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." What is that verse trying to say? Turn to an elbow buddy and share that verse in your own words.

DO: Give your recruits a minute to share with each other.

SAY: I heard lots of great discussion! 1 Peter is telling us that we are called to make use of our individual gifts to share and serve.

SAY: It's time to take our brainstorm of skills and talents back to the crew. Hopefully, Kate and Simon have sorted out their language confusion, so they can share their talents at the youth talent night. Let's check-in with command central.



Mission Uplink 2



YouTube: Play "Witnessing (S3) Episode 4 (2/3)". 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

- Access to computer/ internet or printed copies of information
- Copies of a variety of Salvationist magazines
- Chart paper with two columns on it. One labelled "SA Past" and the other "SA Today"
- Markers



Mission Assignment

SAY: Wow! That was amazing dancing by Sarita and Rathana. I would have never thought of dancing to witness. But, then again, when the Salvation Army first began, many in the community were surprised by the ways THEY reached out to others.

SAY: Let's have a drumroll for our next mission. (Read mission card from satellite uplink) "The Army has a history of using creative ways to spread the gospel. Take a look at The Salvation Army, past and present, and how it uses creative ways to witness!"

SAY: Our next mission asks us to take a closer look at our church, past and present, to see how creativity is used to spread the gospel. What were some of the ways that the team just mentioned that The Army originally used to witness? Some of them we still use today. (*Timbrels, open air, band, uniforms, flags...*)

DO: Record ideas on chart paper under the title "SA Past". You may wish to google history of the Salvation Army to get images.

SAY: These types of activities and tools were not common amongst churches when William Booth first began the Army. He had decided to try and spread God's Word by finding popular activities and reworking them to fit his beliefs. Even the idea of using the military theme was something that people of the time understood and could relate to. It was a creative way to spread the message.

SAY: Some of these creative witness techniques have become somewhat traditional in the Salvation Army. We still use them today. However, as time goes on, the world around us changes. Different technology, interests and cultures have opened up even more opportunities for creative witnessing. What are some of the ways our church, or individuals in the Salvation Army, witness now?

DO: Take time to brainstorm local or global ways the Army witnesses and add these to the chart paper under the title "SA Today". Some possible answers may be: food trucks, youth councils, emergency services, local music groups, sports ministry, variations on the traditional uniform (to make it more contemporary like golf shirts, hoodies), camps, websites, drama groups, etc.

If looking for ideas to share, check out:

- Salvationist magazine (www.salvationist.ca)



- SalvationArmyTV on YouTube - has some videos done by media elective at the National School of Music. The following link is a song parody talking about the blood and fire. (<http://youtu.be/aMX4E1Zm7M>)
- Google: Salvation Army Art
- To look at alternative uniforms and attire, check out <https://store.salvationarmy.ca/>
- Search your divisional website or Facebook page for information of activities that are occurring locally.

SAY: There are so many different ways that The Salvation Army shares God's message! Some of them are very practical ways like providing food and shelter. But, we also witness through things like music and drama. Is there a certain way of witnessing that is more important or better than others? (No, each one serves a purpose. Each can make sense, depending on the culture of the time/ situation/ etc.)

SAY: The ways the Army used to witness to others made sense for the time. They served a purpose for that society. The newer ways that we share God's message today are based on the way people live now. It doesn't mean that traditional ways of witnessing are no longer important, or useful, but that we should be open to new ideas and manners of witnessing. No matter what way you witness, it's important to remember that God gave us talents and interests for a reason, so why not use them to witness?! By doing that, it can make you feel more confident in witnessing to others, because you are using something you are comfortable with and enjoy!

SAY: Awesome work, squad! Let's check in again with the team.



Mission Uplink 3



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

- String or twine
- Scissors
- Pieces of paper
- Pen



Today's PRAYER HUDDLE is incorporated into the Field Mission Project.



- Jar or bowl
- The supplies for this project will vary, depending on your group, the projects you choose and the number of projects you choose.
- You will need to decide with your recruits what supplies need to be gathered. You may wish to bring paper and pencils for creating lists OR use chart paper.
- Laotian Dance Song Lyrics - These lyrics have been included so that you can share the words that the Laotian girls danced to on the DVD with your recruits, if you wish (see attachment page 8)

Mission Project

SAY: Let's countdown from three and read our mission together. Ready? 3-2-1 (read mission card from satellite uplink). "Time to get creative, recruits! As a team, use the talents you brainstormed about during your first mission to create something that you can use to witness. This may be a video, song, skit, or community project; whatever you can come up with! Have fun and God bless!"

SAY: This will be an exciting project! Before we begin our project, let's take some time to pray over our talents and gifts God has blessed us with.

DO: Give each recruit a string about a foot long.

SAY: Each of you has a string. I want you to think of this string as the timeline of your life. For the first couple minutes of our Prayer Huddle, I want us to each think about times in our lives when God has revealed a talent to us, or used our talents to witness to others. Each time you think of one, tie a knot in your string. After you've thought about three or four ideas, go back to the beginning and give a prayer of thanks for that talent or skill. I will finish our prayer time by praying over our new witnessing project.

DO: Give recruits time for personal reflection and prayer. Be prepared to encourage those who may have difficulty thinking of talents they have. After a few minutes, close in prayer sharing a prayer similar to the following:

Awesome, Father! You have blessed our team with so many creative skills and talents. Not one of us is exactly the same, and that is what makes us such an amazing team of witnesses! Be with us now, as we decide how best to use the skills you have provided us with to witness about your mercy and goodness and grace. Amen.

SAY: I love that both Simon and Kate were willing to think creatively and find NEW talents, when the original plan was no longer an option! Like them, it's important to always be thinking about how we witness to others and to be open to using our skills in new and exciting ways for God.

DO: Redirect the recruits to the first chart paper with the talent and skills list on it from our brainstorming session.

SAY: Look at all the talents we recognized from within our squad! What are some ways we can use these talents to witness? (Write a song, lead worship, create a video, paint a mural, etc.)



DO: Write ideas down on pieces of paper as the team thinks of them. Place in bowl or jar.

SAY: As a team, we are going to randomly choose _____ (number of projects) projects to work on over the next little while. We will then share these with our church family and maybe even the community around us.

NOTE: The number of projects you choose will depend on time, the amount of recruits you have and whether you wish to work on one BIG project or split into smaller groups. You may want to spend another RTS meeting working on this project.

DO: Take the rest of your time to plan out how you will accomplish your project(s). Think about:

- supplies needed
- time needed
- assign jobs

Some ideas of projects are:

- create paintings or murals for around the church
- write a new worship song to a familiar or new tune
- create a skit that shares God's message
- create a video
- run a songs and sports event for the community: a time of worship and games
- assist with the local family services programs
- run a Sunday service
- lead a Sunday school class for younger kids
- Put on a talent show that displays God's gifts and include a class-led devotional

The possibilities are truly endless. Let your team get creative!

DO: When your meeting time is finished, close with the following:

SAY: I can't wait to get this project going! I know God is going to do great things with our gifts and talents. Until our next meeting, don't forget: God GAVE you these talents, so use them to give back to him!



If you choose a project that would be a part of another service or activity, be sure to receive permission first from your corps officer to participate.



Laotian Dance Song Lyrics

Name of the Song: "Jesus is Great"
Author: Unknown
(Thai Christian Church)
Traditional Dance: "Lampern"



SONG LYRICS:

Jesus is powerful and great.
Bleeding blood from his side is, the power of his love,
The gift from above for all the world to be saved.

Jesus is a Solid Rock.
And he is a safe place for our lives, when we seek refuge his grace of love is so great and cover
for us, and if not for him we are all demised

Listen, our lives are so much chaos nothing is real,
but because of his grace he found us and we have hope in him, the blessing of life is eternal.

Having life through spread of the words, Jesus helps when there is no way.
When we ask he answer, when life is down and lost he is always found.

When we see him, knowing that his grace is never fade we seek him,
when we are in trouble he come and rescue us in time of our prayer.

With his strength we will move forward because we are not alone but he is with us.
He is powerful and is alongside with us when we are hopeless.

He is always listening when we come to him in prayer and
he never distances himself from us but faithful till the end.