



SQUAD LEADER FIELD GUIDE

So, my disciples, always be ready!

Matthew 25:13 (CEV)

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READY TO SERVE Squad Leaders Field Guide
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Introduction



Ready to Serve is a media-driven, junior discipleship curriculum for children 7-10 years of age. It features a 3-year Bible-based curriculum that engages children with large group/small group activities in a teacher-friendly format that features original video segments, exciting music, and culturally relevant Bible lessons. *Ready to Serve* strives to help recruits grow in Jesus and live out their faith in The Salvation Army.

Ready to Serve Objectives

- To disciple young people through a relevant, age-appropriate, interactive and multi-media curriculum.
- To awaken in every participant a desire to know and love God and to serve Him.
- To provide churches with a discipleship curriculum that can be used either in a traditional Sunday school or midweek children's club setting.
- To further classroom study by providing resources and activities.
- To introduce young people to The Salvation Army and its mission.

Course Overview

Ready to Serve has a three year course of study. Each year there will be six modules to choose from with 4 to 6 lessons in each. There will be three designated lessons each year that will provide an opportunity for young people to make a decision to live for Christ. Squad Leaders are invited to put together their own sequence of courses. We recommend starting with "In the Beginning".

YEAR ONE	YEAR TWO	YEAR THREE
In The Beginning †	Who Is This Jesus †	The Bible
Bible Heroes	More Bible Heroes	Faith Heroes †
Jesus on the Inside †	Armour of God †	Witnessing †
Kingdom Living Today	Making the Best Choices †	World Religions
Basic Training †	Worship 101	Fruit of the Spirit †
Partners in Mission	Heart to God, Hand to Man	We Are An Army

† indicates module contains a decision lesson



Scope

Year 1

In the Beginning

- Who is God?
- God's Creation
- God Makes Man
- God's Creation Marred by Sin
- God's Plan
- God's People Respond †

Kingdom Living

- When Bad Things Happen
- What Goes In Must Come Out
- You're Not What You Wear
- Best Use of Time

Bible Heroes

- God's Heroes are Obedient (Noah)
- God's Heroes are Willing to Be Used by God (Esther)
- God's Heroes are Forgiving (Joseph/brothers)
- God's Heroes are Loyal to God (Joshua/Caleb)
- God's Heroes Listen to God (Saul's Conversion)

Basic Training

- We Know God More by Reading His Word
- We Know God More Through Prayer
- We Know God Responds
- We Know God More When We Hide His Word in Our Hearts
- We Know God More When We Focus on Him †
- We Know God More When We Give to Him

Jesus on the Inside

- Jesus Knows and Loves You †
- Jesus Knows When We're Afraid
- Jesus Knows When We're Discouraged
- Jesus Knows When We're Sad
- Jesus Knows When We Are Lonely

Partners in Mission

- We Are a World-Wide Family
- As A Family We Need Each Other
- As A Family We Pray for Each Other
- As A Family We Encourage Each Other
- As A Family We Help Each Other
- As A Family We Celebrate Together

† indicates module contains a decision lesson



Scope

Year 2

Who Is This Jesus?

- Jesus Is Born
- Jesus Grows Up
- Jesus the Teacher
- Jesus the Miracle Worker
- Jesus Depends on God
- Jesus' Death and New Life †

Making The Best Choices

- Choose Who You Will Serve †
- Pray Before Making Choices
- Know God's Word Before Making Choices
- Seek Godly Advice Before Making Choices

More Bible Heroes

- God Can Use People Who Are Young (King Josiah)
- God Can Use People Who Feel Inadequate (Moses)
- God Can Use People Who Are Afraid (Gideon)
- God Can Use People Who Seem Unimportant (Naaman's Servant Girl and Miriam)

Worship 101

- Worship God Only
- Worship Through Your Day
- Worship With Others
- Worship By Giving Back

Armour of God

- Belt of Truth †
- Breastplate of Righteousness
- Shoes of Readiness
- Shield of Faith
- The Helmet and The Sword
- Prayer Warrior

Heart to God, Hand to Man

- Love God!
- Love Others!
- Give Freely!
- Serve Every Day!

† indicates module contains a decision lesson



Scope

Year 3

The Bible

- Secret Treasure
- Many Books
- His Story - Part 1
- His Story - Part 2
- The Bible Mission

Faith Heroes

- The Evangelists †
- The Reformers
- The Missionaries
- The Martyrs
- The Rescuers

Witnessing

- God's Plan †
- God's Witnesses
- God's Messengers
- God's Gifts

We Are An Army

- Beginning Of An Army
- William And Catherine Booth
- What We Believe
- In Darkest England
- The Army In Canada And Bermuda
- The Army Today

Fruit Of The Spirit

- Promised Holy Spirit
- The Holy Spirit's Power
- Love, Joy, Peace
- Patience, Kindness, Goodness
- Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control†

† indicates module contains a decision lesson



@theREADY Framework

@theREADY is a discipleship framework that strives to help you develop CHRIST-centred, OTHERS-focused disciples. "Ready to Serve" and "Ready to be God's Soldier" junior soldier preparation course both partner with you in training:

CHRIST-centred, OTHERS-focused Disciples

CHRIST-centred

CANON

To recognize, understand and experience: the truth and story of the Word of God as the standard by which we live in, and live out Christian faith. (Doctrine 1)

HOLY GOD

To recognize, understand and experience: how the God we worship has revealed himself, how he can be known, and how he is set apart as the One True God. (Doctrines 2,3,4)

REDEMPTION

To recognize, understand and experience: the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ—the reality & consequence of sin, and the sufficiency of atonement through Jesus, "so that whosoever will may be saved." (Doctrines 4,5,6)

INWARD CHANGE

To recognize, understand and experience: the process and work of salvation in a believer's life. (Doctrines 7,8,9)

SET APART

To recognize, understand and experience: the privilege of living a holy life, made possible through Jesus' work in & through a believer's life by the Holy Spirit. (Doctrine 10)

TRIUMPH

To recognize, understand and experience: a true and confident hope in the ultimate accomplishment of God's redemptive plan in the world through Jesus Christ. (Doctrine 11)

OTHERS-focused

OUTWARD FOCUS

To help facilitate an effective personal witness
To help encourage and facilitate sacrificial compassionate mission
To help encourage and facilitate active engagement in the world

TENACITY OF FAITH

To help develop healthy spiritual habits
To encourage involvement in healthy spiritual community

HOLY LIVING

To provide opportunity towards salvation through the blood of Jesus
To encourage growth and openness towards sanctification by the fire of the Holy Spirit

ENGAGED IN MINISTRY

To equip for ministry
To entrust with ministry

RESPONSIBILITY

To encourage and inspire stewardship of time, talents, relationships, skills, money, resources, etc.
To encourage godly discernment and decision-making
To help understand godly relation to authority
To cultivate a sensitivity towards and response to God's call

SALVATIONISM

To know and understand Salvationist beliefs
To know, understand and live by Salvationist values
To facilitate opportunity to put into practice Salvationist behaviours (sacramentalism, abstinence, mission, etc.)



Ready to Serve Recon Team



The five main characters of the *Ready to Serve* RECON TEAM are teaching characters designed to encourage squad members to grow and learn. Each character has been inspired by different elements of The Salvation Army Crest:

Crown—the crown of glory: the reward that God gives to the faithful

Cross—the cross on which Jesus died

Swords—the Sword of the Spirit/Bible: our weapon in the great salvation war

S (Salvation)—salvation for everyone!

Blood & Fire—our rallying motto: under the Blood of Jesus and Fire of the Holy Spirit

On their own each character teaches significant disciplines and characteristics of our faith. Together they provide a balanced picture of growing to spiritual maturity.



Michael (Swords)

- Sees the battle being fought in the Spiritual Realm—cause and affect—between heaven and earth.
- The oldest of the group, Michael is mature in his faith and has been a faithful believer for a long time.
- He drives the local Salvation Army Youth Street Van and watches out for young people the same way a Captain once looked out for him.
- Michael has the ability to see the affect of sin and prayer on both the spiritual and physical realms, and is able to fight the tough spiritual battles.



Christie (S - Salvation)

- Sees into the present situation and knows the “Christ-like” response needed.
- Christie has a heart for people. She leads the way in social justice issues, is fearless and filled with compassion for others.
- Her faith is transparent and appealing and she easily shares her faith anywhere, anytime.
- Christie knows what’s happening in the world as far as “mission” both within the Army and in general.



Ready to Serve Recon Team



Simon (Cross)

- Sees the heart and presence of Jesus and His Word for the moment.
- Simon is an artistic type who loves to worship creatively.
- A little like David the Shepherd boy, Simon's confidence and strength comes from prayer, an automatic response to every situation. He's eager talk with Jesus.
- He's a new Christian, so he's still a bit rough around the edges, but grateful for and experiencing God's grace and forgiveness. He is eager to know more of Jesus.
- Sometimes Simon's first response isn't quite right, but he's getting better at recognizing it and quick to make things right.



Kate (Blood & Fire)

- Is a seeker, always searching and wanting to know more. She loves to learn.
- Kate is a teenage bookworm with computer smarts who is always carrying her technology with her.
- She has lived a global experience because her parents have served in several other countries.
- She loves Army trivia, facts, history, and uses mottos and quotes from Army "greats".
- You'll find Kate listening to the latest in Christian music on her phone or making another music video for a new and upcoming band.
- Sometimes Kate is a little naïve making her a bit gullible and sending her into action before she has time to pray.



Sarai (Crown)

- Sarai sees the heart of a person. She sees the potential and senses what is behind the rough or broken exterior to the heart of the matter.
- As the youngest member of the team she is the group's sweetheart.
- She brings a moral compass to the group in displaying the characteristics of a child of God (the inward transformation that happens in a believer's life).
- Sarai also gives insight into God the Father and Kingdom living.
- Sometimes though, Sarai's vision is clouded, but is able to reason out what is the right thing to do.



Ready to Serve In-Class Team Members



Team Member Policies:

All leaders of the Ready to Serve local squad will have followed through with The Salvation Army's **Ministry Workers Screening Process**. This four part process includes: submission of the "Statement of Applicant to Work with Children and Youth", possession of a current Police Records Check, reading and acknowledging the "**Territorial Abuse Prevention Manual**" and the "**Territorial Abuse Prevention Resource Manual**", and completion of the four courses that are part of the **Praesidium Academy Online Abuse Prevention Course**. The required Praesidium Academy courses are: "Meet Sam", "It Happened to Me", and "Keeping Your Church Safe", "Duty to Report" and the yearly "Abuse Prevention Refresher" course.



Squad Leader

The squad leader is essentially a member of the Recon Team. They interact with the on-screen Recon Team and receive the weekly mission assignments from the team, and direct the recruits' activities. They are the main classroom leader or teacher.



Ready to Serve Agent

This volunteer works with the young people on their mission assignments. Provides assistance with group work, crowd control and forms relationships with the recruits.



Ready to Serve Special Ops

This volunteer provides assistance with the video portion of the classroom time, making sure the video and audio is set up, functioning and advances the video clips during the session. This role could be filled by either the Squad Leader or the RTS Agent.



Recruits

Recruits are young people aged 7-10 who are part of the local *Ready to Serve* Squad. It is their job to fulfill the mission assignment each week so that the Recon Team can help the Commander provide information to the weekly case file.



Weekly Classroom Instruction



- Lessons are directed by a local Squad Leader.
- Unique group of teaching characters called the “Ready to Serve RECON TEAM” are featured in the exciting video segments prepared for each lesson.
- Interactive video simulates a live uplink to the RTS RECON TEAM and is interspersed with classroom activities creating a fun and engaging learning environment.
- Large group/small group learning with additional age-appropriate resources allows squad leaders to accommodate any size group or setting.
- Lesson material is available in an easily downloaded digital format (PDF) for printing by local corps/churches. Lessons can be downloaded individually. Lesson material includes leader’s notes, lesson reproducibles, game and activity ideas.



Weekly Class Schedule

Each class time is approximately 60 minutes in length. This does not include the Pre-Mission Activity which could be an additional 15 minutes depending on local circumstances.

1. Pre-Mission Activity
2. Mission Uplink 1 (PPT or YouTube)
3. Mission #1
4. Mission Uplink 2 (PPT or YouTube)
5. Mission #2
6. Mission Uplink 3 (PPT or YouTube)
7. Prayer Huddle
8. Field Mission Project



Lesson Elements



Mission Assignments

Each week's adventures begin with an uplink to the RTS Recon Team headquarters and a video call from the Commander outlining the week's mission. The Recon Team then assigns specific mission assignments to the local squad.



Bible Stories and Interactive Activities

These will help the recruits to understand the major themes and learn how to apply those lessons to daily living.



Prayer Huddles

Creative approaches to prayer will help the recruits develop the disciplines of two-way communication with Jesus, praying for others in their group and for prayer concerns in their community and beyond.



Scripture Memorization

The memorization activities will help the recruits learn the Word of God enabling them to "put on the full armour of God" daily.



Games

Energetic and active games will encourage teamwork and friendship for everyone.



Field Mission Projects

These will allow the recruits to put their faith into action. Through service projects or age appropriate social justice activities, recruits will learn to care for others knowing they can make a difference.



Ready to Serve Classroom



An additional element for each *Ready to Serve* meeting time is a room that invites the recruits into the experience. Here are a few suggestions that could be implemented:

- Collect equipment similar to the Recon Team's that help emphasize the use of a satellite uplink.
- Design an entrance to the room that gives it a "secret headquarters" type of look.
- Create a Ready To Serve Uplink box that you can place your completed mission information into.
- Have a designated bulletin board (or wall) that has a "Prayer Huddle", "Field Mission Assignment" and "Meet the Team" section. Be sure to use logos, graphics and pictures found on the www.CANBDAYouth.com website.
- Use the RTS logo and iron-on transfer paper to create T-shirts for the recruits to wear. (Iron-on transfers patterns can be found on the www.CANBDAYouth.com) OR You can purchase RTS leader and recruit t-shirts using the order form found on the www.CANBDAYouth.com Ready to Serve promotion page.
- Enlarge the RTS logo to create a focal point in the room or to put on the door to indicate your recruits meeting place.
- Download RTS graphics from www.CANBDAYouth.com to use for decorations or any handouts.

Must Have for Squad Leaders



- Computer
- Speakers
- LCD Projector
- Screen
- Internet Access if using YouTube videos
- Bibles
- Pens / Markers / Pencils
- Scrap Paper
- Tape
- Stapler and Staples



Preparing for Class



There are a few basic steps in lesson preparation which, if used, will guide you in planning your lessons and getting the most out of the material.

1. **Always begin your preparation with prayer.** This is a vital, essential part of any plan for achieving God's eternal objectives in your life. Saturate every step with petitions for God's wisdom and guidance.

"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him." James 1:5 (NIV)
2. **Keep in mind the overall objectives of the Ready to Serve program.**
3. **Read over the lesson in the squad leader's guide.** As you read note in the margins or highlight the most important points to be taught in order to achieve the overall objectives of the course.
4. **Determine the specific objectives for each lesson.** Look at the needs of your students and at those points which you have decided are essential to be taught in order to achieve the overall objectives.
5. **Gather the materials needed.** Create a "Squad Leader's Supply Kit", a box in which you keep commonly used items such as tape, scissors, glue, markers, tacks, pins, chalk, paper, pencils, pens, extra batteries for your remote, etc. This can be easily stored and brought out at the beginning of each class.
6. **Study the teaching material carefully.** As you study keep in mind the objectives. Make yourself brief notes of what you intend to do and say during the lesson presentation. If you are to tell a story or teach by object lesson, learn your outline well so that you will use your notes only to jog your memory. It is best never to simply read from your notes or leader's guide, as the young people will quickly lose interest.
7. **Gather all teaching resources and materials before class time.** Double check to make certain that you have not forgotten anything. The 'dead air' while a squad leader is desperately looking for some forgotten item can be time consuming. Check the condition of all equipment you intend to use (i.e. LCD projector, speakers, remotes, etc.).
8. **Have handouts, Bibles and any student take home sheets readily available in the class area.**
9. **Set up the activity centres and/or pre-mission activity centres.** The classroom should be prepared physically before the young people arrive so that you can give them your complete attention. Where cramped facilities demand that a single space be used for multiple activities plan how you will work with the young people to make any necessary changes between activities.



Resources



On-Line

Teacher Resources (www.CANBDAYouth.com)

- Additional Activities
- How to Lead a Child to Christ (*Visit www.saMinistryHelps.ca to download your copy of "you give...God Saves".*)
- Course Completion Record Forms (www.CANBDAYouth.com)
- Module Participation Certificates (www.CANBDAYouth.com)
- RTS Iron-On Transfers for Make Your Own T-shirts (www.CANBDAYouth.com)
- Music Videos (www.CANBDAYouth.com)
- Ready to Serve Graphics (www.CANBDAYouth.com)

Promotional Items

- T-shirts – Leader and recruit shirts are available – order using Order Form on “**Ready to Serve Resources/promo items**” page
- Iron-On Transfer Decals – through “**Ready to Serve Resources/promo items**” page
- RTS Shield Pins – order using Order Form on “**Ready to Serve Resources/promo items**” page
- RTS Full - Colour Sticker Sheets – order using Order Form on “**Ready to Serve Resources/promo items**” page
- RTS Lanyards – order using Order Form on “**Ready to Serve Resources/promo items**” page
- RTS Temporary Tattoos - sold in bundles of 25 – order using Order Form on “**Ready to Serve Resources/promo items**” page



Resources for Parents



Being a RTS Parent

What is Ready To Serve?

Ready To Serve is an interactive program designed just for kids to help them get closer to Jesus, living out the life he intended for them. Ready To Serve Recruits usually gather on a weekly basis to meet with like minded kids and leaders. Together they will watch a simulated uplink to the Ready to Serve Recon Team and participate in games and learning activities that assist the lesson of the day.

What Can You Expect

- RTS classes
- Daily Bible readings
- Weekly memory verses
- Extra reading for older Recruits
- Field Mission challenges
- Daily prayer time

How Can You Be Involved?

Getting involved in your child's Christian walk is the single most important thing you can do as a parent. Your child looks up to you and believes in you. Your support is vital to their growth as a young follower of Jesus. The more interest you take in their Christian walk the more likely they are to develop a deep and meaningful relationship with God.

Ready to Serve is a practical tool The Salvation Army has developed to make this as easy and kid-friendly as possible.

Here are some ways you can get involved with your children through RTS . . .

- Develop a daily devotional time with the family.
- Spend time in prayer every day with your family.
- Make sure they have a Bible of their own.
- Be available to answer questions along the way.
- Ask about what they've been learning each week in class.
- Keep them accountable to any Field Mission challenges.
- Be in-the-know by reading up on the RTS team at www.CANBDAYouth.com.
- Put a parental lock on your internet access.



Who We Are

Ready to Serve is a Discipleship Curriculum produced by The Salvation Army in Canada and Bermuda. Many, many people have contributed to this project and we thank God for their talent and ministry.

Ready to Serve Production	
Producer	Major Denise Walker
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	Matt Falk



Squad Leader Field Guide

Director	Dennis Curley
Editor	Geoff Laforet
Cast	
Michael	Kyle Higgins
Christie	Kathryn Ballantine
Kate	Rodeth Asis
Simon	Ioan Mourat
Sari	Alexi Dill
Commander	Major Randy Hicks
Commander	Major Heather Ballantine
Guest Appearances	
Naomi	Rheal Rees
Alex	Jordan Sharp
Gabby	Mabelyn Dill
Becki	Paige Court
Julia	Jamie Brown
Jessica	Alana Brown
Hannah	Hannah Calcagno
Rachel	Lanna Pawczuk
Josh	Simon Hopkins
Sarita	Sarita Vongchampa
Rathtana	Rathana Louanglath
Selena	Hannah Lynch
Sophia	Sarah Lynch
Manny	David Lynch
Faith	Haleigh Marusich
Rayelle	Chavelle Sheckleford
Trinity	Kayjah Williams Peterkin
Balley	Cameron Gillis
Anna Maria	Rocio Godin
Emmanuel	Johnny Valencia
Pizza Delivery	Ashlie French
	Colonel Janet Munn
	Major Danielle Strickland
	Major Christine Johnston
Letter Carrier	Geoff Laforet
Camper	Owen White
	Major Donald McMillan
	Major Jim Smith
	Major Joan Smith



Squad Leader Field Guide

	Sarah Johnston
	Aaron Johnston
	Hanna Bailey
	Josiah Bailey
	Judah Bailey
	Sharon Caddy
	Raymond To
	Keziah Veneables
	Leah Hale
	Micah Hale
	Kiley Decker
	Makayla Decker
	Katherine Brown
Animal Guests	
Simon's Class Mascot	Rosie the Tarantula
Tarantula Wrangler	Treena Wayne
Mystery Visitor	Guido the Lemur
Lemur Wrangler	Carol from Jungle Cat World
Scary Guinea Pig	Bilbo the not scary Guinea Pig
Guinea Pig Wrangler	Rodeth Asis
Lighting Director	Dan Marrit
Camera	
	Gregory Howes
	Kirk Rumble
	Rohan McLeish
	Edgar Maldonado
Audio	
	David Moffatt
	Dale Clyne
	Paul Offenbacher
Production Assistants	
	Kalie Stephen
	Shauna Cowden
	Samantha Zeffer
Make-Up	Brandy Gowling
Production Design	Todd Neilson
Sets	PunchKlok Ltd
Props	Burlington Salvation Army Thrift Store
RTS Van provided by	London Citadel (Wrap by City Signs)



Squad Leader Field Guide

Costumes	
	Constance Knighton
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Hair Design / Stylist	Kathryn Ballantine
Graphic Design - CTS	Laura Loopstra
Graphic Design - SA	
	Stephanie Hung
	Dar'ya Grishko
	Valerie Pavey
Digital Special Effects	
	Geoff Laforet
	Brandon Leonard
CTS Executives in Charge	
	Bruce Stacey
	Kiran Rhees
	Melissa Mceachern
Administrative Assistants - CTS	Janice Head
Administrative Assistants - SA	
	Stephanie Hung
	Kathryn Ballantine
	Susan Loveless
Legal - CTS	Kathrine Lawler
Legal - SA	
	Patrick Corlett
	Christine Leblanc
Human Resources	
	Pandora Lewis
	Sandra Santoyo
Scheduling	Suzanne Schultz
Music Producer / Arranger	Ian Tanner
Background Music	
	Ian Tanner
	Major Len Ballantine
	Venabrass
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	Ian Tanner
	Joshua Seller
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Squad Leader Field Guide

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	Greg Sykes
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	Stephanie Hung
DVD Authoring / Masters	
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	Darryl Kingdom

