

# CALLING THE COURAGEOUS.

- The birth of Jesus was an event that
- changed the course of history—at least as far as humanity was expecting up until then. But it was no big surprise to God. It was His plan all along to send His Son to us.

The presence of Jesus turns the world upside-down! From a young peasant girl to her promised husband. From shepherds to kings. From fisherman to tax collectors. From death to life. From persecutor to apostle. From bondage to freedom. Through history to present.

Jesus' presence in the lives of his followers brings a new reality and rhythm to life. Soldiers, both junior and senior, have made commitments to live that reality in an intentional way. But not just at the corps... Turning the world upside-down starts at home!

Soldiers commit to upholding *"the sanctity of marriage and of family life"* and being *"a faithful steward of my time and gifts, my money and possessions, my body, my mind, and my spirit, knowing that I am accountable to God."* What better way to demonstrate and put this into practice this season than by allowing the Christmas story to transform how we live intentionally for the sake of others?

This Advent season, soldiers—indeed all Salvationists—are challenged to turn their world upside-down, starting with their own routine at home and in their neighbourhood during December.

reThink Group's Parent Cue has shared this Family Advent Calendar with us to encourage families to look beyond themselves, reflect on the Christmas story and discover how they can reflect the living reality of that story in their world!

Download a larger copy here: <https://salvationist.ca/corps-ministries/corps-administration/membership/calling-the-courageous-soldiership-campaign/> \* Used with permission.

**Read:**  
*John 1:1-14, Galatians 4:4-7, Philippians 2:3-16, 2 Timothy 1:9-11*

**Read:**  
*The Salvation Army Soldier's Covenant*

**Consider:**  
*How will you reflect the attitude of Jesus this Advent season?*  
*What ways can you and your family be a light to your neighbourhood?*  
*How does taking time to think of and put others first during the Christmas season turn your world upside-down?*  
*What interruptions does it bring?*  
*What blessings?*

**Pray:**  
*Father,*  
*You work in us to will and to act according to your good purposes.*  
*May we encounter our world without grumbling or complaining, being pure and blameless, living as your children in a world that is warped and crooked.*  
*May we shine like stars in the sky, as we hold firmly to, and offer to others the Word of life, in our words, actions and attitudes reflecting your Son.*  
*(-based on Philippians 2:2,13-16)*

*We're going to fill, fill, fill the world with glory;*  
*We're going to smile, smile, smile and not frown;*  
*We're going to sing, sing, sing the gospel story;*  
*We're going to turn the world upside-down!*

to turn the world upside-down.

"MAY WE EVEN MORE DARE FOR YOU"

Canada & Bermuda Territorial Soldiership Campaign



# ADVENT CALENDAR

God demonstrated the generosity of His character by giving us His only Son, Jesus. Gather your family and read the story of God's perfect gift, one day at a time. Then, complete the suggested activity together, reflecting His generosity to those around you.

1 A young couple, Mary and Joseph, get engaged.	2 One day, God sends the angel Gabriel to Mary. He has some very special news!	3 Mary is greatly troubled when she hears the angel's greeting.	4 Gabriel responds to Mary: "Don't be afraid; God is very happy with you!"	5 Gabriel tells Mary the special news: she will have a baby boy, and He will be named Jesus.
6 Find some rocks, clean them up, then decorate them in festive colors and phrases before leaving them on neighbors' doorsteps or on a local walking trail.	7 Mary doesn't understand how she can have a baby without being married, but the angel Gabriel assures her of a great truth: Nothing is impossible with God.	8 "I serve God with my life and want all that you have said to happen," Mary tells the angel, and he leaves.	9 Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth and is so overwhelmed with God's goodness that she sings a song of praise.	10 Caesar Augustus wants to know how many people are in his empire, so he tells all the people to go back to their hometown to be registered and counted.
11 Joseph takes Mary, who is pregnant, to his hometown of Bethlehem to be counted.	12 While Joseph and Mary are in Bethlehem, the time comes for the baby to be born.	13 Mary gives birth to Jesus, wraps Him in swaddling cloths and lays Him in a manger because there is no room for them anywhere else.	14 At night in a nearby field, shepherds are watching their flocks.	15 The sky lights up—God has sent an angel to the shepherds to tell them the good news.
16 When the shepherds see the angel, they're afraid!	17 The angel tries to calm the shepherds: "Don't be afraid—I bring wonderful news that will bring joy to all of the world!"	18 "A Savior—the Rescuer you have been waiting for is born today!" the angel proclaims to the shepherds.	19 The angel explains that the shepherds will find the baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.	20 More angels come to celebrate the good news—they arrive at the shepherd's field and begin praising God!
21 The shepherds leave their flocks and hurry to find Mary, Joseph, and the baby, who is lying in a manger.	22 After they see the baby, the shepherds excitedly go and tell everyone they run into the good news!	23 The shepherds return to their flocks, praising God for all they had seen and heard.	24 Mary names the baby Jesus just as the angel had told her to do.	25 God has sent His Son to rescue us because He loves us so very much! Luke 1:26-2:21
26 Offer to do the dishes or take out the trash without being asked.	27 Use cardstock and markers to create colorful and encouraging bookmarks. Leave them inside random books in your local library.	28 Grab a sheet or roll of stickers, cut them out individually (leaving the backing intact), and tape them in random places for people to find.	29 On a sunny day, write encouraging phrases on index cards and leave them under the windshield wiper on random cars.	30 Choose a family with young kids and offer to babysit for free one night this month.
31 Bend colorful pipe cleaners into hearts, stars, flowers, or squiggly spirals. Wind the ends around signs, fences, or door handles to brighten someone's day.	32 Visit elderly family members or a nursing home and sing Christmas carols.	33 Use painter's tape to hang a candy cane on all your neighbors' mailboxes or doorknobs.	34 Grab a sticky pad and draw a bunch of smiling faces and positive phrases. Leave them on mirrors in public restrooms in your community.	35 Grab a garbage bag and clean up your neighborhood or local playground.
36 Offer to do the dishes or take out the trash without being asked.	37 Find a parking lot and gather up all the carts and walk them back to the store.	38 Gather any clothes in your closet that don't fit and give away the ones you've outgrown or don't wear.	39 Send a kind text to or leave a voicemail for someone you haven't spoken to in awhile.	40 Go back to Day 1 and read the beautiful story from beginning to end of how God gave to us so generously. Merry Christmas!



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# 2017

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