

CALLING THE COURAGEOUS...

to come join our Army.

“Enrol & Engage”

Ideas for Enrolment Sundays to help your corps understand, value and celebrate the significance of soldiership in your corps body.

Adapted from conversations with Major Lorne Pritchett, on ways he has helped congregations value the commitments being made, in corps settings throughout his officership.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT & CONSIDER FOR YOUR SOLDIERSHIP ENROLMENT SUNDAY

- A soldier’s enrolment is more than simply having one’s name added to a role. Its significance is amplified and valued when, as part of the larger community of faith, we honour the enrolment and make a commitment to engage soldiers in the active life of the corps.
- Consider designing the whole worship service around the occasion. Make it sacred. Give it a sense of solemn consecration. Encourage service. Celebrate the vows that are being made by the individuals entering the covenant of soldiership.
- Allow the sermon to speak to and encourage the steps of faith, commitment and consecration that individuals have made as soldiers, and that the congregations has been witness to, encouraging a renewal on the part of those who are already soldiers.
- Consider holding the enrolment ceremony *after* the sermon, as part of a response and dedication to what has been preached.
- Don’t rush through the enrolment. Take the time to enrol each individual. Pray a blessing over, or share a scripture verse for each individual making the commitment. Consider this service as sacred as an Officer’s Ordination service, as the soldiership vows provide the basis of what may become an Officer’s covenant for some.
- At some point in the service or ceremony (possibly during the sermon or enrolment), explain and remind the congregation that some of the soldiership vows are extra-biblical, as it relates to being a follower of Jesus, but that they can be likened to the Nazarite vows within the people of Israel—that they are made in response to a calling upon one’s life to practice their faith in a particular way as a particular people within a larger Body.
- Include both junior and senior soldiers. Value and emphasize the promise made by children to the same extent as that of adults.
- Invite members of the congregation to come forward and pray with, and congratulate the new soldiers.



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THINGS TO THINK ABOUT & CONSIDER AS YOU SEEK TO ENGAGE NEW SOLDIERS IN THE LIFE & MINISTRY OF YOUR CORPS

- Remember, engagement in the lifestyle ministry and mission of The Salvation Army is a vital part of soldiership. We miss the point if we simply enrol individuals in order for them to sit in a seat with a uniform on.
- What is the percentage of your available corps talent that is currently engaged in ministry? How does 92% sound? It is possible through relationship, effort and intentional placement.
- Remember and communicate to your people: the soldiership covenant is like a marriage covenant: *everything* changes! A soldier's engagement in the life, ministry and mission of a corps should not remain the same following their enrolment as it was before their commitment.
- Soldiership is not so much about "what I can get out of it" as it is about being responsive to and answering a specific calling on one's life. It is not about spiritual superiority or elitism, but rather about surrender and obedience to a distinctive call to live one's faith in a particular way in order to maximize one's potential.
- However, soldiership can also be about what one can "get out of it"... in relation to it being a potential means of grace in keeping individuals from otherwise enslaving habits or patterns of life. Help soldiers and other members of your congregation view the commitments within the Soldier's Covenant from such a perspective, as opposed to a limiting and legalistic viewpoint.
- When engaging people in ministry - whether they be soldiers or adherents - consider making some consistent expectations in regard to the Army's social stances and practices, for those involved in regular public ministry, so as not to create confusion amongst your people, or to inadvertently diminish what is and can be a highly valuable and sacred commitment in the Soldier's Covenant.
- Consider a teaching a *What "We Believe..."* sermon series on the doctrines and statements of faith of The Salvation Army over a period of weeks leading up to or following a soldier enrolment. When doing so, consider engaging the congregation as a whole with "Why does this matter to us?" questions. See <http://www.salvationarmyincbs.com/sermon-series-eleven-doctrines-of-the-salvation-army/> for an example of how such a series has been used in corps.

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