

**TERRITORIAL VISION
ENGAGEMENT**

**8-WEEK
CHILDREN'S
TIME SERIES**





WEEK 1: "WE are"

Set it up @home:

Provide each family with a mini box of Smarties, or send out an announcement to make sure they have some on hand at home. Also send home the printable "WE are" icon template to start off their vision statement banner.

Set it up @church:

Set up dishes at the front with one Smartie colour per dish (pick a few colours for the sake of time like red, yellow, and blue). Each bowl will need its own spoon. Have a clean cloth cover the bowls so the kids can't see them. Print the "WE are" icon disc template to start off your vision statement banner at the end of your time together.

Show it:

Show the "Intro Week 1" video.

Say it:

The Salvation Army in all of Canada and Bermuda has a brand new Vision Statement - we just watched it all together on the screen! This is a statement that tells us what we believe God wants us to look like as a church - who we are, and what we should be doing! The statement has 8 parts, so we'll spend the next 8 weeks learning what each part means and how kids (and adults!) can start to live it out in our church, our families, our community, and our world! The first part is "WE are" (*have someone hold up the icon disc*).

This morning I need your help with a little experiment. Who here is brave enough to help me with a taste test? (*Allow responses*). Here's what I need you to help me with: I've got three different candies underneath this cloth and I want to test whether they all taste the same or taste different from each other. Here's the catch - you can't look. I need you to take what I put in your hand and to pop it in your mouth and eat it. Does everyone have their eyes closed? Put your hand out in front of you when you are ready. Parents if you are helping at home, have your kids sit with their eyes shut and their hand out and follow my lead.

Here's test number one. Give it a chew. Now hold out your hand and let's try test number two. Pop that one in your mouth and give it a chew. Are you ready for test number three? Get your hands ready and pop this last one in your mouth and chew. Keep your eyes closed just a moment as we wait for everyone to finish chewing. (*Cover up your dishes holding the remaining smarties.*) Okay open your eyes! Who can tell me what colour test number one was? (*Encourage responses*) How about the colour of the second test? (*Encourage responses*) And finally what colour was test number three? (*Encourage responses*) Let's see which colours of smarties you really taste tested! (*Reveal the bowls of smarties.*) How did we do? Were we correct in our guesses from our taste test? Which of us guessed correctly? (*Encourage responses*)



Say it (cont'd):

The amazing thing about Smarties is that no matter which colour you eat they all taste the same. They all have a creamy milk chocolate filling inside. Now I want you to look around the room very carefully looking at the people who are gathered around you. Do we all look alike? Do we all have the same colour eyes or hair or skin tone? Do we all have the same talents and skills? No, we don't! But God made each of us in his image! In Genesis 1:27a we read that, "So God created mankind in his own image". This doesn't mean God made us to look alike, instead it means that God made us to reflect who He is. He made us to love, serve and worship Him. In 1 John 5:1 we also read: "Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is a child of God. And everyone who loves the Father loves his children as well." Not only are we created to love God as His children, but we are also to love each other as well. God created us not to be I or me alone. God created you and me to be "We" with Him. We are to love God. We are to serve God. We are to reflect God's image to others and invite them into God's family.

We are like a packet of Smarties, too! We are all different, but we are all God's children who are called to love, serve and worship God.

Link it:

The Salvation Army's soldiers; officers; staff and supporters are also like that packet of Smarties. We come from various backgrounds, experiences, and we're different ages, but we have one thing in common – we are all called to be children of God. And we believe that we are all called by God to worship, serve, and support the work that God is doing through our Army.

Start off your Vision Statement banner by adding the first disc. (Optional - play the "Let's Say it Together" video and recite the statement all together.)

Pray it:

Jesus, thank you that you don't leave us to figure out our faith on our own. You are always with us and you also put us in a church community that can help us and guide us as we follow you. Help us to work together, using the gifts and talents you have given us, to worship you and serve others. Amen.



Week 2: “an INNOVATIVE”

Set it up @home:

Send parents instructions/supplies for setting up “The Floor is Lava” game at home ahead of time. Also send home the printable “an INNOVATIVE” icon template to add to their vision statement banner.

Set it up @church:

Have a quick round of “The Floor is Lava” with your kids. Provide them with different objects that children can use to walk, hop, or stand on. Don’t make it too easy for them as you want them to work together to be innovative. Have the kids stand on one side of the room altogether facing a giant masking tape X on the other side of the room. Print the “an INNOVATIVE” icon disc template to add to your vision statement banner at the end of your time together.

Show it:

Show the “Intro Week 2” video.

Say it:

Remember we have been looking at our new vision statement for The Salvation Army in Canada and Bermuda? (*Review last week’s piece: “WE are.”*) Today, we’ll look at the second part: WE are... “an INNOVATIVE” (*have someone hold up the icon disc*). Let’s have a look at what it means for us to be innovative for Jesus!

How many of you have seen the show “The Floor is Lava”? Well, this morning we have a problem – our floor is lava, and we need to be on the other side of the room! You’ll notice that beside you are objects you can use to help you get across the room. If you are joining us from home, your parents have also provided you with items you can use to cross over the lava. These are items you can stand on, walk, or run on as you make your way across. Let’s see if you can work together and get everyone safely to the other side. Are you ready? (*Give the students a set time and send them on their way across the lava*).

Times up! How did you do? How many safely made it across the lava floor to the safety of the giant X? What creative or innovative ways did you use the items that were provided to help you? (*Encourage responses to your questions.*)

There’s a great story in Mark 2:1-12 about four innovative friends. Jesus had been travelling teaching, performing miracles and healing those who were ill. There were four friends who wanted to take their paralyzed friend to Jesus. So, they each took a corner of his mat and carried him to a house where Jesus was staying. But when they got to the house there were so many people they couldn’t get in the door. So, they thought over the problem and decided to take their friend up onto the roof above the crowd. But when they got up on the roof, they still couldn’t see Jesus.

So, they thought over the problem and decided they’d make a hole in the roof. But when they made a hole in the roof Jesus couldn’t see their friend.



Say it (cont'd):

So, they talked over this problem and decided to lower their friend down through the hole in the roof. Now their friend was right in front of Jesus. Jesus looked at the man. He looked up at the four friends and saw the faith they had. He said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven”. Everyone was amazed. Jesus told the man to “get up, take your mat and go home.” So, the man got up, picked up his mat and walked away with his four friends, rejoicing and praising Jesus.

What great friends! They wanted to help their friend come to Jesus, but they recognized some problems to doing that. They didn't give up. They worked together to be innovative – to find a creative solution – and were able to bring their friend to Jesus. Today you had a chance to work together to cross a floor of lava, but just like the four friends God wants you to think of ways to bring your friends to Jesus. He wants you to work with others to find ways to help your friends come to know Jesus, his love for them and invite them to have a relationship with God.

Let's all put on our thinking caps today. Think of some friends who don't know about God's love. Then let's start thinking of creative ways we can help them know what we all know – that God loves and cares for each of us! *(Encourage a discussion on ways they can show their friends that Jesus loves each of us.)*

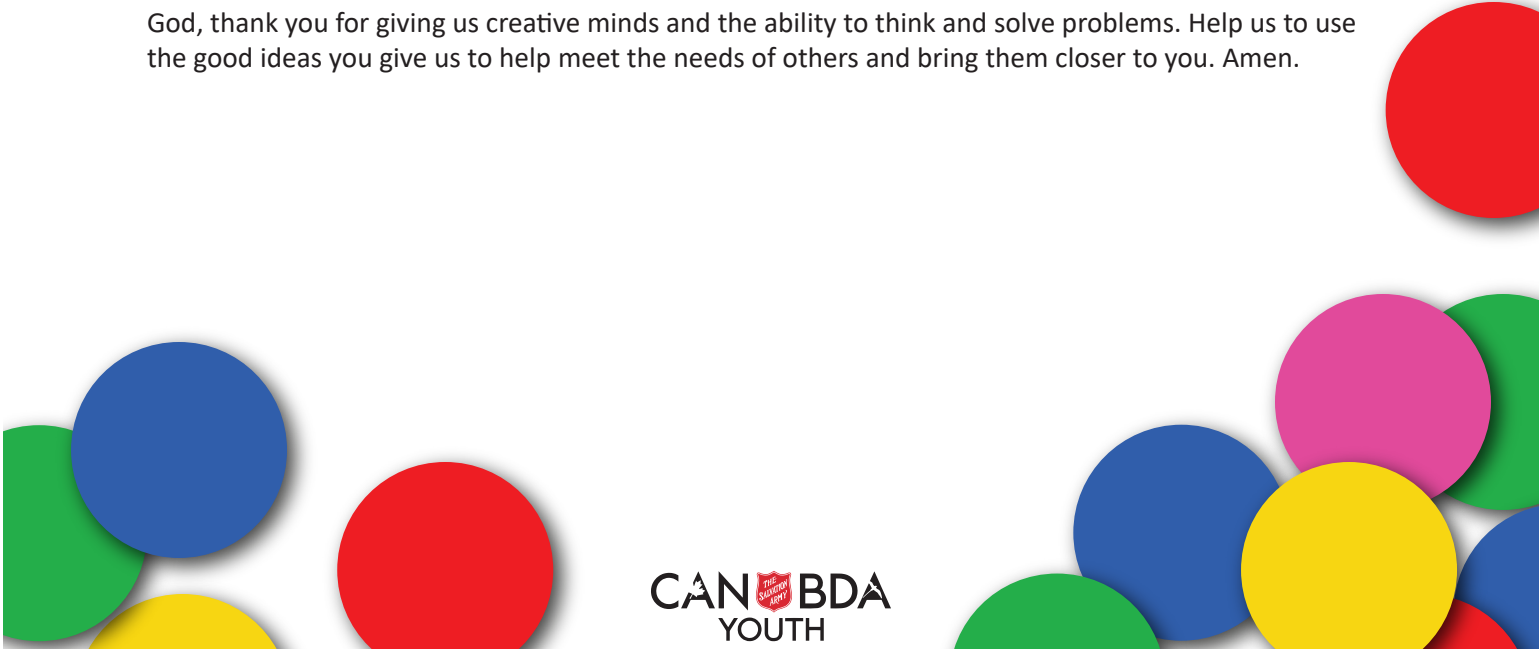
Link it:

The Salvation Army was founded by William Booth way back in 1865. Booth was always being creative and innovative in his ways of reaching out to others. Can anyone tell me what innovative means? *(Encourage responses.)* Innovative means to try new ways of doing things, to be creative or original. William Booth was always trying new ways of sharing the love of God with the people around him. We, in the Army of 2021, and remember that includes each of us, believe that we too need to be creative and innovative in finding ways to meet the needs in our communities and to share the love of God.

Add the second disc to your Vision Statement banner. (Optional - play the “**Let's Say it Together**” video and recite the statement all together.)

Pray it:

God, thank you for giving us creative minds and the ability to think and solve problems. Help us to use the good ideas you give us to help meet the needs of others and bring them closer to you. Amen.





Week 3: "PARTNER"

Set it up @home:

Send parents instructions for the activity options to prepare at home. A Hula Hoop is needed for activity option #2. Also send home the printable "PARTNER" icon template to add to their vision statement banner.

Set it up @church:

Choose one of the partner activities as suggested below. A Hula Hoop is needed for activity option #2. Print the "PARTNER" icon disc template to add to your vision statement banner at the end of your time together.

Activity Option #1: Mirror, Mirror – divide the students into partners and have them face each other. Taking turns, they are to create a mirror image of what their partner is doing, be sure to give both partners an opportunity to be the mirror image. Partners can make faces and create different movements that are to be reflected to them. After a few minutes have them switch to be the mirror image.

Activity Option #2: Helium Hula Hoop Challenge - divide the children into teams and have them stand in a circle. Have them hold out only their index fingers place a hula hoop in the centre of their circle. Have the groups work together to lower the hula hoop to the ground.

Show it:

Show the "Intro Week 3" video.

Say it:

Let's review where we are with our Vision Statement. (Review *WE are...an INNOVATIVE...*) Today, we'll look at the next word: *WE are... an INNOVATIVE...PARTNER (have someone hold up the icon disc).*

Today I want us to see how well we can work together. (Divide students and provide instructions based on your chosen activity. Those joining in from home will need to partner up with someone there. Complete the activity together.)

Wow, it was both fun and great to see you working with your partner or team to complete your task. When I think of working together there are a few Bible stories that come to mind. But I want to focus on just one story today.

In the Old Testament we find the book of Nehemiah. It's about a time when the Israelites had been taken away as slaves and their beloved Jerusalem was in ruins and the people who were left there were unprotected from enemies. Nehemiah was an Israelite in exile - that means forced to leave home and live somewhere else. He served as cup bearer to King Artaxerxes. Who can tell me what a cup bearer was? (*Encourage responses. A cup bearer tested the king's food to make sure it was safe for him to eat.*) While in exile he heard of his people's distress. Nehemiah wept, fasted, and prayed to God seeking help for his people. The king noticed Nehemiah's sad face and asked what was wrong. Nehemiah shared his heart with him and told him what God wanted him to do. He asked for the King's permission to return home to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.



Say it (cont'd):

He even asked the king to write him letters to other leaders whose land Nehemiah would need to pass through requesting safe passage for him. He then asked the king for letters to the keeper of the King's forest asking for wood to use for beams and gates.

Nehemiah partnered with God by following his directions. Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem accompanied by the king's soldiers who provided him with protection. When he arrived in Jerusalem, he partnered with the Israelites who were there. While they worked on rebuilding the walls, enemies tried to attack them, so he divided them into workers and protectors. With teamwork the Israelites were able to repair their city. Nehemiah followed God's directions. He partnered with the king and he worked together with his people. Teamwork is partnering with others and working together to reach a common goal. What kinds of things do we need others to help us with? (*Encourage responses. Ideas could include play a board game, going to church, brainstorm an idea, build a house (takes lots of partners!), open doors when hands are full, fill a food bank, compete on a sports team, listen when you have something to share, donate blood, etc.*) Sometimes we need to admit or understand that we need others. God never meant for us to face life alone, that's why he gave us families and our church family. In Hebrews 10:24-25, we read "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Link it:

The Salvation Army, which includes each of us, knows that partnering and working together is the only way we can fill our mission. We believe that it is important for each officer, soldier (young and old), worker and volunteer to work lovingly with each other. We are to encourage each other to look for the opportunities to be God's partners in reaching out and sharing His love with others.

Add the third disc to your Vision Statement banner. (Optional - play the "Let's Say it Together" video and recite the statement all together.)

Pray it:

God, thank you for giving us people to partner with in our faith. We need each other, God! Thank you for friends, families, teachers and leaders and our church family. Help us to work together to help and encourage each other, and to be your hands and feet in the world. Amen.



Week 4: "MOBILIZED"

Set it up @home:

Send home some ideas of things families can gather that need some help to get moving (bike with wheel tied to pedal; clock with hands with no batteries, basketball, unstarted car, game board with no pieces, etc.) Also send home the printable "MOBILIZED" icon template to add to their vision statement banner.

Set it up @church:

Set up a few items that need to get mobilized as per script (clock with hands but no batteries, basketball, wheelchair with locks on wheels, car outside window, bike with pedal tied to wheel, game board with no pieces, etc.) Print the "MOBILIZED" icon disc template to add to your vision statement banner at the end of your time together.

Show it:

Show the "Intro Week 4" video.

Say it:

Good morning everyone! Let's see where we are with our Vision Statement today (*Review as you say each part.*) So far, we have "WE are... an INNOVATIVE... PARTNER...! Next comes a big word - **MOBILIZED** (*have someone hold up the icon disc*). Let's take a look at what it means to be mobilized.

Sometimes when I'm having trouble understanding what a word means I check the dictionary. If we look for mobilize, here's what we find: "to make something movable" or "to make something ready for action". Let me show you a few examples of what I mean. (*Suggested examples: 1. A battery operated clock with hands from which the battery has been removed. Replace the battery to mobilize the hands! Now it works as it should and it can help us tell the time correctly. 2. A wheelchair which has the wheel locks in place. Remove the locks to mobilize the chair to carry someone to their destination as it is supposed to! 3. A basketball which is just sitting on a chair. Pick it up and mobilize it to shoot and score a basket which it what it's supposed to do! Feel free to come up with your own examples here as well.*)

Basically, if something is supposed to move, it needs to be ready and equipped to move! Things work better that way. They need to be mobilized! What about your favourite superhero? Superheroes are supposed to "spring into action" whenever there's a need, right?

What if Superman just sat still when someone needed to be rescued? Or Spiderman didn't bother to help stop a crime? Or Batman didn't race in to fight the bad guys? No, when these heroes see a need, they are mobilized to spring into action!

What about us? As followers of Jesus, we need to be ready to take action when we see a need. We need to put feet on our faith!



Say it (cont'd):

Listen to what the Bible has to say about this in 1 Peter 1:13: “So get yourselves ready, prepare your minds to act!” And what about James 2:26: “Removing action from faith is like removing breath from a body!” Our faith in Jesus needs to be lived out in action - we need to get out there and do something to help others and show them God’s love. We need to be mobilized!

Link it:

The Salvation Army has a long history of mobilizing people to spring into action when they see a need in the world. Our faith in Jesus and our love for him springs us into action to help others. When this happens, we say that we are mobilized for mission. We are ready to move towards a need. When the Salvation Army first began, William Booth’s son, Bramwell, told his father, that he had noticed that people were sleeping under bridges, and had no homes. William Booth told Bramwell that words were not enough, and simply noticing was not enough. He challenged him to “do something!” And he did! He sprung into action, and seven weeks later, Bramwell opened the first shelter for men experiencing homelessness. God calls us to put our faith into action! We have to be organized, equipped and inspired— and ready to live out our mission our communities. What ways can you think of that we can put feet to our faith this week? How can we be mobilized to do something? *(Encourage responses from children and challenge them to do at least one of their suggestions this week.)*

Add the fourth disc to your Vision Statement banner. (Optional - play the “**Let’s Say it Together**” video and recite the statement all together.)

Pray it:

God, help us to always be ready to spring into action for you when we see a need. Help us to have a strong personal faith but also a deep commitment to do something to show your love to others every day. Thank you for The Salvation Army which helps us live out your mission and vision in the world. Amen.



Week 5: "to SHARE HOPE"

Set it up @home:

(Optional) Drop off two helium balloons to your @home families - one tied tightly to a weight and one not tied to a weight. OR, ask families to arrange to pick these up on their own in preparation for Sunday. As an alternative, they can watch the object lesson happen @church and not replicate it at home. Also send home the printable "**to SHARE HOPE**" icon template to add to their vision statement banner.

Set it up @church:

Have two helium balloons ready ahead of time - one tied securely to a balloon weight and one not tied to a weight, but being held in your hand. Have both of these balloons in your hands at the start of the lesson. Print the "**to SHARE HOPE**" icon disc template to add to your vision statement banner at the end of your time together.

Show it:

Show the "Intro Week 5" video.

Say it:

We're halfway there with our vision statement! So far, remember, we have "WE are...an INNOVATIVE... PARTNER...MOBILIZED"! It's time for piece #5 and it's going to begin to tell us what we are being mobilized (ready to move into action) to do. We are being mobilized to **SHARE HOPE** (*have someone hold up this week's icon disc*).

Well, if we are going to share something with someone, it's important that we know what it is, right? Let's talk about hope (*hold the two helium balloons, one tied to a weight, and one just held in your hand not attached to anything*.) Sometimes we use the word "hope" when we really just mean "wish" don't we? "I hope my team wins the tournament", "I hope I get ice cream today", "I hope I roll a 6 so I can win the game", "I hope we can go to Disney World". These things are more wishful thinking, aren't they? They may or may not happen, they are not for sure. And when we place our real hope in these kinds of things, they can often disappoint us. They are kind of like this balloon (*let go of the balloon not tied to a weight*). They are not secure.

The kind of hope we are talking about is a secure hope - it is placing our hope in Jesus and being confident that he is always with us and will never let us down. Hope is God's gift to us in Jesus. It's tied to Jesus and is absolutely certain not to let go, like this second balloon (*let go of the balloon tied to the weight*). It's not a matter of maybe or maybe not with this kind of hope - it is for sure! God's team is always the winning team.

Here's what the Bible has to say about hope. Psalm 71:5 says "O Lord, you alone are my hope. I've trusted you, O Lord, from childhood". And Hebrews 10:23 gives us a challenge and a promise! "Let us hold firmly to the hope we claim to have. The God who promised is faithful."

That's the kind of hope we can have in Jesus and that's the hope that we can share with others, so they can know that their hope can be secure and unailing!



Link it:

As a Salvation Army, we are committed to sharing this kind of hope with people in our communities. In fact, it's one of the main things we would say is important to us as a church. What ways can you think of that you can share this kind of hope with people in your life this week? (*Allow for responses.*)

Add the fifth disc to your Vision Statement banner. (Optional - play the **"Let's Say it Together"** video and recite the statement all together.)

Pray it:

God, we are grateful for the gift of hope that you give us in Jesus - the kind of hope that is secure, unending, and deeply rooted in your love for us. Help us to trust you always and hold tightly to the hope we can find in you. And give us opportunities to share this hope with others around us every day.



Week 6: "WHEREVER THERE IS HARDSHIP"

Set it up @home:

Provide each family joining in from home with a package of Oreo cookies, or send announcement to make sure they have some on hand. Also send home the printable "WHEREVER THERE IS HARDSHIP" icon template to add to their vision statement banner.

Set it up @church:

Have enough packages of Oreo cookies to ensure that each child will receive one cookie. You may also want to have two standing-style toilet paper holders. One with the paper going over and the other with the paper going under (you could choose to have pictures showing toilet paper over and under). Print the "WHEREVER THERE IS HARDSHIP" icon disc template to add to your vision statement banner at the end of your time together.

Show it:

Show the "Intro Week 6" video.

Say it:

Review the pieces of the vision statement so far: "WE are...an INNOVATIVE...PARTNER...MOBILIZED...to SHARE HOPE"! We're ready for piece #6 of our vision statement today! It tells us where it is that we should be looking to share hope with others - **WHEREVER THERE IS HARDSHIP!** (*Have someone hold up this week's icon disc.*)

Hardship - that's another word we might need some help understanding, isn't it? Maybe this will help get us started (*hold up Oreo cookies*). I'm wondering today who likes Oreo cookies? (*Encourage responses.*) I'm pretty sure I have enough for one each. (*Pass out cookies and tell them not to eat it until you say to. Encourage families at home to open their cookie package and pass them out.*) Alright, on GO I want you to show us how you eat that Oreo. (*You might want to have another volunteer help you watch the students eat the cookies. Separate those who break them apart and eat the middle first from those who don't.*) I've noticed that there are two ways to eat the cookies and I'm going to separate you based on who eats the middle first from those who don't. (*Move the largest group away from you.*)

Now, my group is a bit smaller now, but I need your help with a task. Look at these two toilet paper rolls. Which one is hanging the right way? I want you to go and stand behind the one that is correct. (*We know that over is the correct way but choose the line that is shortest as the correct way.*) Wow, my group is even smaller now. What if I told you that just the few of us are going to clean this whole church building from top to bottom? (*Or for those of you at home that whoever is in my group will have to clean your whole home.*) (*Encourage responses*)

We might think it would be a real hardship to do such a big job with such a small group. This reminds me of a great story in the Bible. In Judges 7 we find the story of Gideon and the Midianites.

Say it (cont'd):


The Midianites were a huge army – some think that their army was 4 times larger than Gideon's 32,000 men. Let's do the math here: $4 \times 32,000$ Israelites = 128,000 Midianites. God told Gideon that he had too many men and that to keep Israel from boasting that they defeated the Midianites in their own strength their army needed to be smaller. How do you think Gideon felt when God told him that he had too many men? (*Encourage responses*) I think I would have been shaking in my boots. Gideon obeyed God and told the men that anyone who was trembling with fear may turn back. So, 22,000 men left his army. But God told Gideon again that his army was still too large. So, if I do my math correctly $32,000 - 22,000 = 10,000$ Israelites against 128,000 Midianites. Guess what? God told Gideon he still had too many men. So, this time he was to take his men to the water and have them take a drink. Those who lap the water with tongues like dogs were sent home, while those who cupped their hands and brought the water to their mouths were to stay. Gideon was left with 300 men to go into battle against the 128,000 Midianites.

How would you feel if you were facing so many soldiers? (*Encourage responses*) We might feel defeated before we started. We might feel we are facing a great hardship that we can't overcome. We might wonder if God could really beat so many with so few soldiers. The story goes on to tell us how Gideon and his men surrounded the Midianite camp at night carrying clay jugs with lanterns inside and trumpets. When they were all in position, they smashed the jugs, raised their torches, blew their trumpets, and yelled "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon" (7:20). God caused the Midianites to be so confused that they began attacking and fighting each other. God did as He promised. He gave the small Israelite army victory over the Midianites. These were difficult days for the Israelites. They were facing a strong and overwhelming army, but God delivered them. God was with them. In Judges 6:12 an angel of God promised Gideon, "That the Lord is with you, mighty warrior."

Like Gideon, God is with us when we face hardship and difficulties too. What are some hardships people in our community might face? (*Encourage responses, such as hunger, loneliness, family difficulties, unemployment, homelessness, fear, worry, joblessness, illness, death of a loved one, etc.*) God helped Gideon and his men overcome an overwhelming situation, but He also wants us to help others who are facing difficulties. What are some ways you could help? (*Encourage responses. Highlight ideas that the children could try in the coming weeks.*) In 1 Thessalonians 5:11 we are reminded to, "Encourage one another with the hope you have. Build each other up. In fact, that's what you are doing."

Link it:

The Salvation Army believes that we (all of us!) are called to "Share hope wherever there is hardship". Just as Gideon and his 300 soldiers faced overwhelming challenges, there are people all around us who feel overwhelmed. We in The Salvation Army work to be aware of people facing difficulties and believe it is our responsibility to be with people as they face those challenges. Today, we invite each of you to help your neighbours when they are facing difficulties by sharing God's love with them and by supporting them any way you can with God's help.



Add the sixth disc to your Vision Statement banner. (Optional - play the “Let’s Say it Together” video and recite the statement all together.)

Pray it:

God, we know that there are so many people around us who experience hardship every day. Please help us to notice when people are struggling and do our part to help. Help us to trust in you when we face difficult situations, knowing that you are always with us. Amen.



Week 7: "BUILDING COMMUNITIES THAT ARE JUST"

Set it up @home:

Send 3 small bags of candy treats to each family, or have them pick some up in preparation for Sunday. Have them count out the number of each treat that matches the number of people in their family. Instruct parents/guardians ahead of time to continue to choose the same family member to receive the treats each round. Also send home the printable "**BUILDING COMMUNITIES THAT ARE JUST**" icon template to add to their vision statement banner.

Set it up @church:

Purchase three different packages of treats/candy that would each contain enough pieces for each child to have one. Put the treats in a gift bag so kids don't see them until you are ready to show them. Pre-

arrange for an adult in the congregation to bring you money (you'll return it!) In exchange for the second package of treats as per the script. Print the "**BUILDING COMMUNITIES THAT ARE JUST**" icon disc template to add to your vision statement banner at the end of your time together.

Show it:

Show the "Intro Week 7" video.

Say it:

We're nearly at the end of our vision statement. Just two more pieces to go! Let's review where we've been so far. *(Review.)* Today's piece, **BUILDING COMMUNITIES THAT ARE JUST** *(have someone hold up this week's icon disc)*, tells us some of the things we are trying to accomplish as we are mobilized to share hope in our world.

I brought some special treats today and I thought I'd give them away this morning. Would that be ok with you? Ok, good. *(Pull the first package of treats out of the bag.)* There's probably enough here for everyone or just about everyone to have one of these, I would think. Perfect. Hmm... I think, though, that I might give all of them to the same person, say...maybe the tallest person in the room. *Find the tallest person in the congregation and give away the treats.*

Now, let's try the second treat! *Pull out the second package of treats, point out that there should be enough there for everyone, but, again, change your mind and give them to the person in the congregation who will pay you the most money (arrange this with a congregation member ahead of time).*

Oh, isn't this fun! I have one more treat. *Pull out the final treat and repeat the same pattern, pointing out that everyone should be able to have one, but again choosing to give all the treats to one person - the person who can run the fastest. Hopefully by now the kids are starting to complain that this isn't fair.*



Say it (cont'd):

What do you think? Did that seem like the right way to decide how to give out the treats? Did it feel good and fair? What about the fact that there was enough for everyone and only a couple of people got something, and they were adults? It didn't feel fair at all, did it? We call that unjust - it means not fair, not right, not good.

Sometimes that's what it can be like in our communities - and our world. There might be enough to go around, but we don't always share it very well. We don't always treat everyone fairly and kindly, the way Jesus would. That's not the kind of communities that Jesus wants us to have. He wants our communities to be just - to be fair and right and good, because that's how God is. He wants us to share life together so that everyone in a community can succeed. He wants us to treat others with love, dignity and respect.

Listen to what the Bible says about us contributing to building a just community in Isaiah 1:17: "Learn to live right. See that justice is done. Defend widows and orphans and help those in need."

Let's think of some ways we can help build just communities this week. *(Allow kids to answer.)* Now, I think it would only be right for us to share out the treats I brought, wouldn't it? *Have the adults that received the treats come and share them with the children. (Make sure you return the money given to you for the second treat!)*

Link it:

Each of us is a part of a community— where we live, play, go to school, worship and share life with others. When we live the way that Jesus would want us to, and treat others the way he would, we will be equipped and prepared to do our part to build just communities.

Add the seventh disc to your Vision Statement banner. (Optional - play the **"Let's Say it Together"** video and recite the statement all together.)

Pray it:

God, thank you for the gift of the people in our communities. Help us to see them the way you do and look for the good in everyone we meet. Help us to share what we have, and treat people fairly and kindly, the way that Jesus would. Help us to live right, love justice and help those in need. Amen.



Week 8: “and KNOW THE LOVE OF JESUS”

Set it up @home:

Families will need a sheet of paper or poster board on which they have written “JESUS’ LOVE”, a pair of scissors, and (optional) a dozen pieces of wrapped candy. Also send home the printable “and KNOW THE LOVE OF JESUS” icon disc template to add to their vision statement banner.

Set it up @church:

Prep a bright poster board with “JESUS’ LOVE” printed in the centre and have a pair of scissors on hand. Also have a small bag of wrapped candy (Hershey kisses, starburst, etc.). Print the “and KNOW THE LOVE OF JESUS” icon disc template to add to your vision statement banner at the end of your time together.

Show it:

Show the “Intro Week 8” video.

Say it:

I know school is done for the week, and nobody wants to quite think about Monday yet, but I was wondering if you could help me with a little math this morning as we arrive at the last piece of our vision statement? Let’s start with a few simple equations to test your skills. If I have 4 candy (*demonstrate this as you go*) and I give 2 to you and 1 to you, how many will I have left? That’s right, 1. Easy peasy! What about if I start with 5 and I give just 1 away to you? Good, 4. (*Repeat with a few more if desired.*) Of course, that just makes sense - the more I give away, the less I have left, right?”

Let’s try the same thing with this sheet of poster board, representing Jesus’ love for us. Let’s count the corners it has (*1...2...3...4*). Now, if I cut off a corner and give it away, how many will I have left? (*3 of course...*) And if I give the corner I cut off to you, how many will you have? (*obviously 1...*) *Cut off the corner, and count how many corners are left on the original poster board. Act shocked that it is actually 5 when it should be 3! Then count the corners on the little piece you gave away. Again, show some amazement that what should have been 1 is actually now 3! Repeat this as often as time allows, cutting off more corners of the poster board, and also cutting off corners of the pieces you gave away, counting the ever growing corners the more you cut off.*

Lead to the conclusion that it seems the more of Jesus’ love we give away, the more it grows! When we share it with others, there is more and more of it to go around! And then more people can know the love of Jesus like we do!



Say it (cont'd):

The Bible has a lot to say about just how big the love Jesus has for us is! Listen to Ephesians 3:18: “May you have power together with all the Lord’s holy people to understand Christ’s love. May you know how wide and long and high and deep it is!” Jesus’ love is bigger than we could ever imagine! It’s higher than the tallest skyscraper, deeper than the ocean, longer than a trip around the world, and wider than the entire universe. There is nowhere we can go that his love can’t reach us! And since we have something so incredible, we aren’t supposed to keep it to ourselves, right? We are supposed to share it with everyone we meet, so that others can know the love of Jesus, too! What are some ways we can share the love of Jesus with others? (*Allow kids to answer.*) And when we share it, it grows bigger and bigger in us and in others, too!

Listen to one more verse from the Bible. This one’s from 1 Thessalonians 3:12 and it says: “May the Lord make your love grow...May your love for one another increase. May it also increase for everyone else.” So let’s remember this week to look for ways to help others to know the love of Jesus by the things we say, and the way that we act as we represent Jesus in the world.

Link it:

Did you know that knowing and sharing the love of Jesus with others is why The Salvation Army in Canada and Bermuda exists? It’s true. It’s right here in our mission statement, which is what tells us why we’re here! Listen: “The Salvation Army exists to share the love of Jesus Christ.” It’s that simple. We know that the love of Jesus changes lives and that life is better when we choose to follow him! Our lives need to always point people towards that truth.

Add the final disc to your vision statement banner and read it all together. You may wish to try using just the icon side, or a mixture of icons and words to help kids memorize the vision statement. (Optional - play the **“Let’s Say it Together” video** and recite the statement all together.)

Pray it:

Jesus, thank you for your incredible love for us. Thank you that it is high and deep and wide and long and that nothing can stop it! Help us to share your love with others every day so that they can also know the love of Jesus for themselves. Amen.