GENESIS

A REFLECTION GUIDE FOR THE MOBILIZE 2.0 GENESIS VIDEO SERIES. VISIT <u>MOBILIZE2.CA</u> FOR MORE.

NOBILIZE 20 INSPIRED FOR MISSION POSITIONED FOR GROWTH

A NOTE ON GENESIS

In 2021, our Territorial Commander Commissioner Floyd Tidd met with a member of the Mobilize 2.0 program team to talk about the need for revival in our Army. Following a series of reports that recommended changes for how our Army might work better together, the Mobilize 2.0 program was established to set these recommendations in motion.

The Army itself was birthed in a revival in Victorian England. It was an innovative blending of heart, mind and hand that brought new hope to a world in distress. In 2022, Canada and Bermuda need a fresh expression of our Army. We need a revived and renewed movement inspired for mission and poised for growth. If we are once again to take the world for Christ, we need a revival. A new beginning. A Genesis.

We broke this virtual interview into four parts with chapter titles that reflect the trajectory of our Army. Grief, Lament, Hope and Promise recognize where we come from, where we are at and where we are going. We invite you to brew a cup of tea, throw on <u>a good playlist</u> and read through this reflection guide as you follow the series.

Watch the Genesis videos at <u>salvationist.ca/mobilize-2-0/genesis</u>

GENESIS | GRIEF





GENESIS PART 1: GRIEF

To watch the video, visit mobilize2.ca

SCRIPTURE

"Relieve the troubles of my heart and free me from my anguish" (Psalm 25:17)

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. How does it feel to hear Commissioner Tidd use the word *perilous* in his response to the current state of The Salvation Army in Canada and Bermuda?

2. As referenced in the video, if one part of our organization suffers, all parts suffer. How might challenges facing our churches affect areas of social mission in The Salvation Army?

3. An army in action is a mobilized army. If we reimagine the *how* of our mission engagement, what opportunity is there to do more than simply manage the demise of our movement?

PRAYER

Lord, we are tired and struggling as a movement. We look to you as a source of healing where there is hurt and energy during times of burn-out. As we reflect on our past and think critically about our present, we are reminded and humbled that you journey with us through it all. Amen.

GENESIS | LAMENT





MOBILIZE 2.0 GENESIS | LAMENT

GENESIS PART 2: LAMENT

To watch the video, visit mobilize2.ca

SCRIPTURE

"Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord; Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy" (Psalm 130:1-2)

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. Ezekiel's response to the question, 'Can these dry bones live?' was 'Only God knows.' What is your response to this question?

2. It is not easy to hear from leadership that our territory is languishing. You might have similar feelings of lament toward this response. What is it that we lament? Change from the way things once were? Loss of momentum? Risk of mission failure? Or something else?

3. Our Army is longing to do more—we want to return to a place of vibrancy and relevance in our communities. Can you recall a time or memory when we were vibrant and relevant? What practical steps do you need to follow to get back to that place?

PRAYER

Lord, you have heard our cry. We long to be a people of salt and light, but our complex world can make that so difficult sometimes. Where we cannot, we know that you can. Give us the vision and wisdom we need to see things as you see them. Amen.

GENESIS | HOPE





MOBILIZE 2.0 GENESIS | HOPE

GENESIS PART 3: HOPE

To watch the video, visit mobilize2.ca

SCRIPTURE

"The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, Lord have never forsaken those who seek you" (Psalm 9:9-10)

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. Where are you seeing signs of hope in your area of ministry? What is your hope for The Salvation Army and the future of the Christian church?

2. The Canada and Bermuda territory proposed recommended changes through an economic model review and complexity study. These recommendations informed actions now driven by Mobilize 2.0. How might eliminating complexity in our mission processes help position The Salvation Army for growth?

3. Commissioner Tidd refers to change as "the way forward" for our movement. What do we risk if we do not change?

PRAYER

Lord, our values and vision make it clear that we are a movement rooted in hope because we are rooted in You. You transform and make things new, so we ask for you to do a new thing through us. Teach us to have faith and and revive in us 'strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow.' Amen.

GENESIS | PROMISE





GENESIS PART 4: PROMISE

To watch the video, visit mobilize2.ca

SCRIPTURE

"My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life" (Psalm 119:50)

QUESTIONS FORREFLECTION

1. A recent territorial millennial study found that younger generations are bleeding out of our churches at alarming rates. When you think of the challenges facing young people today, where is the church meeting them? Or, where *should* the church be meeting them?

2. Our territorial vision will be achieved over the next decade. How can we empower emerging generations to lead the vision forward?

3. Consider this scripture passage: "[...] breath entered them, and they came to life and stood on their feet—a vast army" (Ezekiel 37:10). What is required of you, in your area of ministry, to open yourself to the new life that God is breathing into our movement?

PRAYER

Lord, you are God of the promise who is always faithful. To be a vast Army, we need your guidance; stand us up and send us out. Today, we hold onto Your promise and open ourselves to following Your direction. Amen.