

Late one night in 1888, General William Booth (founder of The Salvation Army) was returning home to London after a visit in the south of England. While riding across the London Bridge, he **NOTICED** that there were homeless men sleeping under the bridge. He **FELT** so much compassion for these men that he couldn't even sleep that night. He was so sad to know that there were people in such need who didn't know where to turn for help.

Perhaps William Booth felt a little like Jesus did when he looked at the crowds before him in Matthew 9:36: *"When he saw the crowds, he felt sorry for them. They were troubled and helpless like sheep without a shepherd."*

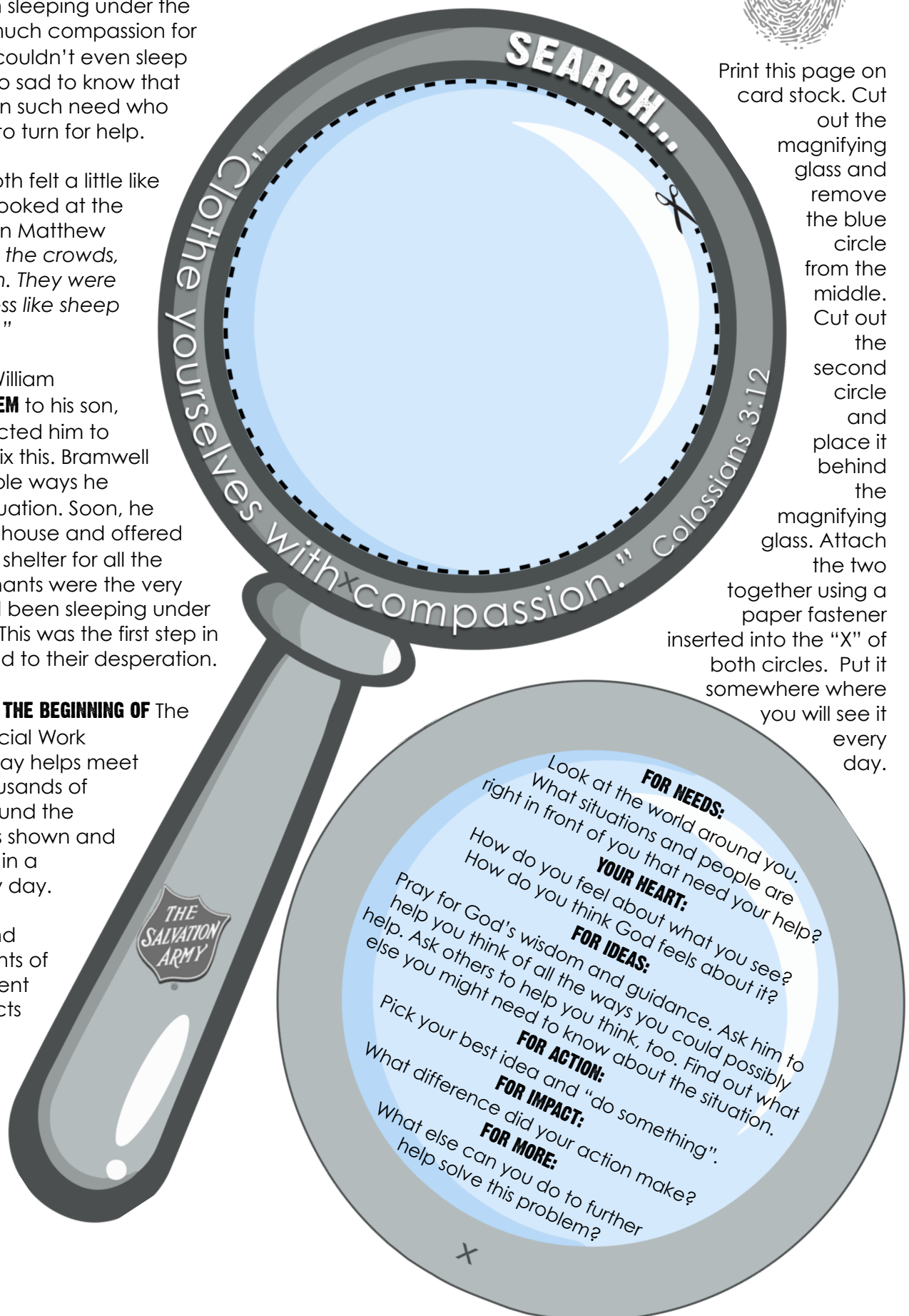
The next morning, William **PRESENTED THE PROBLEM** to his son, Bramwell and instructed him to "do something" to fix this. Bramwell **THOUGHT ABOUT** possible ways he could help in this situation. Soon, he **RENTED** a large warehouse and offered it as a free place of shelter for all the homeless. Its first tenants were the very individuals who had been sleeping under the London Bridge. This was the first step in **HELPING** to put an end to their desperation.

This one action was **THE BEGINNING OF** The Salvation Army's Social Work Program, which today helps meet human need in thousands of communities all around the world. God's love is shown and shared with people in a practical way every day.

Together, William and Bramwell were agents of compassion! An agent is "someone who acts on behalf of someone else, or a person who causes something to happen."

Will you be an agent of compassion too?

BECOME AN AGENT OF COMPASSION!



Print this page on card stock. Cut out the magnifying glass and remove the blue circle from the middle. Cut out the second circle and place it behind the magnifying glass. Attach the two together using a paper fastener inserted into the "X" of both circles. Put it somewhere where you will see it every day.

FOR NEEDS:

Look at the world around you. What situations and people are right in front of you that need your help?

YOUR HEART:

How do you feel about what you see? How do you think God feels about it?

FOR IDEAS:

Pray for God's wisdom and guidance. Ask him to help you think of all the ways you could possibly help. Ask others to help you think, too. Find out what else you might need to know about the situation.

FOR ACTION:

Pick your best idea and "do something". What difference did your action make?

FOR IMPACT:

What else can you do to further help solve this problem?

