



CANADA & BERMUDA TERRITORY
PARTNERS IN MISSION

SELF-DENIAL 2023

Children Activities

HIGHLIGHT TERRITORY: CARIBBEAN TERRITORY (EMPHASIS ON JAMAICA)

Sunday school activities help keep children interested as they learn and grow spiritually. Here are ways you can engage with children both at home and in the corps.

For additional resources, visit:
[Salvationist.ca/PIM](https://salvationist.ca/PIM)



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Introduction to the 2023 Partners in Mission Campaign

Partners in Mission is an annual campaign where Salvationists across Canada and Bermuda come together to raise funds to support the international work of The Salvation Army. This year, the Canada and Bermuda Territory aims to raise \$2.3 million. These funds ensure that the Army continues to be a beacon of hope in countries devastated by poverty, illness and natural disaster.

Activity: As a group, decide on at least one thing that you can do together to raise money for Partners in Mission over the next two months. Set a goal of how much you would like to raise and let's get to work!



Scripture: Luke 5:27-32

Application: When Jesus walked on the Earth, he called His disciples to be His helpers. And as they travelled, Jesus always displayed an example of caring for those who had no one to care for them, those who others didn't think were important and those who were outcasted by society. In everything He did, He lived out the words of Psalm 82:3 "Defend the weak and the fatherless, uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed." Many people in our world do not have the things that we have. There are children who cannot attend school because their parents can't afford to pay the school fees. There are people who go hungry every day because they do not have enough food. The Salvation Army, now active in 133 countries around the world, often step in to help those who have no where else to turn.

Challenge: Think about the things that you have at home – toys, games, video games, bikes, etc. Think about the many things that you have access to every day – running water, school, electricity, food, etc. Which of these things can you go without, the things we want, and which ones are the things that we really need? Are there some things that you can give up, or do without, so that you can give generously?



Prayer: God, we thank you for everything that you have given us. We thank you that we live in a country where we have freedom, access to education, access to healthcare, clean water and more. Help us to remember that there are people who don't have access to many of these things. Help us to find ways that we can give from our abundance so that we can help others and share your love. Thank you for loving us and caring for us. Amen.



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Love for All

Did you know that The Salvation Army has more than 18,000 active Salvation Army officers and cadets in training around the world? Just like Jesus called the disciples, officers have made a commitment to follow Jesus and commit their lives to doing His work. Many of these officers live in small remote areas, with very little resources, but they willingly give of themselves to share the love of Christ with others. Some of the money raised for Partners in Mission will go to these remote areas so that officers can continue to do God's work and help their community.


Activity: Get a small clear bowl and fill it halfway with water. Ask the children to describe the water in the bowl. Next, take a dropper filled with water and drop one drop of water into the bowl. Ask the children to describe the water again after the drop landed in the bowl.



Application: The water in the bowl can be like love. If we don't show love to each other, it is like the still water. Still, nothing happening, no evidence of anything going on. But, when we put one small drop of water in, there was a ripple effect. When we show love to others, even those who don't love us, or even our enemies, it has an effect. It spreads far and reaches wide. We may never see the effect that our love has in people's lives, but inside of them, they are affected by our loving acts and kindness. When we love others – family, friends, strangers, enemies, we are like the drop of water that spreads and ripples.

Challenge: Think of all the ways that your church helps people in the community. Decide with your Sunday School class or with your family, how you can get involved and help. Pick a day to participate and show the love of Christ to others!

Scripture: Matthew 5:43-48



Prayer: God, forgive for not always showing love to others like you have taught us to. Help us to see everyone through your eyes and to show love to everyone we meet. Thank you for loving us. Amen.



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Show Others They Are Important

Did you know that The Salvation Army has Emergency Disaster Services around the world? Whenever disaster strikes, such as a hurricane, earthquake, floods or drought, The Salvation Army steps in to support people during some of their most difficult days.

Activity: Prepare a list of statements that may apply to the children in your group such as the oldest, the youngest, the tallest, someone in grade 5, a big brother sister, someone who plays on a sports team, etc. For each statement that applies to someone, give them a small prize such as a candy. When all the prizes have been distributed, there may be some children with many, some with only a few, and some with none.



Application: God thinks that we are all important and that everyone deserves our love and kindness. How do you feel when you are left out of something? Or if someone doesn't invite you to something? We all want to feel loved and included, and so we should make sure that everyone feels that way. You don't have to be a Salvation Army Officer to do this. We can all make sure that everyone feels important and loved.

Challenge: Do you know of someone who may feel left out? Maybe there is someone new at school. Maybe there is someone that tends to spend most of the day by themselves. Can you think of some ways that you can make them feel loved and important? Are there ways that you can include them in the group? Try and bring a smile to someone's face this week and let them know how important and loved they are.

Scripture: Luke 10:38-42



Prayer: God, we thank you for loving everyone! It doesn't matter how tall we are, how old we are, what grades we get in school, how well we can read or if we are good at sports. You have made us all special and unique and love each of us the same. Help us to love others the way that You love us. Amen.



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God at the Center

In many places around the world The Salvation Army cares for children when they have no one to care for them. In Jamaica, the children's Nest Home currently has 22 children living there and The Salvation Army cares for them in order to ensure that they have everything they need – food, clothing, education, medical care, etc. But the spiritual need of the children is at the center of it all. Not only do the staff want them to have what they need physically and emotionally, but they want to provide them a wholesome life by also helping to meet their spiritual needs as well.

Activity: Play “Red Light, Green Light.” Have the children all begin in a line at one end of the room. When the leader, who is turned back on to the children, says “green light” everyone starts to walk, not run, as fast as they can. When the leader says ‘red light’ everyone must stop where they are. Keep moving back and forth between red and green light until one person reached the leader first.



Application: A Red light tells us to stop, but a green light means to go. It means, stop waiting and get going! And this is exactly what Jesus told his disciples to do. He told them that they were to go out and tell others about Him.

It's our job to tell others the gospel. Gospel means good news. God promises that He is always ALWAYS with us. We are never alone. Sometimes it might be scary or difficult to share Jesus with others, but we always have Him by our side. He gives us the strength and courage we need to share our faith.

Challenge: Can you think of someone that you can share your faith with? A friend at school, a neighbour, a family member? Make a plan to share the gospel with 1 person this week – start by praying for them every day, spend time with them, invite them to share and share Jesus with them.

Scripture: Matthew 28:18-20



Prayer: Dear God, help us to have the courage to tell others about you. Help us to go and do something. Help us to always keep you at the center of everything we do so that others will see you in us. Help us to be obedient to what you want us to do. Amen.



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Partnerships

Recently, The Salvation Army in Canada Bermuda developed a new vision statement that says, “We are an innovative partner, mobilized to share hope where there is hardship, building communities that are just and know the love of Jesus.” The Salvation Army in Canada and Bermuda not only partners with people and organizations in our local communities but did you know that we partner with more than 30 other Salvation Army Territories around the world? Through these partnerships we can support children’s homes, help communities and individuals rebuild following disasters, provide educational opportunities for children, help farmers grow bigger and better crops and so much more!

Activity: Place one plastic cup on the floor and have someone stand on top of it to see if it will be able to hold them up. When the cup smashes under their foot, replace it with 10-12 new cups, all placed together and put a solid board on top of them. Have them stand on top of the board again to see if the cups can now hold them up.



Application: God has created us to work together. He never meant for us to do everything on our own, separate from each other. Giving to Partners in Mission is an example of a way that we work together with people from all around world and help each other financially, pulling together all of our resources to make a big difference in someone’s life. We are always better and strong when we work together!

Challenge: What can you give to Partners in Mission this week? Maybe you get an allowance every week and you can give a portion, or even all of it to help others. Maybe you can do some extra chores around the house to earn some money. Maybe as a Sunday School group you can bake and sell cookies to raise money.

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 4:9-10



Prayer: God, we thank you because we have so much. We thank you for the community of believers that support us and care for us in our church. But we also prayer for the many other people in Salvation Army churches around the world who do not have as much as us. Help us to make sacrifices in our own lives so that we can partner together and help wherever there is a need. Amen.



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Salvation Army Corps

Did you know? The Salvation Army is present in 133 countries and has more than 14,500 churches! What started as William Booth's vision in the East end of London, England has grown to span most of the earth. During the Partners in Mission Campaign every one of these churches will participate. It doesn't matter how much or how little a corps may be they all have a part to play in the mission.

Activity: Go to www.salvationarmy.org/ihq/zones and www.salvationarmy.org/ihq/statistics. Try to find the answers to the following questions:

1. What is the most recent country that The Salvation Army began working in, joining the Liberia and Sierra Leone Command in August 2022?
2. What 2 countries were the first to join The Salvation Army in 1879 after William Booth began the work in London England in 1865?
3. How many communities is The Salvation Army working in across Canada?
4. How many zones is The Salvation Army divided into?
5. What year did The Salvation Army begin in Tanzania, in the Africa Zone?



Application: I wonder if William Booth knew how big The Salvation Army would become around the world? When you follow Jesus' call to reach out to those around you and to spread the gospel into all the world, then anything is possible. Even though The Salvation Army may look different in many different places, with their churches looking different, styles of worship different, we all work together with one purpose – to share the love of Christ with the world.

Challenge: How can you get involved in your church? Are there ways that you can help? Are there people that you know who don't go to church that you could invite? Are there people within your own church that you can help? Is there another church of The Salvation Army in another zone that you can connect with?

Scripture: Mark 16:15-20



Prayer: God, we thank you that we can be a part of your family, and a part of the church. Please be with all the members of your church around the world. Help us to remember that we are called to help and to serve others. Amen.



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Never Too Young

In many countries around the world, The Salvation Army operates children's homes where children live and are taken care of. There may be many reasons why someone ends up at the home, but no matter what it is, The Salvation Army will be like family and provide everything from their daily needs, such as food and clothing, to educational opportunities by paying school fees and providing uniforms and school supplies. For many of these children, The Salvation Army becomes their home.

Activity: Play the game 'A Chair for A Crown.' This game is played similarly to the popular "musical chair" game, but with a different spin. Here, there are no winners or losers. Place the chairs in a circle, one less than the number of children. Have the kids march around the chairs while listening to music. When you suddenly stop the music, the children all grab a chair and sit down. Give the one who does not find a chair a crown to wear while taking a few moments to tell the other children why he or she believes Jesus loves him or her. This will help build the self-esteem of the children as it will demonstrate that the child without the chair is not a "loser" because he or she did not find a chair, but that that child is special because of Jesus' love. When finished, take back the crown. He or she can then sit out and watch the others. Remove another chair and continue play until everyone has a chance to wear the crown.



Application: Just like Jesus, The Salvation Army sees everyone as important and loved, no matter how young they may be. No matter how young you are there is still lots that you can do to participate in Partners in Mission. There is lots that you can do to be involved in your church. God has made each of us special and we all have a part to play – from the youngest to the oldest.

Challenge: How can you contribute to Partners in Mission? Is there a fundraiser happening at your church that you can help with? Is there something that you can do with friends or family? Think of one thing that you are going to commit to which will help raise awareness and funds for Partners in Mission so that we can help others around the world who have less than us.

Scripture: Matthew 19:13-15



Prayer: God, thank you that you have made each of us special. Thank you that you welcome us and invite us to come to you. Help us to share your love for us with others by finding ways to help. Help us to always remember how important we are and how we are loved by you. Amen.