



INTRODUCTION



WHAT IS SHINE?

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5)

There are many forms of darkness in this world, but one of the most disturbing forms is the exploitation and abuse of children. All children should be safe, valued and free to shine. That's why a team of Salvationists across multiple territories created the *Shine* curriculum. This resource is for children ages 7-10 and is designed to educate and empower young people in the areas of human trafficking, exploitation and abuse. Through fun, engaging and age-appropriate teachings and activities, kids will learn about how to recognize and engage in body, internet and pornography safety with strategies for how to protect themselves and speak out when their boundaries are being ignored. This resource:

- Is easy to use
- Is all inclusive
- Helps students to open up
- Builds deeper connections and relationships with leaders and group
- Empowers and builds resilience in children
- Engages in prevention work against trafficking, exploitation and abuse

THE DARKNESS

*"This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you:
God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all." (1 John 1:5)*

Human trafficking is a global issue affecting millions of people, but one of the most vulnerable groups targeted by traffickers is young people. Pursued and exploited through romantic relationships, the façade of stability, acceptance, belonging and friendship through social media and gaming platforms; there is an urgent need to address the vulnerability of children to human trafficking, exploitation, and abuse.

In Canada:

- The average age of entry into the sex industry is between 12 and 14 years old. (Source: Joy Smith Foundation.)
- An estimated 51% of girls who were trafficked in Canada during 2019 and 2020 had been or were currently in the child welfare system. (Source: [The Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking's report, Human Trafficking Trends in Canada \(2019-2020\).](#))
- Often youth continue going to school, living at home, and participating in extracurricular activities—even while being trafficked. (Source: Love 146.)
- Between 2014 and 2022, there were 15,630 online sexual offenses against children, 45,816 incidents of online child pornography and 11,971 police-reported incidents of online luring. Luring accounts for 75% of online sexual offences against children. (Source: Statistics Canada.)

Crucial to empowering and building resilience in young people is the need for education and awareness about human trafficking and exploitation. By creating a protective environment that fosters positive opportunities and asset growth while creating safety nets and protective structures, children will know that they can get help and are supported, loved and accepted no matter what. Through the *Shine* curriculum, we strive to help children become aware, partnering with adults as we work together to keep them safe. We are also empowering and equipping children to know their rights and boundaries so they have the confidence to speak up when those rights are violated. This all starts with teaching children about body and pornography safety. By helping children to understand body and pornography safety, we are engaging in prevention work and taking action to protect them as we work towards a world where all children are protected from this heinous crime.

WHY SHINE

"But everything exposed by the light becomes visible..."
(Ephesians 5:13a)

The community outreach program/camp/day camp/vacation Bible school setting brings children from a various backgrounds and spaces together to engage in fun, adventures, and learning. It is also a place where they can be themselves in a safe, secure environment. Walls come down (in the best and often the healthiest ways possible), and they lean into who God has created them to be.

Since children often start to peel back the layers of their lives in these settings, bringing *Shine* to an outreach program/camp/day camp/vacation Bible school can build on the basics of who God has designed them to be. It can bring even more light into a place where kids are already starting to see the light of Jesus in their lives.

Shine has the potential to empower and build resilience in children against the dangers of human trafficking and exploitation by teaching them that they are worth so much more to Jesus and to those who love them while establishing confidence in standing alongside adults in protecting themselves.

Every child deserves to have access to this type of training, yet there are some populations among children that exhibit risk factors that increase their vulnerability to exploitation. These populations are less likely to have supports in place to prepare them to stay safe in their communities and online. The Salvation Army community outreach programs, fresh air camps, day camps and vacation Bible schools across Canada, Bermuda, and the United States are hot spots for these populations. Every summer we welcome young people who are unlikely to come to our corps programming or cannot afford music lessons, sports clubs or other beneficial activities. We have an opportunity to reach young people who may be the most vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. Community outreach programs, camp, day camps, and vacation Bible schools are a God-given place and opportunity where young people experiencing different vulnerabilities congregate every year. This is an opportunity we cannot afford to miss.

We are confident that in working in partnership with you, God will use *Shine* to help prevent the abuse and exploitation of many children while building resilience, value and worth in each participant.



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

*You're the only person just like you:
A one-of-a-kind special design!
You are valued through and through,
All you gotta do is let it shine!*

Shine curriculum is first and foremost; focused on the value and awesomeness of all young people. Every facet of the course is built on and around that foundation and utilizes every opportunity to reaffirm the worth of each participant. When children know their own significance, they can also know and understand that they don't deserve to be exploited or abused.

More specifically, the *Shine* curriculum will teach students how to be safe! With each of the four target zones, children are given strategies and solutions to help them stay safe and recognize risks and dangers.

LESSON	GOALS
Safe People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyone knows what trust means. Everyone knows how to identify trustworthy people. Everyone can identify who their trustworthy people are.
Safe Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyone learns that the internet is not always a safe place. Everyone gains an understanding of unsafe images and media and how they affect us. Everyone learns the <i>Turn-Run-Tell</i> Strategy. Everyone learns how to replace unsafe images and media with positive thoughts, feelings, and memories.
Safe Emotions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyone knows how important it is to identify their emotions/feelings. Everyone understands they can choose how to respond to their emotions/feelings. Everyone can communicate their emotions/feelings.
Safe Boundaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyone understands the difference between secrets and surprises. Everyone understands that their body is their own and they should have body boundaries. Everyone knows they can say "no" to others seeing, touching, or taking pictures or videos of their body.
SHINE Safely!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyone recognizes the effects of negative words and actions. Everyone understands that our words and actions can cause us to be in darkness or light. Everyone learns to affirm themselves and others. Everyone discovers that positive affirmations are based on Scripture.

This curriculum considers current grooming techniques, trends and the basics of human trafficking and exploitation to arm children with tools to be able to raise an alarm themselves and partner with their safety networks when someone is not respecting and protecting them.

RESOURCES

The *Shine* curriculum can be adapted and used in a community outreach program, camping, day camp, or vacation Bible school. The curriculum includes activities, games, teaching points, theme song and lyric video—everything needed to plan and execute the *Shine* program.

HOW TO HANDLE A DISCLOSURE

If a vulnerable child or youth discloses to you that they have been abused in any way, you must report this to your program leader who will then report it to the appropriate authorities. If further guidance is needed, contact the advisor in your territory:

Canada and Bermuda Territory Territorial Abuse Advisor, Nancy Turley
email: Nancy.Turley@salvationarmy.ca

USA Southern Territory Territorial Coordinator of Child/Adult Safety, Wendy Parsons
email: Wendy.Parsons@uss.salvationarmy.org

USA Western Territory Territorial Protecting the Mission Director, Nancy Udy
email: Nancy.Udy@usw.salvationarmy.org

What to do? How do you handle this?

- When a vulnerable individual comes to you—believe them.
- Listen openly and calmly.
- Reassure them that they are doing the right thing.
- Let them know you need to tell someone.
- Assure them they are not to blame.
- Let them tell in their own way.
- Never make promises you cannot keep.
- Write down exactly what was said with all the details.
- Your job is not to investigate, but to listen.
- If you are the program leader, report the disclosure to police, child welfare authorities or adult protective services, if available.

TAKE HOME CONNECTIONS

The *Shine* curriculum includes summary and conversation starter questions that can be emailed home to parents and guardians after each lesson is complete. Completion certificates will be given to every young person at the end of the program.

CONTRIBUTORS

Curriculum Development:

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Theme Song and Music:

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THEME SONG



Verse 1:

Did you know that you're the only one with your fingerprints? It's true!
No one else on earth is exactly just like you
Sometimes being different makes us feel alone and blue
But really that's what makes us special through and through
Follow my cue

Chorus:

Everyone should shine
Show off our design
We have infinite value
Yeah, believe that it is true
There's just one thing we gotta do:
Let it shine! Shine!

Verse 2:

Did you know that there are people who try to put us down?
They say and do things that hurt and make us frown
The light inside that burned so bright might seem to dim and drown
But really it's still there, waiting to be found
Listen to this sound:

Bridge:

We all should be: safe and secure
We all should be: respected and protected
We all should be: loved and loving
Let it shine!