

Covenant Renewal Sunday 2018

Resource Pack



Today I choose to reaffirm my covenant with God

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Saviour
I desire to build His Kingdom
through The Salvation Army

Today I choose to offer who I am, where
I am and what I have to be used by God

Signed _____

Date _____



The Salvation Army New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga Territory

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We trust you find this resource useful. We are always keen to receive feedback so that we can improve our service to you. If you have feedback, please send it to missionteam@nzf.salvationarmy.org

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Content: Mission Resources

2018

Introduction

Covenant Renewal & Founders' Day

The first Sunday in July is traditionally Founders Day and Covenant Renewal – a day to remember our history, commit to the future, and encourage people to consider their covenant. At the same time, we want to provide covenant renewal resources each year to promote soldiership and offer everyone (soldier or not) the chance to re-affirm their commitment to God.

This pack contains a theme, introduction, children's slot, kids' church lesson, sermon outline, and meeting lead ideas, plus renewal cards are being sent to you via your divisional headquarters.

The theme for the service is 'Who you are, where you are.' The Bible passage is around how Moses felt inadequate for the task God was calling him to, and made excuses to get out of it but God sent him anyway. The message explores how we are God's Plan A for our part of the plan as we are the most experienced and best positioned to make a difference in our world. If you would like to encourage people to consider soldiership, please include this in the response as you see fit or interview someone about what soldiership means for them.

The Children's Story and Kids Church lesson also focuses on Moses and how we are all part of God's plan to help others.

We recognise that this date may not suit everyone, and you may feel the combined focus will make this a busy day. You are of course welcome to adapt everything in the pack to suit your local context, e.g. to change the date, use what you like. We just hope you find these resources useful and if you use them, please personalise the sermon to reflect your own style and experiences.

Resources Available

With this booklet, you should expect to receive a set of *Covenant Renewal Cards* distributed by your divisional headquarters.

The intranet contains the electronic resources to support this day. Head to <https://intranet.sarmy.net.nz/>, hover your mouse over the Strategic Mission Plan, hover over Mission Resources and then Soldiership Resources. Resources available include:

- ❑ Electronic copy of the sermon for editing (from this document)
- ❑ Themed PowerPoint with Bible message (both standard and wide-screen)
- ❑ Social media image
- ❑ Electronic copy of the children's story, kids church lesson, explanation of the Home Connection Card and the Family Time resource for families.

Supporting Resources

Meeting Outline

To assist with your meeting planning, we are suggesting a meeting in sections, interspersed with songs, prayer, offering, etc. as you choose.

Potential scripts for each section follow.

Section	Suggested Content
1. Introduction	Introduction (script below)
2. Children's story / kids church lesson	All kids Covenant Renewal material can be found in separate files – this includes a Children's story, Kids Church lesson, info about the Family Time resource and printable Family Home resource.
3. Video	You could play the song 'Do something' by Matthew West sometime during your service. This song fits with the theme of the message. You could use this at the start of your service, during the offering or another segment, or as the intro to your sermon. The video can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_RjndG0IX8
4. Founder's Day	We have included potential stories and video clips to celebrate Founder's Day below.
5. Sermon	Potential script below
6. Response	Potential script below. Follow with appropriate response music
7. Benediction	Idea below

Preparation

1. Read through this document
2. Choose someone to tell the children's story or pass the kids' church material to your leaders
3. Print out Family Time cards for the families in your congregation
4. Gather your response cards and provide pens
5. Personalise the sermon.

Ideas for Songs

SONGS FOR DURING THE SERVICE

- SASB 687/SASB 960 (new ed.) I'll Stand for Christ
- SASB 696/SASB 980 (new ed.) Storm the Forts of Darkness (Soldiers of Our God Arise)
- SASB 707/SASB 992 (new ed.) Who is on the Lord's Side?
- All My Ways Are Known to You - CityAlight
- Who You Say I Am - Hillsong Worship
- The Ascension - Phil Wickham
- God Is Good - The Modern Post
- King of My Heart - Sarah McMillian
- What a God - Bearers
- This I Believe (The Creed) - Hillsong
- Forever - Chris Tomlin

RESPONSE / ENDING SONGS

- SASB C53 / SASB 312 (new ed.) Spirit of the living God
- SASB 474/ SASB 636 (new ed.) All to Jesus, I surrender
- SASB 487/ SASB 705 (new ed.) Have thine own way Lord
- SASB 525/ SASB 623 (new ed.) Take my life and let it be
- Do It Again - Elevation Worship
- King of My Heart - Sarah McMillian
- Surrender – Lincoln Brewster
- Bones – Hillsong United
- Lord I Need You – Matt Maher
- I've Chosen You - NEON
- Resurrecting – Elevation Worship
- Christ Is Enough - Hillsong Worship
- We Fall Down - Chris Tomlin
- No Longer Slaves - Bethel
- I Surrender – Hillsong
- Sinking Deep – Hillsong
- We Fall Down – Chris Tomlin
- At the Cross (Love Ran Red) – Chris Tomlin
- Miracles - Bethel

The Soldier's Covenant

Having accepted Jesus Christ as my Saviour and Lord, and desiring to fulfil my membership of His Church on earth as a soldier of The Salvation Army, I now by God's grace enter into a sacred covenant.

I believe and will live by the truths of the word of God expressed in The Salvation Army's eleven articles of faith ...

I will be responsive to the Holy Spirit's work and obedient to His leading in my life, growing in grace through worship, prayer, service and the reading of the Bible. I will make the values of the Kingdom of God and not the values of the world the standard for my life.

I will uphold Christian integrity in every area of my life, allowing nothing in thought, word or deed that is unworthy, unclean, untrue, profane, dishonest or immoral.

I will maintain Christian ideals in all my relationships with others; my family and neighbours, my colleagues and fellow salvationists, those to whom and for whom I am responsible, and the wider community.

I will uphold the sanctity of marriage and of family life. I will be a faithful steward of my time and gifts, my money and possessions, my body, my mind and my spirit, knowing that I am accountable to God.

I will abstain from alcoholic drink, tobacco, the non-medical use of addictive drugs, gambling, pornography, the occult and all else that could enslave the body or spirit.

I will be faithful to the purposes for which God raised up The Salvation Army, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, endeavouring to win others to Him, and in His name caring for the needy and the disadvantaged.

I will be actively involved, as I am able, in the life, work, worship and witness of the corps, giving as large a proportion of my income as possible to support its ministries and the worldwide work of the Army.

I will be true to the principles and practices of The Salvation Army, loyal to its leaders, and I will show the spirit of salvationism whether in times of popularity or persecution.

I now call upon all present to witness that I enter into this covenant and sign these articles of war of my own free will, convinced that the love of Christ, who died and now lives to save me, requires from me this devotion of my life to His service for the salvation of the whole world; and therefore do here declare my full determination, by God's help, to be a true soldier of The Salvation Army.

Bible Reading: Exodus 3:1-12 and Exodus 4:1-5

MOSES AND THE BURNING BUSH – EXODUS 3:1-12

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³ So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”

⁴ When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!”

And Moses said, “Here I am.”

⁵ “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” ⁶ Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ The Lord said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹ And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

¹¹ But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

¹² And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”

SIGNS FOR MOSES – EXODUS 4:1-5

Moses answered, “What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, ‘The Lord did not appear to you’?”

² *Then the Lord said to him, “What is that in your hand?”*

“A staff,” he replied.

³ *The Lord said, “Throw it on the ground.”*

Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it. ⁴ Then the Lord said to him, “Reach out your hand and take it by the tail.” So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand.

⁵ *“This,” said the Lord, “is so that they may believe that the Lord, the God of their fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has appeared to you.”*

Meeting Content

Scripture: Exodus 3:1-12 and Exodus 4:1-5

Subject: Who you are. Where you are. *(You are the most experienced and best positioned to make a difference in your world.)*

Aim: To have the congregation choose to (re)commit to offering what's in their hands to God

1. Meeting Introduction

Today is a special day in The Salvation Army calendar year – it's our Founder's Day and Covenant Renewal Day. Covenant Renewal day is where we each have the chance to consider the various commitments we've made to God. For some of us, this is in the form of a covenant that we signed when we became a soldier, adherent or officer in The Salvation Army. For others, it may be a commitment you've made in another church to follow Christ, or when you were in a desperate situation and you cried out to God promising that you'd change the world if He saved you. And for some of you, you're simply here today because you're wondering what this Christian thing is all about.

Today we're exploring what it really looks like to offer what we have to God. There's a great quote from William Booth, one of the founders of The Salvation Army, about how he offered all he had to God.

"I will tell you the secret: God has had all that there was of me. There have been men with greater brains than I, even with greater opportunities, but from the day I got the poor of London on my heart and caught a vision of what Jesus Christ could do with me and them, on that day I made up my mind that God should have all of William Booth there was. And if there is anything of power in the Salvation Army, it is because God has had all the adoration of my heart, all the power of my will, and all the influence of my life."

Our founders, Catherine and William Booth offered everything they had to be used by God, and in turn, The Salvation Army was birthed. When Catherine and William humbly offered what little they had, God was able to use this in a mighty and lasting way.

No matter your situation, we pray that you will feel very welcome and that you will encounter God during this service, as we look at our commitment to be used by God as we are, where we are.

2. Children's Material

A children's message, kids church lesson, and Family Time resource can be found separately online.

Please download these and use the material that best suits your context.

3. Ideas for Founder's Day

Here are some ideas for creative elements to include in your service to highlight Founder's Day. You could include one of the stories below as part of your sermon, you could share about it during a segment in your service or you could have one of your corps members research one of the stories and share about it.

Making matches safe:

The Salvation Army encouraged the change from dangerous phosphorous matches to safety matches by opening their own factory, employing people in a safe environment and for a fair wage.

- <https://glynnharrison.wordpress.com/2013/07/25/when-william-booth-took-on-the-big-manufacturers-of-safety-matches-and-won/>

Raising the age of consent:

The Salvation Army was pivotal in raising the age of consent for girls from 13 to 16.

- <https://www.salvationarmy.org/ihq/1C9CE9592331AC2F802575CA004EF0A2>

Opening Men's homes:

A story around William and Bramwell's response to the large number of homeless men in London.

- <https://www.gospeltruth.net/booth/boothbiovol2/boothbiovol2ch7.htm>
- <https://goo.gl/KSAvqy>

Lowering the cost of bread:

In 1914, in Britain there was a grain shortage because many of the ships were being sunk by German U-boats. In one town, the bakers raised the price of bread so high that poor people could not afford it. Twice General Bramwell Booth asked the bakers to reduce their prices and they refused.

Booth wrote to the bakers saying that if the prices did not come down and the poor could eat, the Salvation Army would establish bakeries in the town and undercut the prices. The prices came down.


Video about different creative Army endeavours:

Various short stories around creative Salvation Army endeavours over the years.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jLLnPi5TMg&feature=youtu.be>

4. Sermon

INTRODUCTION

[We've added the symbol  for where you should change slides if using the PowerPoint]

"Where are you?" the stranger said.

I didn't understand, "What do you mean? I am right here."

"But where is that?" he persisted.

"Right here on the planet earth," I said.

He went on: "Who put you here?"

"I'm proud to say that God did, of course."

The stranger smiled, "Who else is here?"

"Who else is where?"

"Who else is with you," he patiently continued, "here on the earth?"

I looked around, suddenly noticing everyone else for the first time.

I was awestruck.

After a few moments I answered, "There are billions of others here!"

"And how are they?" the stranger said.

I gazed out at what was going on around me, slowly taking in all I could.

"Not very well, it seems."

"Can anything be done to help them?"

Why is he asking me? I thought.

"Surely something can be done," I managed to reply.

I continued looking out, overwhelmed by what I saw.

Finally I turned back to the stranger.

He had been watching me, quietly and earnestly.

"I have one more question," he said. "Why are you here?"

[Instead of this reading, you could use the song 'Do Something' by Matthew West which is very similar in theme. Here is a link to a video you could use: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_RjndGOIX8]

There is great need and hurt in the world around us, and God's response is us. God wants to use who we are, where we are and what we have to make a difference in this world for him. Sometimes knowing we are part of God's plan can be overwhelming and we can find ourselves making excuses – just like another guy who was called to a great task for God.

A BUSH, A STAFF AND AN ISRAELITE...



The Bible passage we'll be exploring today is Exodus 3-4 – when God appears to Moses through a burning bush and asks him lead the Israelites out of Egypt. We'll be focussing on why God chose Moses to be part of his plan.

First some context for the passage:

The book of Exodus records some of the early history of Israel, and this particular event happened around 1500BC. And if you're wondering – yes, this is the same Moses that's featured in movies like The Ten Commandments and Prince of Egypt.

At this point, the Israelites are an oppressed nation. God's favour and covenant to the Israelites has caused the Egyptian people to fear them and want to control them. Their attempt to control the Israelites includes harsh treatment, enslavement and an attempt to annihilate them by killing off every baby boy.

Then comes Moses – baby Moses escapes death by being put into a basket on the Nile by his mother. Moses is then discovered by Pharaoh's daughter, and Moses is raised as her son. As an adult, Moses discovers the mistreatment of his people, the Israelites, and ends up killing an Egyptian. Moses then flees to avoid punishment.

Years later Moses encounters a burning bush...



[Read Bible passage here if you haven't read earlier]

God appears to Moses and calls him to lead the Israelites out of slavery. God gives Moses a mission, and the tools, experiences and opportunities to achieve it.

After this passage, Moses goes on to do amazing miracles and deliver God's message to Pharaoh. Through Moses' obedience and God's power, Moses leads the Israelites out of Egypt, releasing them from Pharaoh's oppressive rule, and into freedom and the hope of the Promised Land.

This passage, along with the events that follow, are an incredible example of how God uses ordinary, flawed people to achieve extraordinary things. Moses, an otherwise ordinary guy, offers himself and God uses him in extraordinary ways. His résumé may have been less than impressive in terms of the task ahead of him, but God saw what Moses couldn't.

And just like Moses, God is calling each of us to something – to our Israelites – the marginalised and the oppressed, to our friends, family and neighbours, to make an impact on the world around us in his name.

So if God is asking each of us to be part of the plan, what makes us the right people to respond?

You are the most experienced and best positioned to make a difference in your sphere.



It may sound cheesy but there is no one more experienced or better positioned to make a difference in your sphere than you. Moses' story is a good example of this – Moses was who he needed to be, where he needed to be. Why?

Preparation: Where we've been often prepares us for where we're needed to go



The story of Moses and the Israelites is a great example of how God uses our past experiences as part of our calling.

Because the Israelites were persecuted people and Moses had to be sent down the river in a basket, his experiences were vastly different to the other Israelites in Egypt at the time.

Moses was raised by Pharaoh's daughter, so received an education that he would not have received otherwise. It also meant he had access to the inner court and learnt how royal affairs were conducted; and he gained insight about Pharaoh and how he worked.

Growing up in Pharaoh's palace also gave Moses an insight into Egyptian culture that he may not have witnessed otherwise, as well as the contrasting treatment of the Israelites to native Egyptians. He saw how his own people were treated and realised this was wrong.

Pharaoh's daughter also unknowingly asked Moses' own mother to be his carer and in doing so, ensured that Moses never lost his connection or commitment to his own people.

Along with this, Moses eventually fled to the desert where he married Jethro's daughter and became a shepherd – herding a large group of sheep around the desert. At the time, not at all aware that one day he would need to lead a large group of people through a desert for several years – the plight of the Israelites to the Promised Land.

Moses' past experiences meant when God appeared to him in the burning bush, he had the experience and insight he needed to live out the calling God was giving to him. Moses' past experiences had been preparing and shaping him for God's calling. Moses' childhood and upbringing, relationships, and past ups and downs were invaluable to outworking God's plan for the Israelite people.

Like Moses, our past experiences help shape, inform and resource us for the calling God places on each of our lives. No one else has had the same experiences as you – that makes you the right person for the job God is asking you to do.

Whatever you've been through can be used by God to bring glory to his name. Your upbringing and heritage, your relationships and interactions, your education and work, your heartaches and celebrations, your trials and successes all help shape and teach us. Parts of your story are exactly what are needed for whatever mission God is placing on your heart today.

In God's economy, nothing is wasted. All our experiences are part of our shaping, leading and development, and can all be used by God to speak into situations we find ourselves in. God can redeem and use what you've been through to bring about transformation in his name.

Where we've been often prepares us for where we're needed to go.

What might your past experiences have prepared you for? How could God use your experiences to impact those around you? What parts of your story do you need to offer to be used by God?

Position: Where we are positioned often shows us how we're meant to respond



When God appears to Moses in the burning bush, he approaches Moses to do a seemingly impossible task. When Moses replies with excuses, God simply asks 'What's that in your hands?'

God wasn't asking Moses to do anything he hadn't prepared him for or didn't have the resources to achieve. God's reply to Moses shows us that Moses already had it – God didn't require anything more of Moses, he just required Moses – who he was and where he was at.

Moses was a shepherd in hiding in the desert. He'd spent the last 40 years getting married, tending sheep and laying low after killing an Egyptian. He was probably just getting comfortable, sorting plans out for him and his family and enjoying a new job and way of living. But God knew that's exactly the time he needed to turn up and send him out.

So when Moses suggested he wasn't in the position to go, didn't have the resources or wasn't the right person, God asks 'well, what have you got in your hands?' Moses replied 'a staff' – that staff represented so much more than a simple shepherd's rod. Moses' shepherd's staff represented who he was, his identity, his current circumstances. And God then asks him to throw it down.

Having to throw it on the ground encourages Moses to let go of it – to remove his grip. It means not holding on so tight-fisted to all we have and who we are. God encourages Moses, and us, to loosen the grip and allow our current circumstances to be used by God and for God.

Even after God showed Moses that the staff, with God's help, was all he needed, Moses still questioned. Moses made excuses about his lack of ability and not being about to speak, and God essentially says to him 'Well, look around again. What else do you have available to you? Take your brother Aaron – he's right there and ready to be used.'

Everything Moses needed was around and available to him. He had also witnessed the mistreatment of his people and so when God says to him "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering." He understood that pain, and the need for something to change. He had been there, witnessed it and felt the same way. His position gave him perspective to see the need.

Moses was already in the position he needed to be for God to use him, all he needed to do was offer himself.

And that's what God requires of us too – to look around us, count up all we have and release it into God's hands. It's about considering where we are uniquely positioned, where we can make a difference and speak life into places that no one else can, where God is asking us to partner with him because that's our sphere. It's looking around for the opportunities we have in our families, workplaces, schools and universities, in our communities and church – considering who we are and what we have to offer in these places. It's about considering who our Israelites might be – who around us is crying out, what situations are desperate and need God to intervene.

It's also about considering everything we have available to us – our time, skills, resources, relationships and influence. When we look around at the position we're in, we realise we are already fully equipped to live out God's calling. Pastor Craig Groeschel puts it this way, 'When God guides, he always provides'.

And when we consider all of that, it's about realising that there is no time like the present – that God isn't waiting for perfect people to outwork his plan, or for the right or convenient time in your schedule or life plan. Nor is he waiting for someone else to step into your sphere and do the work for you. It's you and it's now.

God is asking each of us what we will do *now* to make a difference in the lives of those around us. He's calling us to action *now* – to use where we are, who we are and what we have *now* to bring healing, peace, transformation, hope, freedom and salvation to the people you are positioned around.

And if we've signed up to be a soldier, then we've already agreed to offer what's in our hands, to consider where we are and how we can be used by God to make a difference there. The covenant includes things like being a steward of our time, gifts, money, possessions, body, mind and spirit. It also mentions we'll maintain Christian ideals in all our relationships, and that we will be actively involved in the life, work, worship and witness of our corps. It's all about being active where you are with what you have.

Don't wait for God to surprise you in a burning bush. Look around you – he's already speaking to you through your current circumstances, what's happening around you and what you have available.

Where we're positioned often shows us how we need to respond.

So what's in your hands? What might God be calling you to partner with him in your current circumstances? How are you uniquely positioned to make a difference to those around you?

Plan: When we understand we are the plan, we get why we need to respond (Moses was a coward and murderer – so what's your excuse?)



Although Moses went on to do incredible things for God and lead the Israelites into freedom, he made plenty of excuses before he agreed to being part of the plan.

When God appeared to Moses and laid out his plan for him, Moses kept making excuses. Multiple times he said, 'I can't do it – I'm not capable' or 'Send someone else – I'm not willing.' And God kept showing him he was enough, had all he needed and was in the right position to do what was required of him.

And that's the beauty of Moses' story – he wasn't perfect but he was exactly who God wanted to use to change the Israelites story. God uses ordinary, flawed people to do extraordinary things for him.

Like Moses, God is calling each of us to partner with him in his mission here on earth, and like Moses you might feel inadequate, overwhelmed, underqualified, inexperienced, unworthy, under resourced, too young, too old, too blemished, not ready or straight up unwilling - but God says you are enough. You are God's Plan A for your part of the plan.

And like Moses, we need to stop the excuses and step into whatever God is calling us to. If God has placed a calling, passion or mission on your heart – he'll help you achieve it. We just need to trust that if God calls us, he'll equip us, go before us and make a way for us.

Moses responded to God's call, laying his staff down and allowed God to use him. After that moment of surrender, Moses' shepherd's staff was only known as the rod of God. Moses' humble offering became so much more in God's hands. To Moses it was a simple staff used to do a simple job, but that's the beauty of how God transforms us and our offerings, they become so much more with God.

Often we never know the full potential of all we have because we view things with earthly reason and logic. We think who we are and what we have is too little, that someone else is more qualified or skilled, or that our resources can't achieve much. We look at situations we're in and feel inadequately equipped to face them, or we look around our church, our financial report, our building and resources and wonder how we could possibly make a difference in our community. But God sees and hears our excuses, but still calls us to go any way knowing he's bigger than any of our excuses and the cause is so much more important.

We all have Israelites in our lives – we all have family, friends, colleagues, and neighbours in desperate need of freedom. We all have situations that need hope and life spoken into them. We all have communities and that are crying out in need of transformation.

And just like in Moses' time, God sees his people's misery, he hears his people crying out and he is concerned about their suffering. And his response? God calls ordinary, flawed people to respond and bring healing, transformation and hope in his name.

God's response to the hurt, suffering, pain and need around you *is* you. There's no one else more experienced or better positioned to make a difference where you are.

When we understand we are the plan, we get why we need to respond.

So if you're the most experienced, best positioned and understand the need - what are you going to do?

SUMMARY



We've looked at how we're God's plan for the world around us because of three reasons:

- 1. Preparation: Where we've been often prepares us for where we're needed to respond**

2. Position: Where we are positioned often shows us how we're meant to respond

3. Plan: When we understand we are the plan, we get why we need to respond

Imagine if every soldier or adherent fully lived out their covenant. And if every Christ follower offered everything in their hands to God.

Imagine if we each looked around us, at the hurt, suffering and need, and chose to actively partner with God where transformation is needed.

Imagine what God could do through our church if we viewed our church, its resources, position and opportunities with Kingdom vision and offered it all to be used by God.

Imagine the impact our corps could have on our family, friends and community if we *all* responded to Christ's call to be God's Plan A for our spheres.

And imagine how God would move if we considered who we are and what we have, offered it all for God's glory and allowed Him to use us to make a difference in his name.

Like Moses, God is calling each of us to partner with him. He's placed us all in unique situations with unique opportunities and a unique set of resources available to each of us – where you are, who you are and what you have is different to the person next to you and is exactly what you need to live out God's calling and purpose in your life. Our past experiences and current circumstances mean we are the most experienced and best positioned for God to make a difference through us for the Israelites in our lives.

So what are we going to do with that? How will we respond?

5. Response

As we've reflected on the story of Moses and how God used him, maybe it's challenged you about your own calling and your response to God's leading in your life.

What would it look like for you to step into God's plan for your life?



- Perhaps you've never said yes to God and offered what's in your hands for his purposes. Maybe you're learning what it means to follow Jesus and live out his purpose for your life. How will you respond today?
- Maybe you felt called to become a soldier or adherent years ago and want to re-affirm your covenant today. Maybe there are specific parts of the covenant about what you would offer God that you want to offer again today.

- Perhaps you think what you can offer is too small, that someone else has more to offer or that you're unqualified for what God is calling you to. Maybe you feel your past makes you unworthy or can't be redeemed for God's purposes. Do you need a reminder to stop the excuses and trust God will make a way?
- Or maybe today you want to step out in faith, believing God can and will use you. That your offering won't be wasted and that God will transform what you offer him to make a difference in the lives and situations you are called to.

Today, we have some covenant renewal cards available. The card simply states "Who you are. Where you are." and includes the words 'today I choose to offer who I am, where I am and what I have to be used by God.'

If you would like to respond and offer what you have to God today, we invite you to come forward, and sign the card. Maybe you want to offer all you have for the first time today, or you want to offer everything you have again – we invite you to come forward.

If you'd like prayer, please come forward and someone would love to pray for you.

6. Benediction

Ephesians 3:20-21

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”