

Junior Soldiers

Unit 5 : Lesson 8



Special Project Week

PURPOSE : The purpose of this lesson is to provide you with some time and space to work on a group project or other parts of the award passports.

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind.” This is the first and most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like this one. And it is, “Love others as much as you love yourself.”

Matthew 22:37-39

Consider & Prepare

Read:

Matthew 25:31-46

The new award passports have a project section; each level for this section is the same and outlines the following:

The projects section is partly to do with serving others—because we are disciples of Jesus—but is also about seeking to make a difference in our church, local community and global community.

As Junior Soldiers we need to be willing to stand up for what is right, make sacrifices and help others. This may sometimes mean going without, or giving up something in order to make a difference for people who might have very little. When William and Catherine Booth started The Salvation Army, they were passionate about speaking up for those who had very little or who could not speak up for themselves: they were their voice, they wanted to make a difference and change things for the better.

It is our challenge as a Junior Soldier/Junior Soldier group to be willing to stand up and make a difference and help to make things better for others. We want this to become a central part of who we are as members of The Salvation Army.

In the leaders' notes it says:

Even though you will have Junior Soldiers working on different award levels, for this section we encourage all the children to work together on an agreed project. (*Junior Soldiers should record both the local and global agreed projects in the space provided.*) Working together on a project gives children an experience of supporting each other, learning from each other and what it's like to make a big difference by being part of a united front. It is important to try and develop this behaviour in your Junior Soldiers; it is about who they are as a

follower of Jesus and we would want it to be a natural part of their thinking and behaving. You will need to look at the list of suggestions of how you might like to make a difference in your local community as well as the global community. However, the list is not exhaustive. Feel free to come up with your own projects that will challenge the children about being 'change makers'; we would love to hear some of your ideas too. This is helpful for other groups who might benefit from your ideas. It is also great to involve the children in the process of coming up with ideas as to how they might be able to help locally and globally.

For this lesson today it would be good to refer to the project section in the award passports as well as the leaders' notes and the extra sheet of project suggestions.

The structure of today's lesson and how you help the children to engage is really up to you, however, it would be good to have a look at the sections below for some suggestions that might help you in your planning.



What you will need:

For 'Home & Beyond'

- Print off the Home & Beyond cards for each child.



Connecting In

What project?

To begin the task of working out and brainstorming what project the group is going to work on, it would be good to start by deciding if it is a local or global project you are going to begin with.

Make sure you have a copy of the 'project suggestion' page to help with conversation and formulating ideas.

Link: (You might like to use the short passage at the start of the lesson or the reading from Matthew about 'the sheep and the goats' and unpack some questions with them.)

- Why are we working on a project to help others?
- I wonder, how would God want us to treat and help others?
- Do you have any examples of how you live like this at home, at school, at church, in general?
- I wonder what that might look like for us as a whole group.

The Main Thing

Working together on the project...

It is important to divide up the tasks that will need to be done for the project among the children, making sure that they are all involved and working together towards their agreed project goal. This might be working in smaller groups or even individually at times to complete the whole task/project.

Tying In

Praying for the project...

Towards the end of the lesson (you might not be totally finished—the children might need to take things away to work on or might need to be set to complete all the tasks) it would be good to stop, pack things up and share a time of prayer together for the project that you are working towards and for the people that you are trying to help and make a difference in their lives.



Home & Beyond

Print off the 'Home & Beyond' cards attached. The children might like to keep these in their journals or notebook where they could write or stick the challenges, reflect, answer questions or complete activities each week.

This section of 'Home & Beyond' is an important section of the Junior Soldier lessons. It helps to take what the children have learnt and explored and continue the conversation at home. How can we, as leaders, help to equip children and their parents to continue these faith conversations at home and help to make such conversations a normal part of everyday life? There might be a question to be discussed, a challenge, an activity, some scripture or sharing something together. This does not have to be a big task but just something to help make a link into the home and make 'faith talk' become a part of a family's natural language and conversations.

Because you are planning the structure and content of this lesson you will need to decide what the 'Home & Beyond' is for this week. It would be good to have a card with an outlined challenge to help connect with what they are exploring in their project to their day-to-day lives. You will find the blank cards attached to this lesson so that you can add your own 'Home & Beyond' section. We would love to hear some of the challenges that you put out for your children.



