

Junior Soldiers

Unit 4 : Lesson 9



Founders' Day

PURPOSE : For the children to explore how God called Catherine and William Booth to start The Salvation Army and to understand that God uses all sorts of people to be His leaders.

'God shall have all there is of William Booth.'
(General William Booth, 1844)

Consider & Prepare

Read:

Matthew 16:13–19 and 21–23

Matthew 26:31–35 and 69–75

James 2:1–8

This lesson has been included for the celebration of Founders' Day (2 July). The lesson looks at Catherine and William Booth, the Apostle Peter and a number of other leaders that faced some difficulties or may have seemed 'unlikely' to stand out as leaders, and yet God used them to do just that.

William and Catherine Booth were gifted evangelists who felt called to win souls for God's Kingdom. William's motto was 'go for souls and go for the worst'. He and Catherine did not set out to start their own church or movement, but their passion for God was infectious and numbers swelled quickly at their services.

On 5 July 1878 The Salvation Army commenced (previously it had been known as The Christian Mission) with William and Catherine becoming leaders of a new Christian denomination. This church was to be welcoming of all people regardless of circumstances.

This lesson also gives the Junior Soldiers the opportunity to consider how God might be preparing them for a leadership role, and challenges them to be prepared for any task God may have for them. This doesn't mean they will all be called to officership or a leading ministry role, but there may be a time when God wants them to 'step up' for him and take a lead.

You might like to invite Big Buds or prayer partners to join the Junior Soldiers for this lesson and participate in the activities.

What you will need:

For 'Connecting In'

- A can of spray adhesive (*readily available from most hardware stores*)
- Sheets of flip chart or A3 paper
- Blu-Tac
- Post-it notes or similar squares of paper
- (*To make a sticky wall: Spray the paper with adhesive. It is best to do this outside or in a well ventilated area. Blu-Tac the sheets of paper to the wall. The 'sticky wall' will be tacky enough to hold post-it notes in place but will also allow notes to be removed and repositioned.*)
- Print off and cut up fact cards provided
- You might like to add some 'founders' of your own and research some fun facts about them to add to those provided.



For 'The Main Thing'

- Bibles

For 'Tying In'

- Print off and cut up the cards. You might like to laminate them for future use.

For 'Home & Beyond'

- Print off the Home and Beyond cards for each child

Connecting In

Fun Founders Facts...

For this activity you will need to set up a 'sticky wall' (*see information above*) in your space.

- Stick the name and picture of the famous founders on your sticky wall allowing space for the Fun Facts cards to be stuck under each name.
- Mix up the Fun Facts cards on a table or on the floor

The children will need to work together to find the 'facts' about the different 'founders' and stick them on the appropriate sheet on the sticky wall. This should be a cooperative activity where everyone is helping each other so encourage discussion and sharing of information amongst the group. (*You may need to remind them that this is a group effort with everyone working together. Keep it light-hearted and fun!*) We don't actually expect them to know all of this information. The fun is in the guessing and trying to work it out from clues that might be in the information.

- *Just in case leaders don't know which facts go with which person, here are some clues: William Booth was born in Nottingham; Catherine Booth had nine children; Peter was a fisherman; Steve Jobs co-founded Apple Inc; Mother Teresa was Albanian; John Flynn started the RFDS; Saunders and Gore met in 1880; Richard Branson started Virgin airlines; Anita Roddick started The Body Shop; Walt Disney created Disneyland; Colonel Sanders started KFC.*
- When all the cards are on the wall ask the group to sit down and review what they have done.
- Check to see if there is anything they would like to change. (*Allow opportunity for this but don't let it drag on.*)
- Read the facts about each famous founder, giving opportunity for cards to be removed or added after each story.

Link:

- How did we go? Did we get it right with our facts about these famous founders?
- Were there any famous founders you had never heard of?
- Is there anything that was started by a famous founder you had never heard of?
- What fact/information about one of the famous founders surprised you most?

In this activity we have looked at a number of famous founders and some key information about them. The founders of The Salvation Army—way back in 1878 in London in England—were William and Catherine Booth. While both were good preachers and loved God, they never planned on starting new church. But God called and inspired them to commence The Salvation Army.

William had first worked in a pawn shop (which was sort of like Cash Converters back then) and Catherine was a housewife and mum to her and William's nine children, but they were driven and determined people who wanted to impact people for God. So William did training as a minister and Catherine began preaching in church services too—which was unusual for a woman in those days, nearly all preachers were men—and they began to attract followers who shared their vision for helping people and for telling people about Jesus.

Before they knew it, they were in charge of a whole new church movement that started to spread around England, then the United Kingdom, then Europe, then the world! These unlikely leaders had obeyed God's calling on their lives, and became leaders of an international church.

God uses so many different sorts of people to be his leaders and, often, when we don't expect it. We are going to have a look at Peter today, one of Jesus' disciples, and a leader that you might say was not expected to lead but did.



The Main Thing

Peter the Rock...



For this section you can work together as one group but if you have a larger group it would be good to consider breaking into smaller groups.

- Would you say that Jesus is a famous founder? Why or why not?
- Who do you think/say Jesus is?

Read: Matthew 16:13-19

- What did Peter say about who he thought Jesus was?
- How does Jesus respond to Peter?
- Do you think Peter was a good choice? Why/why not?
- Who do you think William and Catherine Booth would say Jesus was?

The Booths were very, very clear that Jesus was their Saviour, in fact, he offered salvation for the whole world. That is, they believed everyone should be in a relationship with Jesus, without exception. One of William Booth's favourite words was 'Whosoever'. This word meant: 'anyone'. Booth said that 'whosoever wants to come to Christ, should do so today, without delay'.

Read: Matthew 16: 21-23

- What did Jesus say was going to happen?
- How did Peter respond to this news?
- Does Peter seem like a good choice?
- Have you ever said something you wish you hadn't said?

Read: Matthew 26:31-35

- What is Jesus saying to Peter in these verses?
- How does Peter respond to what Jesus is saying?

Read: Matthew 26:69-75

- What surprises you about Peter?
- Have you ever made a promise you couldn't keep?

Read: Acts 4:8-20

- What surprises you about Peter now?
- Compare Peter before and Peter now.

In many ways, Peter was an unlikely leader in the Christian Church. Yet, 2,000 years later, Peter is considered one of the most influential Christians who ever lived and he played a key role in the establishment of Christianity as a global religion.

William and Catherine Booth—while both gifted preachers—were also unlikely leaders. William lacked patience and could be stubborn (*common characteristics for social activists*) and Catherine could be outspoken and bold (*especially for a woman in her era*), yet God formed both into leaders.

And clearly God knew what He was doing because hundreds and thousands of people were drawn to the sort of Christianity that the Booths encouraged, and nearly 150 years later, The Salvation Army is active in 125 countries around the world.



Tying In

Unlikely Leaders...

For this activity you will need an even number of participants for this game. (*Leaders and other adults can join in if needed.*) You will need to print the pairs of cards attached to the lesson, making sure that there are enough pairs for the number of participants (*one card each*).

- Explain that some people will have a name card and others will have a card with an attribute of a person—some information about the person that made them an unlikely choice for the role they had.
- The aim is for everyone to find their match—the attribute that goes with the name. You might like to give an example from the remaining cards.
- Mix up the cards and hand out one card each.
- When a participants think they have found their match they can sit down together. The leaders will then check and see if they are correct. If they are a matching pair they can move to one side and wait for others to complete the task. If they are incorrectly paired they will need to try again.
- There are a number of different ways to run this activity. Choose one that best suits your group, thinking about the number of participants who will play.
 - Set a time limit and stop everyone when the time is up.
 - Put everyone into teams and race to see which team can finish with all correct matches first.
 - Divide the cards between those participating and ask them to match the cards they have into correct pairs and set the cards out to be checked when they think they have completed all matches correctly.

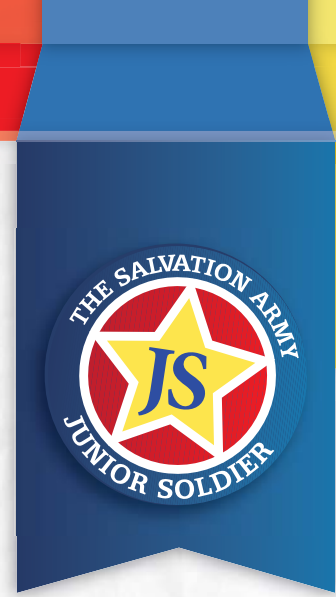
Just in case leaders don't know which attributes go with which person, here are the answers:

Jacob was a swindler and a cheat; Abraham was too old; David was not big enough; Samson has anger issues; Samuel was too young; Moses was a murderer; William Booth walked out on his church; Princess Mary was an Australian commoner; Bill Gates was a computer nerd; Julia Gillard is a female in a male-dominated field; Jessica Watson was too young; Barack Obama is African American; Peter was an uneducated fisherman; Catherine Booth was sickly; and Cathy Freeman is an indigenous woman.

This is a fun way of looking at people that, perhaps, might not have been expected to be placed in a leadership role for a specific task. We have been looking at Peter as someone else that might not have looked like an obvious choice for Jesus to build His church around.

We've also considered how William and Catherine Booth did not set out to be leaders, but God had big plans for them and he helped them become great leaders in an international church.

- What sort of qualities does a leader need to have?
- If you don't have these qualities naturally, do you think you can learn them?
- What is God's role in this; how does God help someone to be a leader?
- Do you think God could help you to be a leader?



Debrief...

- What fun fact about the famous founders surprised you the most?
- In what ways do you think Catherine and William Booth were unlikely leaders to start The Salvation Army?
- Catherine wasn't just a quiet preacher's wife, she was someone who had a voice and had an opinion and had a ministry so she spoke up for God and for others in an era when nearly all preachers and church leaders were men. Do you think she did the right thing or should she have let William lead alone?
- William got very focused on things; sometimes he wouldn't be able to sleep or concentrate on other matters because he was so driven on a specific issue. Is this a good way for a leader to be or not?
- Do you think that Peter was an unlikely leader?
- In what ways are you similar to and different to Peter?
- How do you think God could use you as a leader or perhaps to make a difference in The Salvation Army for God?

Encourage each other by sharing the potential qualities of leadership you see in others in your group and any signs of God being active in their lives today. 'I see God at work in your life through ...' Junior Soldier leaders and Big Buds should start this off and model it to the Junior Soldiers.

Pray for each other before you leave. If the Big Buds are with you, they might like to pray with their Junior Soldier.

Home & Beyond

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

Leaders and more...

- **Tell** the people at your house the funniest fact you found out today.
- **Ask** someone at your house or your Big Bud who their favourite leader is and why.
- **Ask** them if there has been a time where they have had to step up and lead something that they were not expecting.

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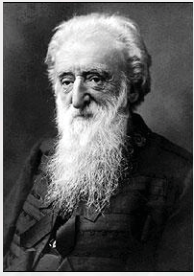

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William Booth



Colonel Sanders



Catherine Booth



The
Apostle Peter



Walt Disney



Steve Jobs



Anita Roddick



Mother Theresa



Richard Branson



John Flynn



Edward Saunders
& John Gore

Started The Salvation Army
Saw the need to help poor people
Was born in Nottingham
Wore a uniform

Started The Salvation Army
Read the whole Bible eight times before
she turned 12
Became known as the 'Army mother'
Had nine children

Started the church
Was a fisherman
Was a disciple
Tried to walk on water in a storm

Co-founded Apple Inc
Was once fired from his job
Always wore black cloths
Died in 2011

Started the Missionaries of Charity
Looked after outcasts
Was Albanian
Was given a Nobel Peace Prize

Started the Royal Flying Doctor Service
Was a church minister
His Face is on our \$20 note
Died in 1951

Started KFC
Dropped out of school and later became
a millionaire
Developed a secret recipe for cooking chicken
His Face is on the company logo

Created Disneyland
Made the first animated film
Changed the name of his mouse from Mortimer
to Mickey
Had a strong imagination

Started The Body Shop
Gave half her money away
In 2003 the Queen made her a Dame
Campaigned for environmental causes

Started Virgin airlines
Bought an island for his staff
Is a billionaire
Is the fourth richest man in Britain

Started TSA in Australia
Came to Australia from England
Held their first church service under
a tree in Adelaide
Met in 1880



Jacob

Abraham

David

Samson

Samuel

Moses

William Booth

Princess Mary

Bill Gates



Julia Gillard

Jessica Watson

Barack Obama

Peter

Catherine Booth

Cathy Freeman

Swindler & cheat

Too old

Not big enough

Anger issues

Too young

Murderer

Walked out on
his church

Australian commoner

Computer nerd



Female in
male-dominated field

Too young

African American

Uneducated fisherman

Sickly

Indigenous woman