

Junior Soldiers

Preparation Lesson 4



Service/Mission/Worship

PURPOSE : For children to understand meaningful expressions of service and worship. They will explore how their love for God and others is reflected in what they do, say and think.

**BY HIS HELP, I WILL BE HIS LOVING AND OBEDIENT CHILD, AND
WILL HELP OTHERS TO FOLLOW HIM.**

(Promise Focus)

Consider & Prepare

Over the past couple of lessons we have considered choosing to become a follower of God and what that looks like for us personally, how to live a holy life and some spiritual disciplines such as reading our Bible, prayer and staying connected to God. This lesson helps us to explore what that all looks like externally and what our response is to others because we are friends with God and love Him. There are so many ways that we can respond to God's love in serving and helping others, participating in mission and making a difference in our communities and the way we express ourselves as we worship God. The fact that God loves and cares for us so much, creates in us a desire to express this love in the way we live and engage with others.

- Bowls of food for hand and feet challenge.
- Dropsheets and aprons to reduce mess.
- New toothbrush/toothpaste, tie, makeup, etc. for 'getting ready for work' challenge.
- Supplies for each 'minute to win it' game that you choose.
- Bibles
- Journals
- Textas, pens, pencils.
- Large sheets of butchers paper.
- Craft supplies for collage.
- Pictures/images and other resources of your choice for the collage

Connecting In

Hands and feet challenge:

- Engage the kids in a challenge where they will need to be the hands or feet for someone else.
- It can be a feeding game where you have someone sitting at the table with their hands behind their back and then someone standing behind them, threading their arms through the other person's and 'being their hands' to feed them.
- Using a messy food for this activity is always fun, e.g. ice-cream, chocolate pudding, jelly, etc.
- Watch the fun as you have two teams challenge each other to see who can finish first what is in their bowl with the least amount of mess.
- This challenge can also be done with the same set up but where the person behind is helping the person sitting to get ready for work.
- They would have specific things they would need to do, e.g. brushing teeth, putting makeup on, putting on and tying a tie, etc.



'Minute to win it' games:

- The *Minute to Win It* game show has been a great hit and also a wonderful help for those planning time when you are wanting a bit of fun connected with some challenges.
- There are a number of websites where you can access a list of 'minute to win it' games that you can choose from or that you can use as a launching pad for you to create some of your own.
- <http://au.tv.yahoo.com/minute-to-win-it/games/>
- For this lesson today, it would be good to choose games where the children are not able to use their hands or feet for the specific challenge.
- Some that would work on the list are 'Junk in the trunk' – this is where you have a number of table tennis balls in box with a small opening, this is attached to your waist with the box sitting at your back. You then need to get all the balls out of the box without using your hands.
- 'Bite the Bickie' – they need to move a cookie that is placed on their foreheads down their face and into their mouths without using their hands or dropping the cookie.
- 'Bite Me' – the kids have to pick up and transport five different sized paper bags from where they are to an allocated space using only their mouth. They are not allowed to have any part of their body touching the floor except their feet for this challenge.
- These are just a few examples...have fun.

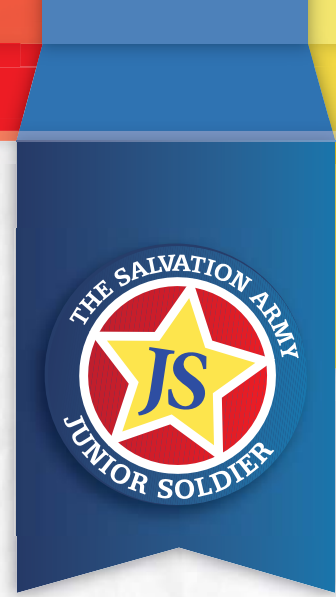


Link: The two games/challenges above are to help the kids think about how we use our hands and feet. They are fairly significant to some of the things that we do every day and it can be difficult if we don't have them. 'We can be Jesus' hands and feet in the world in how we live, the things that we say, the things that we do and the way that we think about God and others. We are going to explore today what that might look like.'

The Main Thing

Scripture: Part of God's team

- Being a part of God's team is about serving and working together to do God's work, to love and support each other in everyday life. Scripture talks about how we can all work together with the skills and gifts that we have and the things we love and do and how our part fits well into the whole. It uses the illustration of the 'body' and all its different parts.
- Find and read this scripture together – I Corinthians 12:4
- It is important to be God's person:
 - wherever you are
 - and being willing to make a difference
 - and use the gifts and talents that God has given us.



COLLAGE

- Create a collage with the children outlining the six sections below. Explore each of the topics with the kids as they use resources to create a visual representation of how we can serve within God's team.
- Provide the kids with the following resources to create their collage:
 - Pictures – from websites and magazines and left over OWSOMS/self denial material.
 - A range of creative resources, e.g. cotton balls, leaves, matchsticks, icy-pole sticks, pipe cleaners, wool and other appropriate craft supplies.
 - Red Shield stickers or images.
 - Use textas or sticker letters to add words or key phrases to each section.
 - You might like to use paint.
- Take a photo of the collage when the kids have finished so that that they can put it into their journal.
- **OWSOMS/Self Denial:** This refers to The Salvation Army's responsibility to support our work in communities in developing countries. Explore how we can support mission overseas. There are other options on a number of websites, e.g. Tear, World Vision, Viva, etc.
- **The Salvation Army:** A vehicle for service to others within the community because we are called by God to do so (Matthew 25:37-40). What sorts of things do you know that The Salvation Army does to help others? (Welfare, kids camps, homeless shelters and feeding programs, thrift shop/family stores, etc.)
- **The Earth/Ecological:**
 - God's creations – we need to look after it.
 - God has asked us to look after it (Gen 2:15).
 - What are some ways that we can serve God in this area? e.g. recycling, putting rubbish in the bin, be a part of Clean up Australia Day or the equivalent in your area, turn off the lights, carbon emissions, etc.
- **School:** How can you serve others within your school community? (Being respectful and encouraging of teachers and other students, stand up for others that are having difficulty to stand up for themselves, look after property, being a good sport and someone who is always willing to participate and try their best, listening to teachers and others, etc.)
- **Home:** What does it look like to serve others in our homes? (Being respectful and encouraging to other family members, doing things before being asked, doing things with a good attitude, praying together and having God conversations, helping out where needed, being kind, sharing, etc.)

- **Local church:** How can we serve the corps and the people in our church? Think about the special gifts and talents that God has given you and how you might be able to use these within your church to serve and worship God.

Examples:

- Preparing the scripture message
 - Take photos for parts of the scripture message and have a PowerPoint presentation.
 - Video clips: using a group of people to make a video for the scripture message.
 - Record kids reading one after the other.
- Prayers
 - Write them out, take photos of them and then put them on PowerPoint
- Help with music choice
- Welcome people at the door
- Serve people at morning tea
- Help to pack up and clean up the hall or space that is being used for an activity/event
- During the week there might also be a range of opportunities to serve and help out



What does mission/service look like?

OWSOMS	THE SALVATION ARMY	SCHOOL
EARTH	HOME	LOCAL CHURCH

Tying In

Journal

- Read together I Corinthians 12:4 (NIV)
- Follow through the questions outlined in the journal
- What does being part of God's team/the body look like for you this week?
- What are some of the things on the collage that you are good at?
- What are some of the things on the collage that you like?
- What are some of the things on the collage that you and your Prayer Pal can do this week?
- Talk and pray with your Prayer Pal and leader about mission and service.



Home & Beyond

The 'Home and Beyond' section will be outlined in the journal for the kids but it is important that we make them aware of it, what it means and even challenge them about what they will do in response to this section.

- Ask Mum/Dad and other family members what they see as your gifts or things that you are good at.
- Add their suggestions to your journal.
- What is a project that you can do as a family in relation to one of the six areas that we've looked at?
 - OWSOMS/Self denial
 - The Salvation Army
 - Earth/ecologically
 - School
 - Home
 - Local church



Home & Beyond



This page is to let you know what your child has learnt and explored today. Included is the memory verse that we focused on as well as a couple of questions and a suggested activity to reinforce the lesson. It is wonderful to be able to connect with what your child has been learning and for you to share something of your own experience around this teaching. It is great for you to wonder and explore together.

What we learned

- Today, we learned the importance of being on guard spiritually and to use all the resources that God gives us. The help that God gives us is referred to as the 'armour of God'. Ask me about the different pieces of armour. There are six items.
 - What are they?
 - How can they help us?
- We learned that we should be prepared by putting on the armour and not be afraid for God is with us and equipping us. Ask me how I can use this armour at home, school and elsewhere?

Memory Verse

'Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.'
Ephesians 6:11

- You might like to come back to this verse several times with your child during the week. This will not only help them remember the verse, but it will also help to reinforce the teaching. You might even like to put it into your own words and come up with a couple of versions.

Suggested Parent/Child Activity

- Each morning check in with each other to see if you have put on your spiritual armour.
- What is a challenge that you are facing where the armour of God can help you to be strong and make the wise choice?