

# Junior Soldiers

Unit 2 : Lesson 5



## Inspired by God #1

**PURPOSE :** For children to understand that God inspired people to record the important truths about Himself and that this record is guidance for them on how to live.

“We believe that the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and that they only constitute the divine rule of Christian faith and practice”

**Doctrine 1**

“God helped good people to speak and write what is in the Bible, so that from it we may learn the way God means us to live.”

**Doctrine 1 (simplified form)**

Everything in the Scriptures is God's Word. All of it is useful for teaching and helping people and for correcting them and showing them how to live. The Scriptures train God's servants to do all kinds of good deeds.

**2Timothy 3:16-17 (CEV)**

## Consider & Prepare

**Read:**

2 Timothy 3:14-17

John 20:30-31

2 Peter 1:16-21

Over the centuries there has been great debate among theologians and some Christians about how the Bible was written. These range from the theory that it is a masterpiece written by one man, to it being written by God's hand holding a big pen!

The most common debates are over the nature of how God inspired men to write it (did he give them ideas/visions/dreams and they wrote them down, or did he tell them word for word what to write?) and the question of if the text is inerrant (without mistakes).

Non-Christians will, of course, say that the Bible is entirely fictional and can't be believed.

This lesson is important for teaching Junior Soldiers that the Bible is true, that it is inspired by God and that it can be trusted. While many Christians have written books about Christian living and Jesus and faith and church—the Bible is the only divine book about God. It is God's book.



### What you will need:

#### For 'Connecting In'

- Print some cards for Taboo with the word and the associated words on them or write them out for the volunteer to use out the front.
- Timer or stopwatch for the Taboo activity.

#### For 'The Main Thing'

- A small selection of Christian books (adults and childrens).
- Coke, Corn Flakes and Tim Tams and imitations of each (see the 'Main Thing' section).
- Lego or equivalent construction material. Instructions for an item to build.

#### For 'Tying In'

- Playdough, paper magiclay, drawing implements, paints, pastels, paper, journals etc

#### For 'Home & Beyond'

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

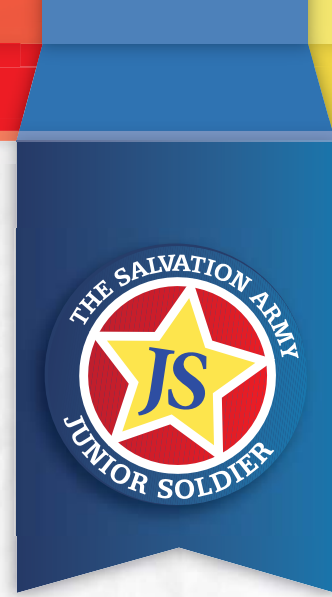


## Connecting In

### Chinese Whispers ...

- Arrange the group in a circle or long line for this activity.
- Choose an important message that you want the whole group to know and see if you can get the clear message all the way to the end of the group.
- Whipsper the message to the first person in the group to then whisper and pass the message on to the next person.
- When the message gets to the end of the group get the final person to share what the message was.
- Was it correct, did everything get passed on exactly as it started (usually it will be different in some way even if only a few words—make sure that the message is long enough that it will be difficult to have it exactly right at the end of the game).
- Have another go and share an important message about God as you go along the group.
- Did they get it right?

- **Link:** Passing on a message that someone has told you word for word can be very difficult. Some people are good at it but not all of us. Today we use other ways to help us remember important things. What might some of those ways be?
- Before being able to write and record important information, key knowledge was passed on by 'oral tradition' *'An oral tradition is the manner in which information is passed from one generation to the next in the absence of writing or a recording medium.'* *'It is a way for people to transmit the knowledge that makes up history, literature or a legal system across generations without using a writing system.'*
- When this was the only way of passing on important information, knowledge and understanding, people were far better at it than we are today.
- Today we are going to look at passing on important information. God had some important things that He wanted to say to us and so shared those messages with some people who have recorded them in the Bible. The Bible is a guidebook for how God wants us to live.



### Taboo ...

- For this activity you will need to choose a volunteer to try to communicate a particular word to the group without saying that word, a couple of words that are connected to it or using sounds or actions. They can use clues or hints to help you to say the word but not the word itself.
- You might like to give a time limit of approximately two minutes for the group to guess the word.
- Have a lucky dip for each of the children that are able to get the group to say the correct word within the time.
- Below are some key words with a few associated words listed after them.
  - Laugh – funny, giggle, joke
  - Story – read, book, bedtime
  - Circle – round, shape
  - Band – group, music, instrument
  - Money – dollars, cents, cash
  - Army – Salvation, soldier, military
  - Park – tree, playground, run
  - Telephone – call, ring, number
- **Link:** At times, it can be difficult to find the right words when you are trying to communicate something to someone, especially like today when there were particular words that you could not use. Sometimes we need to say things a number of ways to help people to understand what we are trying to say, to give them hints and clues to the message that we are trying to share with them.
- God had some pretty important messages that he wanted to pass on to us, some things that he wanted us to know and remember. A book or some kind of record would be great for that, so we believe in The Salvation Army (and most other churches too) that God 'inspired' some people to write down his important stories and messages.
  - What do you think 'inspired' means?
  - I wonder how God shared His messages with these special people?
- Today we are going to look at passing on important information. God had some important things that He wanted to say to us and so shared those messages with some people who have recorded them in the Bible. The Bible is a guidebook for how God wants us to live.



# The Main Thing

## Inspired by God...

The first doctrine of The Salvation Army says that the Bible was inspired by God and is the 'only...divine rule of Christian faith and practice'.

'Maybe at your church there is a bookcase with Christian books on it, or maybe you have visited a Koorong or Word bookstore or another Christian bookshop. There are thousands and thousands of books about God (*you may want to show some examples, adults and children's Christian literature*) but one book is different from all of them. Which book do you think I am talking about? Set up some 'trios' of products: for example, a bottle of Coke, a bottle of Woolworth's Cola, and some other no-name Cola drink. Also a box of Corn Flakes and two cheaper imitations. Maybe also a pack of Tim Tams and two cheaper variations.

Ask the children to identify which product is 'the real thing' and which are the copies. Stress that the copies are fine within themselves (*this is especially important if, for example, some of the children regularly eat the cheaper cornflakes!*) but they are not the original. They only exist **because** of the original, i.e. the cola drink was made and is marketed because Coca Cola was invented and is so popular.

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'It's great to read Christian books, and many writers are blessed by God to have the ability to write stories for us to read, but never forget—these books are only possible **because** we had the Bible first, the book inspired by God Himself. The Bible is the 'only...divine' book that Christians rely on. Other books are helpful, but God's own book, the Bible, is crucial to all Christians.'

## Directions on how to live...

Divide your group into two or, if you have a large group, you may like to choose just two groups of three to participate in this activity.

You will need a tub of Lego or similar construction material and one set of instructions (that would usually come with the Lego) for an item of your choice e.g. a helicopter, a car, a two-story house etc. Choose the item that you would like them to build and provide the instructions to one team. Both teams will be asked to make it within a specific time limit, one group will have the instructions and one group will just have an idea of what they are trying to build.

- Who had the easier task? Why?
- Have you ever received a present for Christmas that needed to be put together before you could use it? Did you follow the instructions or just start to put it together how you thought it should go?
- I wonder if someone in your family has bought an item from the shops like a bookcase or drawers or some sort of cabinet. Have you watched them try to put it together? Did they follow the instructions?

Sometimes the instructions can be a little confusing, but they are there to help us. The Bible is God's way of giving help, guidance and direction; it gives an image of how we should live. It is the story of God and His people, showing the ups and downs of life and how we, too, can navigate through the good stuff and the not-so-good parts. God has used a special group of people to write down important stuff that He wants us to know and understand, and examples of what to live like.

- Share one of the examples of how God wants us to live that stands out for you with the person next to you.
- Take time to pray as a group and thank God for the way that He inspired those that wrote the Bible and for giving us such a great tool to help us know how to live.



# Tying In

## What does God inspire you to do?

God inspires, encourages, influences and motivates people to do heaps of things. Some people paint in response to God's love, some people create things, some people write music, some people care for the elderly or work with children, some people talk and care for others, and this is just a sample of how we respond to God's love and what he inspires us to do.

God inspired, encouraged and influenced people to write His story for Him; he motivated them to write down the things that happened and humanity's interactions with Him.

When you think about God, His love and who God is, what does he inspire, encourage, motivate, or influence you to do?

- Provide a range of materials that the children can use during this time. They might like to just draw something that represents how God inspires them, write about it in their journal or maybe make something from playdough (paper magiclay) or other craft materials.
- It is important that the children have some time to reflect about what this might look like for them, you could play some quiet music, give them some scripture to read or just let them reflect with their journal or a blank sheet of paper.
- It is important that we continue to provide space for children to think and reflect on what they have been exploring and allow them time with God for Him to interact with them.



# 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.

## Inspired Words For Us ...

We have been talking about the Bible today and how God has used some special people to communicate His important messages for us. This week it would be good to read some of those important messages.

### Read:

- Psalm 51:1-13
- Daniel 6:11-23
- 1 Timothy 6:11-21 (focusing on verses 17-21)
- 1 John 4:7-21

Ask you parents or Big Bud to help you find these if you are having difficulty.

When you have read the passage think about these questions.

- What is God saying in this passage?
- What stands out to you?
- How does this passage impact you, how you live, what you think?
- Pray

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