

# Junior Soldiers

Unit 12 : Lesson 6



## How do we glorify God?

**PURPOSE :** For the children to explore and understand the various ways they can glorify God by what they think, say and do.

*'I give thanks to you, my Lord, my God, with all my heart, and  
I will glorify your name forever.'*

Psalm 86:12

*'Whatever you do—whether you eat or drink or not—do it all to the glory of God!'*

1 Corinthians 10:31

## Consider & Prepare

**Read:**

Psalm 86:8–13

Watch the following clip – How do we glorify God by Josh Harris (Growing Faith)

<http://growingfaith.com.au/parenting/how-do-we-glorify-god>

Is glorifying God something we do just when we are in a church building or singing a hymn? No, it is so much more. It is in our everyday life: all the things that we think about, the words that we say and the way that we behave. For this session, we would like the children to explore what it is to glorify something or someone and then how this can be translated into how we might be glorifying God.

Glorifying means to worship and adore something or someone—to elevate them and praise them. People love to talk about their favourite things in life, whether it is a parent talking about their child, a child talking about a toy or game, someone talking about their favourite sport or hobby, or a teenager talking about the latest electronic gadget or music clip. We all get excited when talking about the things in our lives that we love and enjoy. We are glorifying these things as we think about them, talk about them and share our joy and excitement with others.

As God is the one who is most worthy of our praise, our excitement and our joy, we want to explore how we can each glorify him through enjoying, loving, trusting and obeying him. We want God to be the number one person at the top of our list who we get excited about because of how awesome he is—I hope that God is number one on your list of the things that give you joy and excitement and that you love. If we place God first in our lives, we are naturally glorifying him.

Each of us will glorify God in different ways and so it is important during this lesson to help children explore what some of those styles or expressions might look like. It is also important for you, as the leader, to share with the children ways that you enjoy God and how you might glorify him in what you think, say or do—reminding the children, though, that this is what works for you and it may be different for them.

## What you will need:

### For 'Connecting In'

- Children to bring a favourite item
- Large building blocks, Duplo or shoe boxes
- Small item per group, e.g. rubber, pencil sharpener, small chocolate bar etc.

### For 'The Main Thing'

- Large coloured cut-out love hearts
- Clear packing tape
- Eggs
- Tarp or drop sheet
- Cornflakes
- Blindfolds
- Two batches of cookies

### For 'Tying In'

- Paper
- Textas, pens, pencils etc.
- Paper
- Craft items
- Camera
- Music CD

### For 'Home & Beyond'

- Print off the 'Home & Beyond' cards for each child.
- A small packet of M&Ms for each family.



# Connecting In

## Favorite things...

This Connecting In activity can be done in groups or individually. You will need to have prepared for this activity by asking the children to bring along their favourite toy or item. If they cannot bring the actual item they might like to bring a picture of it. It may be a book, game, electronic device, DVD, a photo of someone etc. Have a range of items on hand in case a child forgets to bring their item, this will still allow them to participate.

Allow time for each child to talk about their item and to tell everyone why this is their favourite item. During their time of sharing it is important for them to share why they love this item.

**Link...** 'Wow, you have all brought along some fantastic things. I have really enjoyed hearing all about them and why they are so great and why you love them.

- I wonder if you enjoyed telling all your friends here about your favourite thing. Why/why not?
- Did you feel excited?
- I wonder if you really want others to feel the same excitement as you.

'Sometimes when we are excited about something or someone we talk about the item or the person lots. It might appear that we adore that item or person. We love it so much that we almost go a little crazy about it—or drive others crazy by talking about it all the time! Sometimes we want the rest of our family and friends to feel the same as we do, so we try and convince them by talking about it lots and lots. I wonder if you are ever like this when it comes to how much you love God—have you driven someone crazy because you talk about God and how awesome he is over and over? Or do you share amazing things that you find out about God with others?

'Or when you have spent some cool time with God, do you get excited and want to tell others? I wonder in your everyday life how you glorify God by the things that you think, the things that you say and the things that you do. We are going to explore today how each of us might be glorifying God in our day to day.'



## Elevate...

For this Connecting In activity you will need some large building blocks, Duplo or something similar or perhaps even some empty shoeboxes—it needs to be an item that can be used to build a tower as high as you can. You will also need a small item that the children can add to the top of the tower that they are elevating off the ground e.g. a rubber, a pencil sharpener, small chocolate bar etc.

‘Today we are going to build a tower as high as it can go so that we can elevate our item (*explain what ‘elevate’ is: to raise, lift up*).’

Sit in a circle and place the building items in the middle of the circle. Have turns on throwing a dice and every time someone gets a six they get to build the tower until the next person throws a six. The end of the game is when the tower is taller than the tallest child in the room. Place your item on the top of the tower.

**Link...** ‘Wow, I can’t believe how tall the tower is, it looks taller than...(*child’s name*).’

- I wonder if we can elevate our item that is on the top of the tower even higher.
- I think we can. (*Ask for two volunteers and see if they can gently pick up the tower to raise/elevate the item even higher than it was. Hopefully it won’t collapse*).
- Wow, look how high it is now. We have really been able to elevate our item very high. We have been building the blocks up as high as we can and then lifting them up even higher to elevate our item.

‘Well, today we are going to explore how we might “elevate” God or lift up how we feel about who God is and how amazing he is. We call this “glorifying” God. When we look at the word “glorify” in the dictionary it means, to honour with praise, admiration or worship, to elevate. I wonder how you might be praising God; showing how much you admire him or worshiping him or letting others know how awesome he is. I wonder how you might elevate or lift up God in the things that you think, say or do in your everyday lives.’

# The Main Thing

## Enjoying him...

‘Today we all brought along our favourite items that we love and enjoy for many different reasons. Just like we enjoy those items or perhaps our favourite activity or spending time with some of our favourite people, we can also love and enjoy our friendship with God.’

You may wish to share your experience here on how you enjoy God. Such as:

*‘I enjoy God through nature. I love seeing all the works that God has made. When I go to the beach and watch the waves I think about how mighty and powerful God is. When I see a beautiful sunset I am amazed at all the colours that reflect through the sky. My favourite is watching the power and majesty of waterfalls. It is during this time that I really enjoy God and all that he has made for me to be a part of and experience. I see God in all nature and love to capture these moments on my camera. This is how I enjoy God.’*

‘Everyone is different and will enjoy God or be excited and amazed by God in different ways.’

- I wonder if you might be able to share how you enjoy God. (*Allow some time for the children to share. If they are stuck maybe give them some suggestions such as, ‘Is it while you are worshipping him at church? Could it be while you are playing sport? Is it when you are spending time with a certain group of friends?’*)
- Thinking about how you shared what you loved most about your favourite item today and why it was the best—
- If you were going to tell someone else about God, what would you say? Why do you love him and why is he the best? (*Allow some time for the children to share.*)
- If you have a large group you may like to divide into small groups for this section.

‘We all enjoy God differently and it is important to know that when we enjoy God we are glorifying him.’



### Loving him—follow the hearts...

For this activity you will need to have arranged some volunteers to help you with cutting out some hearts. Cut out several dozen hearts in a variety of different colours. You will also need some clear packing tape. For this game, use the verse from Matthew 22:37; 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' Write one word from this verse on random hearts and leave the others blank. Arrange all the hearts on the floor making sure that the words are facing down. If you have a small group you could do this activity all together or if you have a slightly larger group you could divide into two teams. If you choose to divide into two groups make sure that you write the verse out twice and in two different colours, assigning each team a particular colour.



'So we glorify God when we enjoy spending time with him, we also glorify God when we express how much we love him. So let's take a look at love.

- I wonder when you think of the word 'love' what comes to mind.
- Who is the person/human in this world that you love the most? (*Some of them might say Jesus but we want to encourage someone within their family or a friend.*)
- I am curious, what is it about this person that you love so much.

'On the floor you will see a whole bunch of hearts. On the side facing the floor are the words from a scripture verse about loving God with all that we are. You will be looking for 19 words and will need to turn the hearts over one at a time to see if you can find the words that you will need to make up the verse. Once you think that they have them in the correct order, tape the hearts onto the floor and jump or hop from one heart to the other until you have reached the end of the path.'

**Link...** 'This verse talks about how we should love God with everything, not just our hearts but also our mind and our soul—that means everything, our whole being, every single little bit. You have told me about who you love the most in this world, no doubt you love that person with all your heart and probably even a bit more. It makes it clear in the Bible that we should love God like this and possibly even more than the person that you love so much. By loving God this much you are glorifying him with your love.'



### Trusting him—trust egg obstacle walk...

For this activity you want the children to guide each other through an obstacle course of eggs. You will need a dozen eggs, a drop sheet or tarp, a packet of cornflakes and a couple of blindfolds. You will need to get the children into pairs. Place the eggs on the tarp or drop sheet on the ground making a pathway for the children to navigate through.

'We have looked at how we might glorify God by enjoying spending time with him or by how much we love him, we can also glorify God by showing that we trust him. Let's explore trust...

'We are going to explore trust by having a cool obstacle walk. One of you from your pair is going to put on a blindfold and trust the other person to lead you with instructions through the obstacle course of eggs on the ground, hopefully without stepping on any. The person giving the instructions will have to stay behind the start line and call the instructions out.'

- Blindfold one of the children from each pair.
- Ask them to take their shoes off and then take them out of the room. The leader goes back into the room and quietly collects up all the eggs and places down heaps of cornflakes on the ground where the eggs have been, enough cornflakes so that the blindfolded child will not be able to avoid stepping on them.
- Explain to the children who are giving the instructions what you are doing and ask them not to let on that the eggs are gone and that what the blindfolded child is stepping on is cornflakes and not eggs.



- Bring the blindfolded children back in and start the activity encouraging lots of calling out of instructions.
- After they have finished the obstacle course, remove the blindfolds and show them what they had been stepping on.

**Link...** 'That was so cool, look at the mess you all made. This was an activity about trust, trusting your partner to give you the correct instructions and guidance.

- How did you feel when you were blindfolded and asked to take your shoes off?
- Before you started the 'egg walk' did you feel that you could trust your partner to guide you properly?
- I wonder how you felt when there were a number of people calling out instructions. I wonder if you could hear your partner properly.
- Were you worried when you felt the crunchiness under your feet?'



Encourage lots of feedback.

'This was an activity based on trust. You were trusting that your partner would guide you and instruct you to get you through the eggs safely and without getting your feet covered in eggs. You were blindfolded and had no option other than listen to your partner and trust what they were saying. Some of you found it hard and some of you found it easy. To trust someone totally can at times be a difficult or uncomfortable thing.

'I am sure you have had lots of times when you have needed to trust someone, you might have even had times when you have trusted someone and they have let you down. It is important to know that even though people we've trusted can sometime let us down, God will never let us down. He can always be trusted. Let's have a look in the Bible to see what it says about trusting God. Read together Proverbs 3:5-6, 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart....'

'*The Message* Bible says it like this, "Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track. Don't assume that you know it all."

'Wow, isn't that great that we can trust God no matter what. When we trust God he will help us understand what he wants us to do and will guide us to stay on the right track with him. If we believe that God is trustworthy and that his way is the best way then we are glorifying him.'



### **Obeying him—looks can be deceiving...**

For this section you will need to make two identical small batches of cookies following the recipe exactly, except in one batch substitute the sugar with salt. These two batches of cookies will look alike but taste very different.

'Sometimes when our parents ask us to obey them, we have a negative attitude and grumble and complain. It is usually because they are asking us not to do something that could harm us, or maybe they want to teach us manners and good behaviour. Sometimes our parents ask us to do something that is not fun—like do the dishes or finish our homework—and we don't want to obey them. They ask us to obey them because they love us and they want what is best for us and there are things that we need to do for each other and ourselves when we are part of a family. When we are asked to obey God and follow his instructions it is because he loves us and also wants what is best for us and there are things that we need to do for each other and ourselves when we are part of God's family.

- Okay, I have some cookies for you to try today.
- Take one from this container and one from this container (*be aware of children with food allergies*).
- What do you think? How do they taste?

'Oh my, both the cookies taste very different don't they? One small change in the recipe can make a big difference in the finished product. To get the best cookies to eat we need to follow the directions in the recipe, sometimes one change to the recipe might not give us a good outcome. To get the best version of us we need to follow God's directions, one change might not end up with a good outcome.

'God loves us and wants the best outcome for us but, at times, it can be difficult to always want to obey—just like it can be difficult to always want to obey our parents or teachers. If we trust God and love him and enjoy spending time with him then we will want to obey him—this is another way of glorifying him.



## Tying In

'I wonder how you would choose to show others that you love God. We are going to spend some time now thinking about this and creating something that will reflect this. You could:

- Draw a poster about how you feel about God.
- Create a dance.
- Write a poem or a song.
- Create a film clip on your mobile or iPad.
- Write your testimony (a story about you and God and what it means to have him in your life).
- Write a story.
- Make a craft object, a mosaic, figurine etc.
- Paint a picture.
- Take some photos.
- Plant a garden etc.'

Allow the children some time to think about how they might like to express how much they love God and how they might share this with others. Give them some time to create.

Finish off by reading Psalm 86:8–13 with the children and pray together.

## 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. You might like to provide each family with a packet of M&Ms for this activity.

### M&M prayers...


- Open the packet of M&Ms and get each person to choose one without looking.
- If you choose a blue one, share with the family something that you are currently feeling 'blue' about.
- If you choose a green one, share with the family something that you feel God has been teaching you lately.
- If you choose a brown one, pray for someone in your life that needs prayer and support.
- If you choose a yellow one, thank God for someone who has helped you know and understand God better.
- If you choose a red one, thank God for one of the ways that you enjoy spending time with him, or one of the reasons that you love him so much, or pray that you can trust him or that you will follow his instructions.
- If you choose an orange one, thank God for your family and friends.



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- If you choose a yellow one, thank God for someone who has helped prayer and support.
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