

Junior Soldiers

Unit 2 : Lesson 8



Aboriginal People

PURPOSE : For children to explore and understand the importance of acceptance and love for all, and treating others the way that we would want to be treated.

'Treat others as you want them to treat you. This is what the Law and the Prophets are all about.'

Matthew 7:12 (CEV)

Consider & Prepare

Read:

Matthew 7:1-12

Today's lesson has a social justice focus and looks specifically at Aboriginal people. A JustSalvos children's curriculum has been written on this topic (hence, these briefer than usual lesson notes) that helps children to explore and understand how Aboriginal people have sometimes been treated unfairly. This will give the children the opportunity to think about how they think about, talk about and treat others and what Jesus says about this.

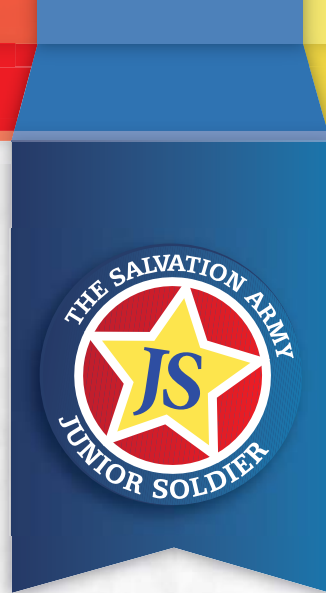
This lesson, while specifically about Aboriginal people, needs to have a general focus of reconciliation and inclusion for all. It would be good throughout to also make links to other groups that are disadvantaged or treated unjustly. It is important that we engage in conversations about these types of issues with our children, however, in order to do it well we need to provide a safe environment. A safe environment allows children to ask questions and share their understanding while looking at truths about tricky topics. You will need to take into consideration those (including leaders, families and children) that may have been influenced by a racist bias as well as those groups that might have Aboriginal children involved in their groups or part of extended families. If you are not confident with this topic you may want to ask the corps officer to come and be a part of the lesson.

You will find the JustSalvos children curriculum for Aboriginal people with this lesson or you can download it from JustSalvos' download page. It is good to also have a look at other resources on this site.

<http://salvationarmy.org.au/justsalvos/downloads/>

What you will need:

- Download the JustSalvos children's curriculum for Aboriginal people.
- Choose what activities you are going to use for your lesson.
- Gather all that is needed for the activities/games/stories that you are going to use.
- Organise cards for the Junior Soldier with the 'Home & Beyond' information on them or arrange for each of the Junior Soldiers to have a notepad or journal for this purpose each week.



Tying In

Extra Activity ...

- Instead of doing dot painting, you may like to use paper magiclay or plasticine to create some Aboriginal art.
- You could use black cardboard as a background and then roll little dots to create an image of God or what it looks like to have acceptance for all.
- Or you might like to make some creatures, e.g. snake or lizards (this would look most effective using black for the base) and then add coloured dots/balls/lines etc. for decoration.
- While creating, it would be good to engage the kids in conversation about the lesson.
 - 'Today we have been talking specifically about Aboriginal people but, if we read Matthew 7:12, what is Jesus saying to us about others?'
 - 'I wonder what your actions, thoughts and words might look like if you follow Jesus' guidelines?'

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.

Finishing up with this lesson and helping the children to think about their Home & Beyond for this week, it is important to focus on 'reconciliation' in general and also acceptance for all and not just Aboriginal people.

Challenge for all ...

Reflect this week on how you want to be treated at home, at school, playing sport or participating in another type of event...

Ask yourself, 'Do I treat others the way that I want to be treated?'

Think about these two areas below:

- Someone who is not being treated fairly.
- Someone you have not treated fairly.
- 'How can I help or say sorry?'



Examples:

If older sibling have been a bit rough or not let you play, you might get some of your toys and go and ask them to play. If you haven't been nice to your mum or dad or appreciated them, or you've been nasty or not done what you have been asked, you might go and do something nice that you know you need to do without being asked.

I am sure you can come up with plenty more options.

Home & Beyond

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Ask yourself, 'Do I treat others the way that I want to be treated fairly.'

Think about:

- Someone who is not being treated fairly.
- Someone you have not treated fairly.
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