



VALUE ONE: PUT JESUS FIRST

READ IT:

As part of the new Mission Plan launch in 2016, our territory identified seven values that we believe reflect who we are, how we strive to act, and how we make decisions.

The seven values are: We put Jesus First, we care for others, we walk the talk, we think holistically, we offer a place to belong, we do the right thing, and we support our army.

Having a set of values makes sure we're all on the same page and all striving toward the same standards.

Our International Mission Statement reminds us that we are an international movement that is an evangelical part of the universal Christian church. Our message is based on the Bible and our ministry is motivated by the love of God.

When Jesus was asked which is the greatest commandment, He answered: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

So what does it mean to put Jesus first?

Firstly, in Jesus' reply He suggests that loving God or putting Jesus first involved our heart, soul and mind. This implies that putting Jesus first should involve and transform each of these things. Choosing to put Jesus first means we invite him into every area of our life and allow our whole selves to be guided and shaped by him.

In Jesus' reply, he says the second greatest commandment is to love your neighbour as yourself. This implies that our

EXPECTED BEHAVIOURS:

Making Jesus known, transforming lives, following Jesus (discipleship), being led by the Holy Spirit, lifestyle of worship.

BIBLE VERSES:

Matthew 22:37-38, Matthew 28:19-20, John 3:16, Proverbs 3:6

love for God, or putting Jesus first, encourages some sort of active response. Putting Jesus first should affect how we live and interact with others – our love for Jesus motivates us to love others.

When people look at our corps or centre, they should be able to see that Jesus is a priority in everything we do. Is prayer important in our centre? Does Jesus affect our decision making? Do we seek input from the Bible and prayer in our work? Do we try to make Jesus known to our colleagues, clients, friends and family when appropriate?

Although not all people connected to or working for The Salvation Army would profess to be Christians, we would hope that this value could still encourage us all to consider what we could learn and take on board from how Jesus lived and interacted with others.

Putting Jesus first is about pursuing a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ, becoming more like Him, and promoting this life-changing relationship to others.

DISCUSS IT:

So what does this look like for you and what you do?

As a team:

- How are you already putting Jesus first as a team?
- How could you better put Jesus first? (e.g. prayer when making decisions)
- How can you encourage all people in your team to get on board with this value?

As individuals:

- If you are a Christian, are you putting Jesus first in your life? How could you do this better?
- If you aren't a Christian, what is one characteristic or behaviour of Jesus' that you admire? How could applying this positively impact you and those around you?

APPLY IT:

- As a team, what is one thing you will implement this month to help you put Jesus first?
- As an individual, what is one way you can encourage yourself to put Jesus first this month?





VALUE TWO: CARE FOR OTHERS

READ IT:

The Salvation Army is well known in our communities for its work in caring for the 'least, the last and the lost'.

We have over 120,000 people receive assistance through our social services every year. And that's just our social services! Think about how many people in total we must help every year if we include those who we care for in our corps and other avenues. Caring for people is a massive part of what we do.

In Matthew, Jesus' says that the second greatest commandment (after loving God) is to 'love your neighbour as yourself.'

Jesus' statement would imply the well-being of our neighbours is as important to us as our own. It means viewing and caring for people as we would care for ourselves and our family.

The first part of The Salvation Army in New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga's mission statement is 'caring for people'. This is defined as: *Caring for people: Salvationists follow the example of Jesus by identifying with the needy, standing alongside them and caring for people in all situations.*

We are well known as an organisation for how we care for others, but what about in our own lives?

What does it look like for us to care for others?

Do we know our neighbours well enough to know their needs? When we see a need, do we walk past? Are we too busy to have time to care?

EXPECTED BEHAVIOURS:

Caring for people, relational, biased to the vulnerable, meeting needs, offering a hand up.

BIBLE VERSES:

Matthew 22:39, Matthew 25:35-40

It is our Christian faith that compels us to care for others, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised in society. But it's not just a passing concern – it's compassion in action, walking alongside people in relationship and offering a hand up.

Caring for others requires intentionality and an on-going commitment and concern for a person's well-being. It also means caring for all people, especially the vulnerable and marginalised.

When Jesus was sharing about caring for those in need, He explained, '...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Caring for others should be a natural outworking of our love for God. We need to view serving and caring for others as serving God. Sometimes it's easy to leave the 'care' to the wider Army to do – but God calls us each to love and care for those around us... even when this is hard.

Let's be intentional and look for situations where we can show genuine care.

DISCUSS IT:

So what does this look like for you and what you do?

As a team:

- How are you already caring for others as a team?
- Are there situations you find it hard to care for people?
- What are some ways you could better care for each other in your team/department?

As individuals:

- Do you think we leave the 'caring' to a few/the professionals? What is one way you could better care?
- Who is one person you find it difficult to care for? How could you better show you care for them?

APPLY IT:

- As a team, what is one thing you will implement this month to help you care for others?
- As an individual, what is one way you can encourage yourself to care for others this month?





VALUE THREE: WALK THE TALK

READ IT:

The Irish evangelist Gypsy Smith once said, “There are five Gospels. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and the Christian, and some people will never read the first four.”

In other words, the message is seen before it is heard. Some people might never read the Bible or come to church, but they will all remember how we lived and interacted with them. Our actions speak louder than our words – we need to walk the talk in all we do.

The book of James is a letter written to the 12 tribes scattered amongst the nations or what we would understand as the whole church.

The author, James, encourages his readers, “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”

James portrayed a Church that was splintered by quarrels and conflicts, from those in the church that weren’t living what they believed. James encouraged them to not only listen to the word, but *do what it says*.

So what does it mean to walk to the talk?

It’s so easy to know and say the right things, but can be so much harder to actually live that out. So often we can get caught up in the moment, we quickly send that frustrated email, we make those comments about another colleague or friend, we respond to someone without thinking, we walk past obvious need or we like or post something on social media that we know we shouldn’t.

EXPECTED BEHAVIOURS:

Integrity, respect, authenticity, practice what you preach, backed up by action.

BIBLE VERSES:

James 1:22, Romans 12:1-2, Proverbs 4:23

Although we may think we are already doing a great job at walking the talk, the results of our recent staff and volunteer ‘Working Well’ survey indicate that we still have a long way to go in this area.

Walking the talk is about authenticity – living according to the teachings in the Bible, upholding Christian integrity in every area of our lives, doing what we expect of others and treating others as we would want to be treated. It allows no room for hypocrisy or duplicity.

We need to make sure our actions match our talk – that people can see what we’re about through how we live and interact with others. We need to live with integrity in all areas of our lives – making sure our actions match what we say we’re all about.

There’s a famous saying that goes, “Preach the gospel, and if necessary, use words.” There is no harm in expressing what you’re about to others, but if our actions don’t match our talk, then we damage our integrity, our movement or people’s understanding of Christianity.

Walking the talk means everything we say and do points to Jesus. It means we don’t just listen to the word or know the Word – we do what it says.

DISCUSS IT:

So what does this look like for you and what you do?

As a team:

- How well do you currently walk the talk?
- What are some areas you think you could improve in? (i.e. email responses, gossip)
- How can you encourage all people in your team to get on board with this value?

As individuals:

- What do you think others would say about you in regards to how you walk the talk?
- Is there an area you struggle with? How could you better walk the talk and live with integrity?

APPLY IT:

- As a team, what is one thing you will implement this month to help you walk the talk?
- As an individual, what is one way you can encourage yourself to walk the talk this month?





VALUE FOUR: THINK HOLISTICALLY

READ IT:

Salvation Army founder, William Booth wrote, 'You cannot warm the hearts of people with God's love if they have an empty stomach and cold feet'.

William and Catherine Booth understood what it meant to think holistically. They founded the Salvation Army based on the idea of holistic ministry and meeting all needs of all people.

They had been involved with church ministry for years but were fed up. They recognised that in addition to spiritual rebirth, the people to whom their ministry was directed needed physical, emotional and social restoration as well as material assistance.

And that's what we're still about today.

So what does it mean to think holistically?

There is a model of health in Māori culture called Te Whare Tapa Whā that emphasises the relationship between the spiritual, physical, mental/emotional and social needs of a person. The model considers each of these areas as walls of a whare or house, and that all four walls are equal, need strong foundations and need to work in balance to determine the well-being of a person.

Thinking holistically is making sure we consider the whole person in everything we do. Often it's easy to see and care for one or two areas. In a church setting, it's often easy to focus on the spiritual or social needs of someone. In a community ministries setting, it might be easy to focus on the physical or emotional needs.

EXPECTED BEHAVIOURS:

Seeing the whole person, spiritual, physical, mental/emotional, social/family.

BIBLE VERSES:

John 10:10, Matthew 9:2-8, Mark 12:30

But we need to consider and care for all areas to ensure the well-being of those around us.

The disciple John credits Jesus with saying, '*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*'

Jesus wants all people to have life to the full and we are a large part of making that happen. We are called to bring life to those around us and life in all its fullness. When one part is suffering, the whole suffers. We can't address one area and neglect another. Thinking holistically is about seeing the whole person. True life transformation is about caring for the whole person.

When we work with, interact with or journey with people - let's see and care for all sides of their whare.

DISCUSS IT:

So what does this look like for you and what you do?

As a team:

- Which of the four areas are you already good at seeing/caring for?
- What are some examples of when you didn't think holistically?
- What are some practical ways to help change your approach?

As individuals:

- Is there an area you feel you often neglect/don't care for in others? How could you improve?
- How are you doing at caring for all these areas for your own well-being? Is there an area you need to improve in?

APPLY IT:

- As a team, what is one thing you will implement this month to help you put think holistically?
- As an individual, how can you encourage yourself to think holistically about the people you meet?





VALUE FIVE: OFFER A PLACE TO BELONG

READ IT:

In a world that is becoming more individualistic and self-focussed, people need and often long to be connected.

Studies show that an increasing number of people are experiencing feelings of intense loneliness. According to the 2014 New Zealand General Social Survey, 13.9 percent of the population aged 15 years and over reported feeling lonely all, most or some of the time during the last four weeks. That's nearly 1 in every seven people you encounter.

In 1954, Abraham Maslow, an American psychologist, proposed the Hierarchy of Needs theory. His theory suggests that the most important needs for someone's well-being and development after our physiological (breathing, food, sleep) and safety (security, employment, health), are love and belonging.

Humans have a primal need to feel valued, important, safe, comfortable and welcomed by significant others in their lives. We all want to feel accepted and like we have a part to play.

So what does it mean to offer a place to belong?

The book of Acts describes what the early church looked like; they met together, they shared their possessions, they ate meals together, prayed together and did life together. Everyone had a place and a part to play – and every day, people were drawn to this model of community.

We want The Salvation Army to offer a place to belong –

EXPECTED BEHAVIOURS:

Hospitality, community, grace, acceptance, participation, contribution.

BIBLE VERSES:

Acts 2:42-47, 1 Peter 2:9, 1 Peter 4:9, Hebrews 13:2

authentic faith communities where anyone is welcomed and encouraged to participate, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or background. Authentic communities thrive on qualities such as hospitality, trust, respect, grace, acceptance, unity and humility.

We also believe that God has given us all gifts and talents to be used for the building up of His Kingdom and community, and so we would encourage people to not only belong, but also to contribute as they are able to the life, work, worship and witness of the faith community.

We want all people that come into our corps or centres to feel welcomed, to feel valued and to feel accepted. We want people to find their place and ways to serve and feel they are contributing. Do *all* people feel accepted in your community? Do *all* people know they can play a part?

Let's create an environment and encourage a culture where all people feel they have a place to belong.

DISCUSS IT:

So what does this look like for you and what you do?

As a team:

- As a team, how are you already offering a place to belong? What are some areas for improvement?
- Are there certain types of people that find it easier to belong in your setting?
- Think about your physical environment – how could you make people feel more comfortable?

As individuals:

- How do you best feel like you belong? How could you offer this to others?
- How are you contributing to the life of your corps/centre? Are there other ways you could get involved?
- How often do you invite others into your home?

APPLY IT:

- As a team, what is one thing you will implement this month to help you offer a place to belong?
- As an individual, what is one way you can better offer a place to belong to those you interact with?





VALUE SIX: DO THE RIGHT THING

READ IT:

While scouting locations, a film crew found the perfect site for an action scene—an impressive house with a large lawn. The residents loved the idea and gave their consent.

Days later, the film crew began shooting stunt cars racing all over the lawn, ripping up the grass and garden. That was when a neighbour called the owner of the house... who lived in a different city.

The scouts had asked the residents who didn't do what was best for the owners.

Sometimes we forget that everything we have is a blessing, and is gifted from and belongs to God. We should really consider ourselves more like housesitters or stewards – people asked to take care of something precious for someone else. God has entrusted us with all we have and asks us to be good stewards.

So what does it mean to do the right thing?

All our resources have been given to us by God to bring about transformation, so we look to do the right thing with our time and gifts, money and possessions, body, mind and spirit, recognising we are accountable to God. Recognising ourselves as stewards makes it easy to do the right thing.

Doing the right thing means looking for opportunities to collaborate with others where this will enhance our mission. Who could you partner with in your area?

It means being good stewards of God's creation – the natural world – and considering the effects of how you

EXPECTED BEHAVIOURS:

Accountability, stewardship, partnership, caring for the environment, reforming society.

BIBLE VERSES:

James 4:17, Genesis 2:15, Micah 6:8

operate. Are you committed to recycling?

It also means challenging evil, injustice and oppression. What issues could you address in your local community?

In the context of New Zealand, it also means honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi (The Treaty of Waitangi). What are you doing to honour this in your setting?

We have all been blessed with so much – relationships, money, health, material possessions, talent and natural resources. Doing the right thing is acknowledging we have so much, taking care of these things and using these things to bless others.

Shawn Kennedy, an American pastor, puts it this way, "The great tragedy in life is not that we didn't receive more, but rather that we didn't do more with what we have been given."

Let's look to do the right thing with everything we have and in everything we do, and allow ourselves to be accountable.

DISCUSS IT:

So what does this look like for you and what you do?

As a team:

- As a team, how are you making the most of the various resources you have?
- Are there ways you could better collaborate as a team or with those around you?
- How could you practically care for the environment in your workplace or as a team?

As individuals:

- Are you making the most of the resources you have? What is one area of your life or skillset you could utilise more?
- How could you be better accountable in your work and life?

APPLY IT:

- As a team, what is one thing you will implement this month to help you do the right thing?
- As an individual, what is one way you can encourage yourself to do the right thing?





VALUE SEVEN: SUPPORT OUR ARMY

READ IT:

The Salvation Army is at work in 128 countries. There are over 1 million soldiers at over 13 thousand corps. There are almost 1.5 million children attending Sunday school and over 26 thousand officers currently serving.

We are involved in thousands of mission and ministry outlets that serve people and meet need. From rehabilitation care and hospital facilities, to refugee work and disaster relief, and prison visits to practical care of the homeless and vulnerable families.

What an incredibly diverse and wide-spread movement we are a part of!

The Salvation Army was founded on a passion to see souls saved, while also addressing the social, physical and emotional needs of people. This holistic approach, along with our military structure and some of our beliefs and practices, made us distinctive and is what makes us distinctive today.

The Salvation Army's mission and work is something we can all be proud of!

So what does it mean to support our Army?

Supporting our Army means we are proud to be part of God's international Salvation Army, and willingly support our fellow Salvationists, both locally and around the world. We are loyal to our leaders and remain true to the international principles and practices of The Salvation Army, to win the world for Jesus.

EXPECTED BEHAVIOURS:

Unity, spirit of Salvationism, active in service, contributing internationally.

BIBLE VERSES:

John 17:2-23, Acts 1:8

Supporting our Army means talking about our movement and leaders in a way that uplifts them and shows we're proud of what we do. It means honouring and thanking people and encouraging each other. It means addressing issues, not just complaining about them.

Supporting our Army also means we're committed to what our Army is about and get involved with the mission. It means contributing both in our local setting and internationally. It also means encouraging others to find their place and ways to serve.

It also means we encourage a spirit of unity. God calls his people to be like-minded and one in spirit so we need to ensure we are working together and not against each other. We need to support our leaders and their vision. We need to invite all voices into conversations and decisions.

We are a much stronger Army when we play our part, work together and strive to be in unity with one another. Let's support our Army in how we speak, contribute and work together.

DISCUSS IT:

So what does this look like for you and what you do?

As a team:

- As a team, what are some things you can be proud of about your work and the wider Army?
- How could you better encourage and honour those in your team?
- What do you know about the other services we provide? Find out!

As individuals:

- Are there aspects of our Army you find it easy to be cynical/negative about? How could you change your attitude toward this?
- How well do you know our Army's mission? How could you get more on board with this?

APPLY IT:

- As a team, what is one thing you will implement this month to help you support our Army?
- As an individual, what is one way you can encourage yourself to support our Army?

