

# IN THE NEWS

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the conclusion of this badge members will:

- have identified and followed a current global story through various media;
- have presented a current national issue to the group;
- have written to a newspaper editor about a current local issue;
- have reported on a SAGALA or corps/church event showing their personal perspective.



## BADGE REQUIREMENTS

1. Report on the development of a current global issue.
2. Investigate and report on a current national issue to the group.
3. Write a 'Letter to the Editor' about a current local issue.
4. Report on a SAGALA or corps/church event.

11-13's may complete the requirements  
in pairs or individually.

14+ must complete the requirements  
individually.





# Teaching Ideas



## 1. Report on the development of a current global issue.

Provide members with national newspapers for the previous week. Members are to identify a global issue (not an Australian issue) in the newspapers (e.g. a war, an environmental issue, a natural disaster) and follow the story through the media (e.g. newspaper, internet, television) for the following week. Members are to prepare a presentation of their choice that describes the events for the group. Some points the presentation could include:

- location of the event;
- when it occurred;
- who was involved;
- what happened and how the issue was resolved or its current status;
- what broader significance or impact does the event have, e.g. on the country involved, on the world.

The presentation could be in the form of a newspaper article, an editorial comment, a mock television news item (either as a 'skit' or filmed), a web-blog item, a PowerPoint presentation. Reports are to be displayed or presented for the whole group. Each story should be discussed by the whole group, particularly focussing on the impact the event may have on members' lives.



## 2. Investigate and report on a current national issue to the group.

Members may choose any current issue – noting that it must be an issue, e.g. workers' strike, transportation issue, living costs, drugs in sport, rather than an event, such as a sporting event.

The report should cover content similar to that required for **Badge requirement 1** and may also be presented as creatively as members choose, e.g. television news item, newspaper article, art/poster.

Each issue should be discussed with all members, again reflecting on the potential impact the issue may have on members' lives.



## 3. Write a Letter to the 'Editor' about a current local issue.

Collect copies of the local newspaper for each pair and/or member. Help members find an important local event to write about. The event may be a positive happening (e.g. a fundraising or sporting activity) or a local concern (e.g. dumping waste or road repairs).

As a group discuss the following:

- what is good/bad about the issue;
- why should we care about the issue;
- how does the issue impact the community;
- what action could be taken.

# Teaching ideas

Pairs/individuals are to write a 'Letter to the Editor' on their chosen issue. NB It is preferred that pairs/individuals write about separate issues, rather than the whole group writing about the same issue.

To assist members, leaders should direct members to the 'letters' page in the local paper to help them understand how to write a letter to the editor. Usually 'letters to the editor' are short and to the point, stating what the issue is, what the writer thinks about the issue and what action the writer thinks should be taken. The action for a 'good news' event may simply be one of praise, encouragement and thanks.

## Game

Familiarise members with the local paper by playing a game. Have enough copies of the local paper so there is one paper for each team/or patrol. Each person in the patrol is given two pages. Having prepared questions beforehand, ask teams to find the answer on their page. The first team to show the answer in the paper gains a point. You may have to narrow the content if you have a smaller group.

Questions can be based on only the letters to the editor and be very specific. Grade the questions to the groups ability, e.g. 'Mr Brown believes the pool is dangerous because ...' or 'How many times has Miss Smith complained about the footpath?'



## 4. Report on a SAGALA or corps/church event.

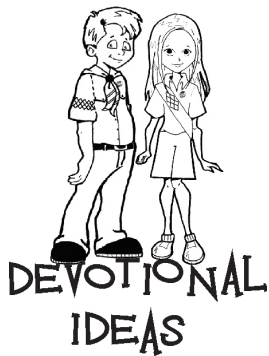
Discuss with the group recent SAGALA or corps/church events and choose one. Pairs/individuals are to report the event from their own perspective. Invite pairs/individuals to read or present their report. Afterwards, discuss the variations in the reports and what may have caused this. Discuss why it is important to have differing views.

This requirement demonstrates how we each can have different points of view. That is:

- how we observe events differently;
- how different view points can help to reveal the complete story;
- how one person's perspective isn't the only one – perspectives aren't always completely correct and are tainted by personal biases and purposes;
- to demonstrate how our differences create possibilities for discussion and acceptance of one another.

It is suggested that **Devotion 3** is used in conjunction with this badge requirement.





# Devotional ideas



## 1. Title

Jerusalem News

### Thought:

To create a headline report of a Bible story

### Bible:

Various verses (see below)

### Supplies:

Butcher's paper, marking pens, front page of a newspaper, Bibles

Members should work in small groups to create a front page news article of a Bible story.

Distribute butcher's paper, markers and Bibles to each group and display the front page of any newspaper as an example of the style groups need to produce.

Groups may choose their own Bible story or choose one from the following:

Judges 6:11 - 16 (suggested headline – Frightened boy Gideon menaces Midianites)

1 Samuel 17:23 - 26, 38 - 52 (suggested headline – Gravel gouges giant)

Daniel 6:1 - 23 (suggested headline – Dieting on Daniel)

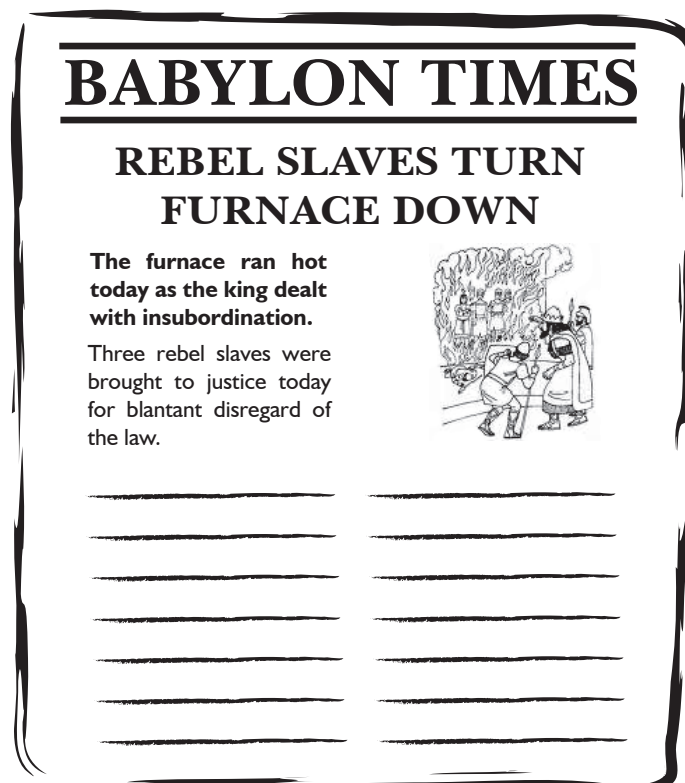
Luke 9: 10 - 17 (suggested headline – 5,000 feast on fish and focaccia)

Acts 12: 5 - 17 (suggested headline – Prison breakout!)

Members may be as creative as they like with the headline and reporting provided they only report facts from the story. The page should include at least one 'photo', i.e. a drawing.

Allow 10 -15 minutes for the activity and then ask the group to present their page to everyone.

### Sample



# Devotional ideas



## 2. Title

... And Here's the News

### Bible:

Matthew 10:1 - 4

### Thought:

Anyone can be a follower of Jesus

### Supplies:

Bibles, paper, pens

This devotion could be presented as a skit or filmed prior to parade and shown.

Members are to write a 'skit' presenting the Bible story as a television news report. Members should read the Bible story, identify the main points to be included in a three minute news item, write a script, assign parts for members to play and present the report for the group.

An 'introduction' from the 'news anchor' may be included, e.g. 'We understand there was excitement in Galilee today. We cross to <reporter's name> for the latest. <reporter's name>.'

'Thanks <anchor's name> Yes, great excitement here because...'

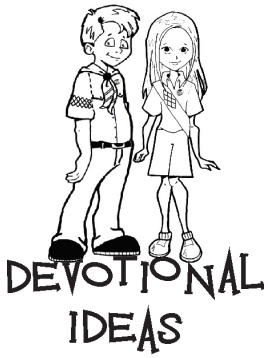
Be sure the point made in the aim above is included in the report. This could be a follow-up question from the 'anchor' to the 'reporter', e.g. 'so what's the message here <reporter's name>?' or a summary statement by the 'anchor' to finish the report, e.g. 'So <name> it seems that anyone can follow Jesus.'

Some details the reporter may like to include in the report that aren't noted in the verses:

- Matthew was a tax collector for the Roman Government. The Jewish people hated tax collectors because:
  - they thought tax collectors were traitors to Israel as they raised income for the enemy government;
  - they believed all tax collectors were thieves who increased taxes for their own profit.
- Peter was married. He had a short temper which would go off at any time.
- Peter, James, Andrew and John were business men in the fishing industry; possibly owning several boats between them.
- Peter and Andrew were brothers, as were James and John.
- Simon was a political activist and was known for stirring up trouble with the local government.
- Philip came from Bethsaida and was a practical down-to-earth person.
- Thomas was a cautious person who wanted to be sure of things before he committed to anything.
- Judas Iscariot was known as a liar.

The disciples came from various backgrounds, towns, employment. Some were married, others single; they had different skills and abilities; they had differing personality types and temperaments – some were fiery and impetuous, others were calm and reasonable; they were of varying ages and marital status.





## Devotional ideas 2 (contd.)

Whilst the twelve disciples were men – as was the custom of the day – many women also followed Jesus and they also came from many different backgrounds – some were wives and mothers, one was a prostitute, others were single; some were industrious types (like Martha) while others contemplative (like Mary).

However all found something to believe in, someone wonderful, when they met Jesus, and He called all of them to follow Him. In the same way each of us is unique – we come from different backgrounds, we have different personality types and various skills and abilities – and Jesus calls us to follow Him too.

To conclude the devotion leaders may like to use material from the last three paragraphs above.

# Devotional ideas



## 3. Title

Differences of opinion

### Bible:

2 Kings 23:1 - 3; 2 Chronicles 34:29 - 32

### Thought:

Whilst parts of the Bible tell a story from different perspectives the message is the same

### Supplies:

Bible for each member

Distribute Bibles, asking members to work in pairs.

One person in each pair reads 2 Kings 23:1 - 3 and the other 2 Chronicles 34:29 - 32.

Each member reads their assigned verses and the pair determine what has happened. They then discuss why the accounts of the same story are different. *(They are written by two people who viewed the same event from their own perspective.)*

The pair discusses what the central message of the story is. *(The message is about how God's people agreed to turn back to worship and obey Him.)*

Bring everyone together and invite members to share their responses to the discussion.

Explain how parts of the Bible tell the same story differently because different people wrote it. The same happens today when two reporters report the same event. The details they report, and the way they report, will differ from one another.

There are several reasons why this may be:

- We each view the world from our own perspective; consequently some aspects of a story will interest us and others won't. We are likely to notice, and write about, the points that interest us.
- As individuals our writing styles differ and the order that we place events probably won't coincide with someone else's style or order.
- The purpose for writing may be different: some writers may have an historical purpose and so include more details, whilst others may have a theological or spiritual purpose, including less detail and focusing more on God.

When it comes to the Bible, however its message remains consistent even when two writers report on the same event. In the two passages looked at in this devotion the message is about turning to God and obeying Him. It is a message that we need to hear today. We have turned away from God or perhaps we have simply ignored Him. He calls us to return to love, trust and obey Him.

**Pray:** Thank God for the Bible, for the many people who shared their experience of God with us through their writing. Ask God to help us discover His message as we read the Bible.

