

THE SALVOS

Learning outcomes

By completing this badge members will:

- be able to describe **key historical points** in the origins of The Salvation Army including facts about the Army's founders,
- be able to describe the structure of The Salvation Army and explain some Army terminology,
- explore The Salvation Army's spiritual mission and membership of The Salvation Army.

Badge Requirements

1. Describe the beginnings of The Salvation Army.
 - in England
 - in Australia (14+ only)
 - in your community.
- 2a Describe the Division's boundaries and the role of Divisional Headquarters. (11 - 13 only)
- 2b. Understand the basic structure of The Salvation Army internationally and territorially. (14+ only.)
3. Explain some of the work done by the corps.
4. Explain the mission of The Salvation Army and the role SAGALA plays. (14+ only.)
5. Explain what it means to be a Salvationist.
6. Explain the following and where or how they are used by The Salvation Army.
 - a. Crest
 - b. Flag
 - c. Mercy Seat

This is one of two badges about The Salvation Army. This badge looks at the origins and spiritual aspects of The Salvation Army whilst the 'A Helping Hand' badge looks at the social work of The Salvation Army.





Teaching ideas



1. Describe the beginnings of The Salvation Army.

- in England
- in Australia (14+ only)
- in your community

Copy and distribute **Leader's Resource 1** or use the information on these pages to prepare some other teaching method, e.g. PowerPoint presentation or display the information around the room for members to read and then complete **Handout 1**.

The corps history book may have information about the Army's beginnings in your community. Alternatively your Territorial Heritage Centre may have further information and may be happy to provide a speaker and/or items for display from the Army's beginnings. There may also be Army historians in neighbouring corps who would be happy, and appropriate, to speak to your group.

The group might like to role play any of the events from the Army's beginnings in England, Australia or the local community. This might require writing a script and organising props or it could be ad lib and not requiring a public performance.



2a. Describe the Division's boundaries and the role of Divisional Headquarters (11-13 only).

See **Leaders' Resource 2** for further information.

Use a map of your state to identify your Division's boundaries and locate the towns where The Salvation Army works. Discuss some of the services, e.g. Corps, social centres, Employment Plus.

Explain the composition of Divisional Headquarters, e.g. Divisional Commander, Divisional Youth Secretary, other staff. Explain that DHQ provides resources and administration support to the centres.



2b. Understand the basic structure of The Salvation Army internationally and territorially (14+ only).

See **Leaders' Resource 2** for further information.

Use a map of the world to explain that the Army is a worldwide movement with headquarters in London, England. Pinpoint London. Briefly explain the Army's military nature.

Explain that the Army world is divided into territories. Territories can encompass several countries, or large countries can include one or more territories. The Salvation Army in Australia has two territories. Identify the two borders of the two territories (Australia Southern Territory encompasses Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia, West Australia and Northern Territory; the territorial headquarters is in Melbourne. Australia Eastern Territory encompasses ACT, NSW & Queensland with territorial headquarters in Sydney). Identify the location of the two territorial headquarters.

Explain that each territory has several divisions, each with its own divisional headquarter. On a map of Australia identify the divisions in your territory and locate the divisional headquarters.

Discuss lay membership and officership – how they differ, why and how someone becomes an officer, the roles each may fulfill.

Teaching ideas



3. Explain some of the work done by the corps.

Explain the differences between lay personnel and officers and briefly describe some of the roles each fulfills.

Invite the corps officer and/or soldiers to talk with members about some of the work the corps officer and lay people do for the community and God. For example, ceremonies such as weddings, church services, welfare work, pastoral care, teaching/discipleship.

4. Explain the mission of The Salvation Army and what it means to be a salvationist (14+ only)

Discuss the three-fold mission of The Salvation Army: salvation, discipleship and social justice.

5. Explain what it means to be a salvationist

See **Leaders' Resource 2** for further information.

Explain the two types of membership: adherents and soldiership. Be sure to explain junior and senior soldiership. Show members an adherent's application form, junior soldier promise and senior soldier covenant. Ask members to identify the differences between the requirements. Be sure to explain that the basic requirement of membership is faith in Jesus Christ.

Invite two adult soldiers (perhaps a young adult and an older person) to talk about their faith and why they are Salvationists. Encourage members to ask your guests questions. The following questions could be given to members to give them an idea of the type of questions to ask.

- Why did you become a Salvationist?
- How did you become a soldier?
- What does being a Salvationist mean to you?
- Could you be a Christian without becoming a soldier? If so, then how does being a soldier help you to be a Christian?
- How do you serve God by being a soldier?
- What part of your service do you find the most rewarding and the most difficult?

Explore what Salvationists believe by providing members with access to the doctrines. The doctrines are important because they clearly state the beliefs of The Salvation Army. The doctrines are based on truths declared in the Bible and expressed through Christian tradition.

The doctrines can be found at the back of The Salvation Army Songbook, though some corps may have the doctrines displayed within the building. If the corps doesn't use songbooks the corps officer or other soldier may have a copy and allow you to photocopy the doctrines. The doctrines are also included on **Handout 3** which may be used to help members explore the Army's beliefs.

The correct answers for **Handout 3**:

- Who do Salvationists believe inspired the Bible? (*God*)
- What three roles does God have? (*Creator, Governor, Preserver*)
- Who are the three Persons of the God-head? (*Father, Son, Holy Spirit*).
- Why are they referred to as 'Persons'? (*They are living beings with personality and not 'things' or creatures.*)
- What do Salvationists believe about Jesus? (*He is fully God and fully human*)



Teaching ideas

- Doctrine 5 says that 'all men have become sinners'. What do you think this means?

Which doctrine talks about a belief that all who believe in Jesus can be holy, pure and blameless? (10)

- Salvationists believe that the righteous will live forever and be eternally happy. Which doctrine says this? (11)



6. Explain the following and where or how they are used by The Salvation Army:

See **Leaders' Resource 2** for further information.

- a. Crest and short form of crest
- b. Flag
- c. Mercy Seat

Leader's Resource 1

THE FOUNDERS

WILLIAM BOOTH



William Booth was born on April 10, 1829, in a small house in Nottingham, England. William's father died while William was still a boy and, because the family were so poor, William had to leave school to find work. He worked in a pawnbroker's shop where the pawnbroker lent money to the poor in return for a valuable item which they left at the shop (something like *Cash Converters*). For example, people would leave their best clothes (their Sunday best because they were the clothes they wore to church and on special occasions) at the pawnbrokers in exchange for a few cents, hoping they would be able to buy back their clothes before Sunday. William learned to love these people.

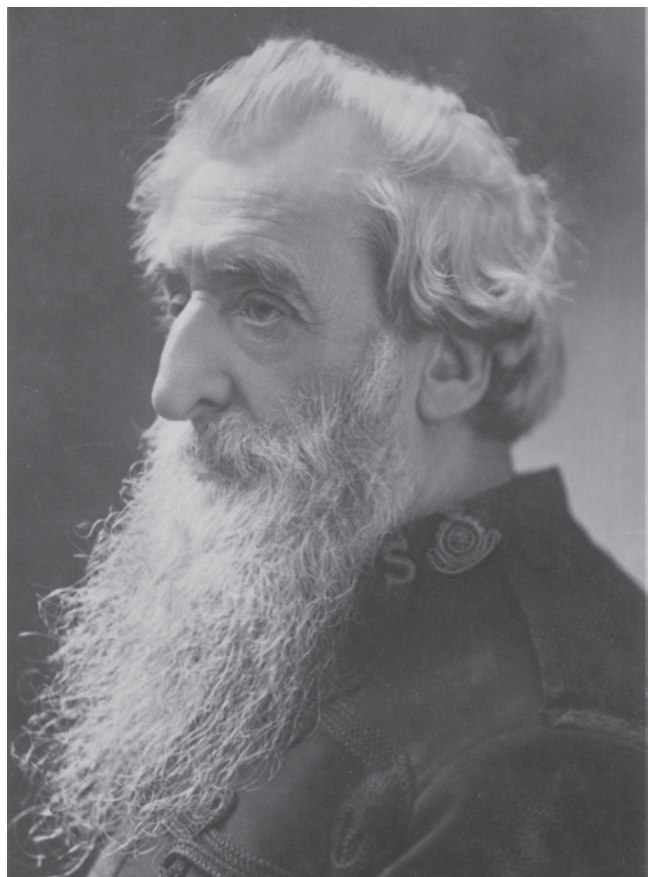
When he was fourteen William became a Christian. He went to the Wesley Chapel in Nottingham and soon began taking the poorest teenagers with him to the services. Many of these boys found Jesus for themselves.

William was determined to serve God and one night he crept into the basement of the chapel and knelt alone to pray. He offered God his whole life, determined that God would have all there was of William Booth.

With his friend Will Sansom, William began holding outdoor meetings. They borrowed a chair from one of the nearby houses to stand on so they could be easily seen and heard. They read from the Bible and told people of God's love and how Jesus died for them. Some of the people followed them back to the chapel, but William soon discovered that the poor people in their ragged clothes were not welcomed in the church.

'We only want people who are clean, tidy and well-dressed,' they said. William was disappointed by this attitude but it made him more determined, with God's help, to take the good news of Jesus to the poor.

A few years later he became a minister in the Methodist Church and great crowds came to hear him speak.



Leader's Resource 1 (contd.)

CATHERINE BOOTH



Catherine Mumford was not a healthy child. She had back problems and weak lungs and in those days the only answer to these illnesses was rest. Catherine didn't just lie in bed, she studied hard. By the time she was 12 years old she had read the Bible cover to cover eight times.

Catherine met William Booth when he came to preach at her church. They soon fell in love and became engaged. Because they weren't able to see each other regularly and telephones didn't exist, they wrote letters to each other. During three years of engagement, Catherine was a constant support to William through her letters. At last on 16 June 1855, they were married. Unlike most weddings, theirs was very simple with no great expense. They wanted to use all their time and money for God. Even on their honeymoon, William found himself asked to speak at meetings. Together they accepted this challenge of being used by God before even thinking of themselves.

Catherine believed that if men and women worked together under God's guidance they could do great things for Him. Although she believed in the equality of the sexes she didn't want a public life.

When William tried to involve her in church life the most public service she would take was to teach women who had recently become Christians.

One Sunday morning as William's church service was concluding, Catherine felt a strong urge to speak. She was very scared but thought, 'I have never been willing to make a fool of myself for Christ; now I will' – and she walked up the aisle to the front of the church. When William bent to ask her what she wanted she replied, 'I wish to speak'. Catherine told the congregation how she had known for a long time that God wanted her to speak but she had not been willing to do so. Now she was determined to obey God, no matter what it cost. People in the congregation were greatly moved by her words. Afterwards William announced that Catherine would preach at the evening service. From then on Catherine preached regularly. Often she spoke to a crowd of wealthy people in one part of the city while William led a service for the poor people in another part.

Catherine was a great help to William. When he was discouraged or depressed Catherine would encourage him; when he was busy, Catherine visited the people and when William was tired she gave him ideas for sermons.



Leader's Resource 1 (Contd.)

EAST LONDON CHRISTIAN MISSION



William wasn't satisfied with being a minister of a church; he wanted to tell the poorest people about God's love.

In June 1865 he was walking along a street in the poor part of London and saw a crowd of people in the hotels. They were drunk and very poor. He felt he had to do something for these people.

He stopped near a hotel called 'The Blind Beggar' (which still exists today). On the land opposite, called Mile End Waste, a group of Christians call the 'Gospel Missioners' were concluding a meeting. Their leaders asked whether any convert listener would like to speak. William Booth responded immediately.

His forceful words and presence grabbed people's attention and soon a crowd had gathered. William spoke about sin, God's love and salvation through Jesus in ways the people had never heard before. The language he used was the simple speech that the people used everyday. The Missioners talked about amongst themselves saying, 'This is the leader we want!'

A few days later a group of the Missioners invited William Booth to take charge of the mission and he accepted.

At first William's thought was to lead a mission and then send the converts to the churches. But he found three problems:

1. the poor people didn't want to go to the churches,
2. when they did go they were unwanted because they weren't 'respectable' enough,
3. William needed their help to tell others about Jesus.

So he began the East London Christian Mission. The mission held meetings in all sorts of places like a large tent, a dance hall and the outdoors. As the mission grew other buildings were used like an old woolshed, a carpenter's shop, a disused chapel, a stable, a shed and a room behind a pigeon shop. The hiring of Effingham Theatre helped to raise the East London Christian Mission into a position of fame and influence with the unchurched people.

During this time William was known as the General Superintendent because he was in charge. Because the mission soon spread beyond East London to Scotland and other places it became known as the Christian Mission.



Leader's Resource 1 (Contd.)

THE SALVATION ARMY

According to tradition, in 1878 William with his son Bramwell (who was second-in-charge) and George Scott Railton (another leading member of William's mission who later helped to start The Salvation Army in America) were discussing the work. William had written an article to encourage the missionaries. The heading on the article said that 'The Christian Mission is a volunteer army'. Bramwell wasn't happy with that because a volunteer soldier in the military was an amateur who played at being a soldier. "I'm a regular or nothing", he said, meaning that he was involved 100%. William thought about that, crossed out the word 'volunteer' and wrote 'salvation' in its place. So the Christian Mission became known as the Salvation Army.



The concept of an army captured people's imaginations and they soon adopted uniforms like the military, in fact anything that looked like a uniform was worn. William's title had become shortened to 'The General' and others gave themselves ranks like Captain. The Salvation Army was born and would soon spread around the world.



Leader's Resource 1 (contd.)

AUSTRALIAN BEGINNINGS



John Gore

After the meeting these two men, John Gore and Edward Saunders, met and decided to start The Salvation Army in Australia. They had no officers, no flag and no uniforms but they did have a testimony and they could sing and pray. So with a few friends they held a meeting under a gum tree in the park. They stood on the back of a cart and sang to the music of a small folding organ. There were testimonies and later John Gore said, 'If there is a man here who hasn't had a square meal today, let him come home to tea with me.' During this very first meeting they told the listeners of God's love and showed that they were prepared to do something practical to help the poor.

Later they placed an advertisement in the paper that said:

**The Salvation Army will appear at
Labour League Hall
Hindley Street
Sunday Evening
At 7.00pm
All are invited.**



Edward Saunders



Crowds came. Gore and Saunders wrote to General William Booth asking for officers to come and take charge of The Salvation Army in Australia. The General sent Captain and Mrs Sutherland, a flag and some uniforms. Sixty-eight Salvationists marched to meet their boat.

The Army grew from two to sixty-eight in a few weeks and quickly spread to other parts of the country.

Leader's Resource 2

Cut up each item and its picture and display the individual pieces around the room.

Officer – full time ministers of religion who are trained and commissioned (ordained) by The Salvation Army. Their work involves the usual duties of other church ministers or duties in social program centres or administrative work or as chaplains to places like the defence services, courts and prisons.

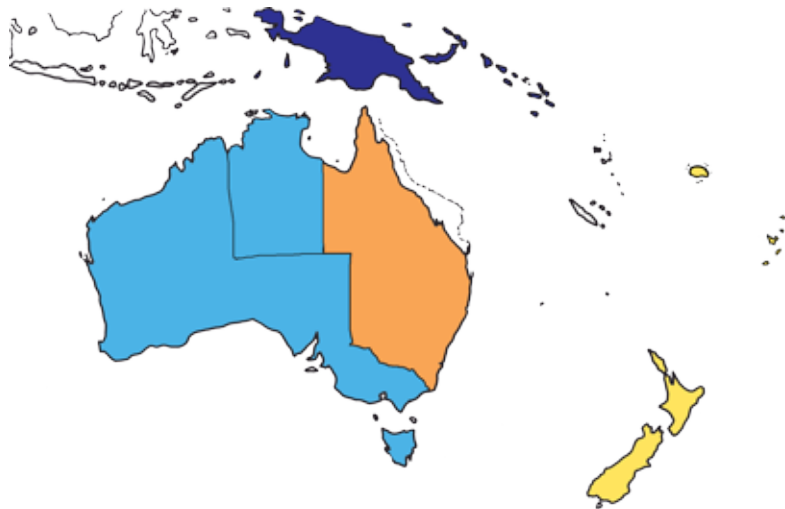


Soldier – members of The Salvation Army who sign a covenant (promise) with God. Members may be adults (senior soldiers) or young people (junior soldiers or corps cadets).



Adherent – adults or teenagers over 14 years who don't sign a covenant but who are considered members of The Salvation Army.

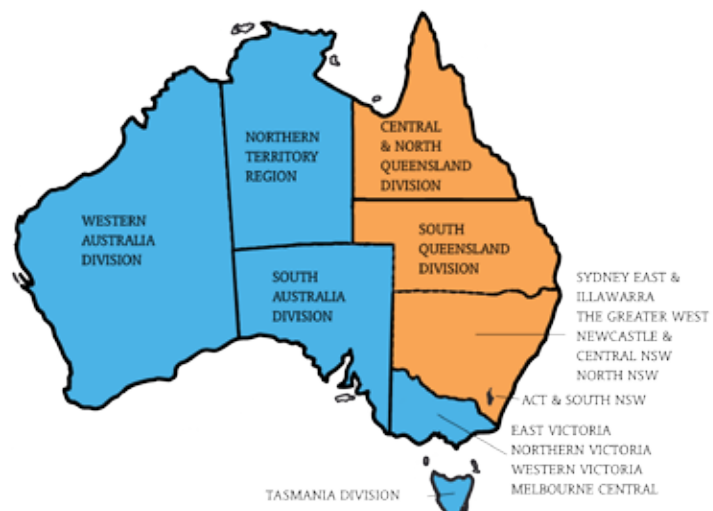
Territory – a large area that is administered by a large office (headquarters). Some territories can be a whole country, e.g. Papua New Guinea; some are made of several countries, e.g. New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga; others are part of a large country, e.g. Australia Eastern Territory covers ACT, NSW and Queensland. Australian Southern Territory covers Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Northern Territory and Tasmania.



Division – a regional area that is administered by a divisional office. The Australia Eastern Territory has seven divisions: ACT and South NSW Division, Central and North Queensland, Newcastle and Central NSW, North NSW, Sydney East and Illawarra, South Queensland, The Greater West.

The Australia Southern Territory has seven divisions and one region:

Western Victoria, Eastern Victoria, Melbourne Central, Northern Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia and Northern Territory Region.

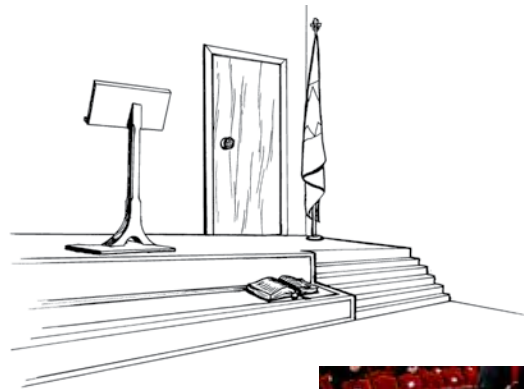


Leader's Resource 2 (contd.)

The **Mercy Seat** is mentioned in Exodus 25:17 - 22 as the place where God's presence rested in the Temple and where the priests met with God.

In The Salvation Army the Mercy Seat is a place of prayer, usually at the front of the hall.

People use the Mercy Seat to pray particularly when making important decisions, i.e., becoming a christian, enrolment as a Salvation Army soldier, or to talk with God about important issues in their lives. When people kneel at the Mercy Seat others in the meeting know they are talking with God about something important and pray for them as well.



Crest – the Army's beliefs are symbolised in the Crest. At the centre of the crest is a cross that represents the sacrifice of Jesus. The swords represent the Army's fight against sin and injustice; the 'S' stands for salvation; 'Blood and Fire' is the Army's motto and speak of Jesus and the Holy Spirit; the shots at the bottom represent the Gospel whilst the sun around the centre represents the fire of the Holy Spirit. The crown at the top reminds Salvationists of their reward when they reach Heaven. The 'simplified' version of the crest – the cross and entwined 'S' – are often seen on the top of the Salvation Army flag.

Flag – the three colours of the flag are reminders of the Army's beliefs. The blue border represents the holiness of God; the red signifies the death of Jesus; the yellow star represents the Holy Spirit and His work to make us pure. In the centre of the flag is the Army's motto, 'Blood and Fire'.



Handout 1 - Guards/Rangers

The Salvation Army's founders were _____
and _____

Where is Nottingham and what is its importance to The Salvation Army? _____

What was The Salvation Army's first name? _____

In what year was it changed? _____

Where did the founder meet the Gospel Missioners? _____

List two types of buildings where The Salvation Army held meetings in its early days? _____

In what year did The Salvation Army come to Australia? _____

What were the names of the two men who started it? _____

Where did The Salvation Army begin in Australia? _____

Write a brief report on The Salvation Army's beginnings in your town/suburb. Include some of the following information:

- the year the Army was started
- the names of those involved
- the street of place/building where the first meeting was held
- what opposition, if any, did the Army face?
- the size of the first congregation



Handout 2 - Guards/Rangers



Officer - Explain two types of work officers might do.

Soldier - What do soldiers sign to become members?

Adherent - What is the minimum age to become an adherent?

Territory - What is the name of our territory and what states does it include?

Division - Write the name of the division you are in and where the Divisional Headquarters is located.

Crest - What do each of the following represent:

- the cross _____
- the swords _____
- the sun _____
- the crown _____
- the crest _____

Flag - What do the colours of the flag represent?

- Blue _____
- Red _____
- Yellow _____

Mercy Seat - what is the Mercy Seat used for?

Red Shield - where might you see the Red Shield?

Handout 3 • Guards/Rangers

What do Salvationists believe about Jesus?

What do you think is meant by 'whosoever will may be saved'?

Who are the three Persons of the God-head? Why are they referred to as 'Persons'?

Which doctrine talks about a belief that all who believe in Jesus can be holy, pure and blameless?

Salvationists believe that the righteous will live forever and be eternally happy. Which doctrine says this?

Who do Salvationists believe inspired the Bible?

DOCTRINES OF THE SALVATION ARMY

1. **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.
2. **We believe** that there is only one God, who is infinitely perfect, the Creator, Preserver, and Governor of all things, and who is the only proper object of religious worship.
3. **We believe** that there are three persons in the Godhead-the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, undivided in essence and co-equal in power and glory.
4. **We believe** that in the person of Jesus Christ the Divine and human natures are united, so that He is truly and properly God and truly and properly man.
5. **We believe** that our first parents were created in a state of innocence, but by their disobedience they lost their purity and happiness, and that in consequence of their fall all men have become sinners, totally depraved, and as such are justly exposed to the wrath of God.
6. **We believe** that the Lord Jesus Christ has by His suffering and death made an atonement for the whole world so that whosoever will may be saved.
7. **We believe** that repentance towards God, faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and regeneration by the Holy Spirit, are necessary to salvation.
8. **We believe** that we are justified by grace through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and that he that believeth hath the witness in himself.
9. **We believe** that continuance in a state of salvation depends upon continued obedient faith in Christ.
10. **We believe** that it is the privilege of all believers to be wholly sanctified, and that their whole spirit and soul and body may be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
11. **We believe** in the immortality of the soul; in the resurrection of the body; in the general judgment at the end of the world; in the eternal happiness of the righteous; and in the endless punishment of the wicked.

Salvationists believe that to continue being saved requires that we continue to obey God. What numbered doctrine describes this?

What three roles does God have?

Doctrine 5 says that 'all men have become sinners'. What do you think this means?

Devotional ideas



- 1. Title:** God calls
Bible: Judges 6:11 - 15, 36 - 40; Exodus 3:7 - 14, 4:1, 10
Thought: God calls people to serve Him
Supplies: Bible

Focus on one of the following characters OR look at both if there is time OR assign one each to small groups to investigate.

Ask an adult or member to read Judges 6:11-15 and someone else to read Judges 6:36 - 40.

Ask members how they would describe Gideon. Direct members to think about his acknowledged limitations:- he was from the smallest family of the smallest tribe; he seemed to lack confidence – demonstrated by his repeated request for the Lord to prove He was serious about supporting Gideon.

Ask an adult or member to read Exodus 3:7 – 14 and someone else to read Exodus 4:1, 10.

Ask members to describe Moses. Direct members to identify Moses' insecurity (Exodus 3:11 'Who am I?', and Exodus 4:1 'What if they don't believe me?'), and on his inability to speak in public (Exodus 4:10).

Both Gideon and Moses believed they were not capable of being used by God. They saw only their limitations and inability. Many of God's servants also recognised their limitations. Many people like Gideon and Moses allowed God to use them when He called. William Booth was also willing to allow God to use him. In a Wesleyan Church William prayed that 'God would have all there was of William Booth.'

God has a purpose for everyone. For some that may mean a life that impacts thousands of people; for others it may mean a life that impacts a few. Both are important. God has need of people who will say 'yes' to His call and are willing to follow and serve Him regardless of their own apparent limitations.

Invite members to think how God might be calling them and what He might want them to do for Him. Encourage members to speak with adults about this. Close in prayer asking God to show everyone what is His will for their life.





Devotional ideas



2. Title:

God's Soldiers

Bible:

2 Timothy 2:4 'Soldiers on duty don't work at outside jobs. They try only to please their commanding officer' (CEV)

Thought:

To challenge members to live lives that please God

Supplies:

Bible, picture of a soldier (*see Leader's Resource 8*)

Distribute Bibles to members and read together 2 Timothy 2:4, preferably from the Contemporary English Version. Display the picture of the soldier.

Ask members to discuss what they think the verse means, or to rephrase it in their own words. It is reasonably self-evident: full-time soldiers don't have time for other work; they must submit to the orders of their commanding officer.

Is 'pleasing the commanding officer' a reasonable expectation of a full-time soldier? Why or why not?

How does this verse relate to soldiers in The Salvation Army who aren't 'full-time' and do have 'outside jobs'? [Though many Salvation Army soldiers have full-time employment usually outside of The Salvation Army they still try to please God, Who is their true commanding officer, in their workplace and in every area of their life.]

Which Guard/Ranger law best aligns with this verse?

Direct members to the first law. Hopefully they will agree that it is the closest to the verse. Repeat the first law together. Ask members to think about (but not discuss) how they would evaluate their obedience to this law. How would they rate themselves as putting God first in their life? Don't make anyone feel guilty if they haven't done as well as they might like.

Instead remind members that God is pleased when we truly seek Him and live in accordance with His will. He knows that we will fail and He is ready to forgive us. Our part is to constantly do our best to live a life pleasing to God. It isn't difficult to please God – He simply wants us to stay clear from anything that would hurt us, that would cause us to hurt or offend others, and to worship only Him.

Pray for each member, asking God to give them strength to obey Him as His soldiers.