

FIX YOUR THOUGHTS

Purpose

Each year children grow in the intellectual, emotional and spiritual understanding of what it means and what is required to be a disciple of Jesus. They should still come out the front to the Mercy Seat and pray with their Big Bud at the Renewal Day service and if they choose not to sign the card at that point let them know (and make sure their Big Bud understands) that this is ok. They can still continue to be a part of your group and let them know that they are welcome to sign the re-commitment card at any time throughout the year if they change their mind.

RENEWAL CARD

The Renewal card may be used by everyone the congregation. It contains the key verse for this service and a renewal prayer.

FOR THE PLANING DAY

YOU WILL NEED

- ❖ Bibles – CEV, NIV, NLT and Good News
- ❖ Poster paper
- ❖ Textas

❖ Dictionary

❖ Highlighters

CONNECTING IN

Read Philippians 4:8 in 3 or 4 different translations as suggested above.

As a group make a list of the words that are used to describe what we should keep/fix our minds on e.g. *CEV* – **true, pure, right, holy, friendly** and **proper**. Look the words up in a Dictionary.

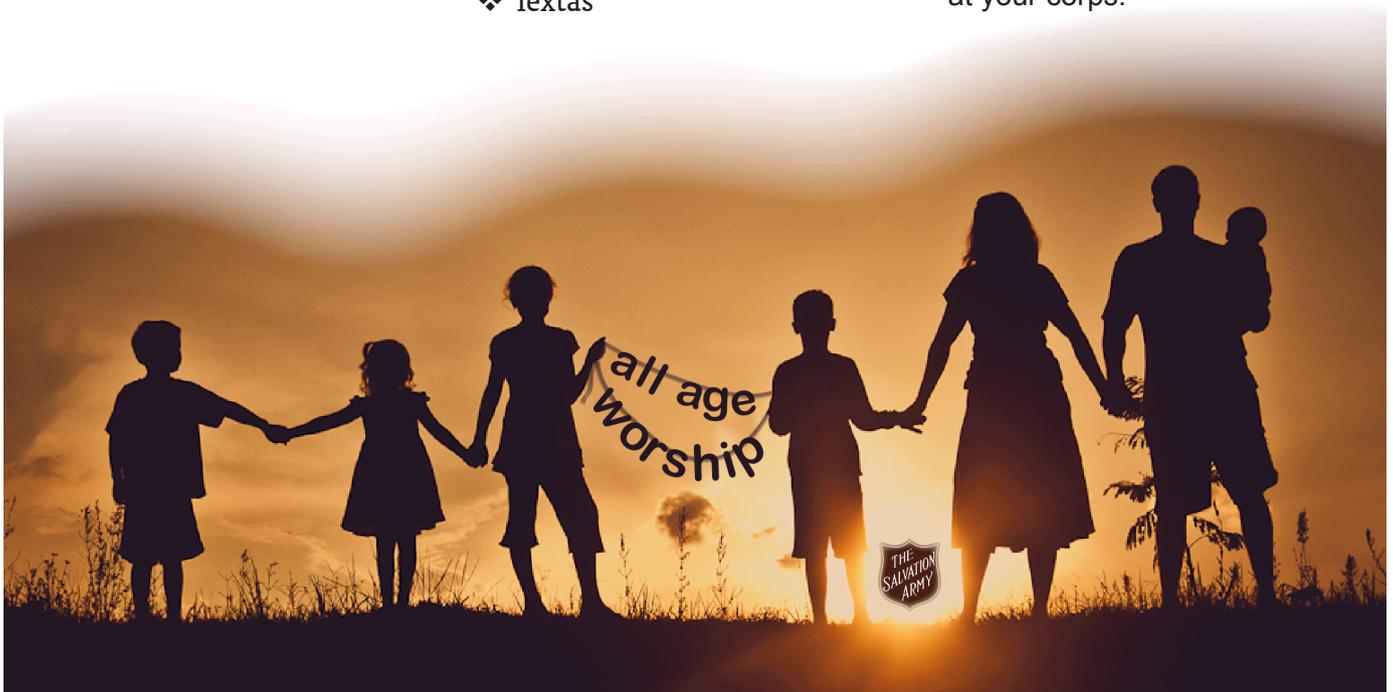
❖ Discuss/write or draw what you think these words mean. How do these words help us to live a life that is clean in thought, word and deed?

THE MAIN THING

Organising the Renewal Day Service

Decide on the options for each activity. Think about what will work best for your corps. Highlight your choice of options and the resources that correspond.

Look at the song suggestions and don't forget to talk to the person who organises music for worship at your corps.



Put together your meeting plan.

Things that you will need to include in your service:

- ❖ Welcome
- ❖ Announcements
- ❖ Worship Songs (some suggestions are included in this outline)
- ❖ Prayer (you might like to use the responsive prayer your group has written)
- ❖ An introduction of the theme
- ❖ Scripture (in this service the scripture readings are included as part of the Activities)
- ❖ Offering
- ❖ Bible Message
- ❖ Reflection/decision time/Junior Soldier renewal
- ❖ Benediction

TYING IN

Write a responsive prayer using the words on your list from Philippians 4:8.

SONG SUGGESTIONS

- ❖ Holiness (take my life) – Scott Underwood (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHeEytocJVY>)
- ❖ Holy Holy Holy – SASB (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=414dGGTedpM> or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQEKDvd59I8> or)
- ❖ Agnus Dei (Worthy is the Lamb) – Michael W Smith (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTlMRd9ubas>)
- ❖ Opentheeyesofmyheart–MichaelWSmith(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fadU7b9aa78>) or there is a version of this song on Here I am to Worship for Kids that is available on iTunes)
- ❖ You are holy; Lord there is none like you - Hillsong
- ❖ I want dear Lord a heart that's true and clean - SASB

THE RENEWAL SERVICE

INTRODUCTION / CALL TO WORSHIP

Introduce the theme, "Living a life that is clean in thought, word and deed", and explain that this is

part of the Promise that Junior Soldiers make. You might like to have the Junior Soldier Promise on a PPT slide. You might like to say the Junior Soldier Promise together.

ACTIVITY 1 Part A

Scripture Reading

Read Philippians 4:8

"Finally, my friends keep your minds on whatever is true, pure, right, holy, friendly and proper. Don't ever stop thinking about what is truly worthwhile and worthy of praise." (CEV)

Options

1. Use the CEV translation only.
 - a. Have the words printed out and put up around the room as visual reminders

OR

- b. put onto a PPT that loops (ie words keep appearing)
2. Use a number of different translations and see what words are used the most often. Have someone write each different word at the top of a sheet of poster paper (one word per sheet) then put the sheets of poster paper up around the worship space.

- a. Ask different groups to look up the different translations from whatever Bibles are in your congregation that morning

OR

- b. Bring some different translations to hand out.

"What do these words tell us about living a life that is clean in thought, word and deed? How do we know what living a life that is clean in thought, word and deed looks like? We are going to take some time this morning to explore this using the words from the Scripture reading."

ACTIVITY 1 Part B

Posters or Discussion

Options

1. Use poster paper with the words from the scripture passage as headings.
 - a. Write on post-it notes then add to poster

under the correct heading (best for large congregations)

- b. Write with texta on the paper (make sure they won't mark the wall if you have put the paper up).

“What do you understand by those words? What do they mean? How/what do you feel about those words? Think about your answers then write or draw in the appropriate space. Please help anyone who needs assistance with writing while we do this activity.”

2. Talk to (*you will need a PPT slide with the questions or sheets to hand out*)

- a. the person next to you

OR

- b. in small multi-age or family groups

“What do you understand by those words? What do they mean? How/what do you feel about those words? Talk to the person next to you or get into groups to discuss this. Try to have a mix of ages in your group.”

Read Mark 7:20-23

“Then Jesus said: What comes from your heart is what makes you unclean. Out of your heart come evil thoughts, vulgar deeds, stealing, murder, unfaithfulness in marriage, greed, meanness, deceit, indecency, envy, insults, pride, and foolishness. All of these come from your heart, and they are what make you unfit to worship God.” (CEV)

Read Luke 6:45

“Good people do good things because of the good in their hearts. Bad people do bad things because of the evil in their hearts. Your words show what is in your heart.” (CEV)

“It is important for us to keep our minds on whatever is true, pure, right, holy, friendly, and proper and never stop thinking about what is truly worthwhile and worthy of praise. That means we will not want to keep the thoughts that are not true, pure, right, holy, friendly, and proper. Sometimes it is necessary to let go of things that come into

our minds so that those thoughts do not influence what we say and what we do. We need to do this on an ongoing basis. We need to practice letting go of or getting rid of the thoughts that lead us to speak words that are not true, not pure, not friendly. We need to practice not acting on thoughts that lead us to act in ways that are not right, holy and proper. We are going to practice that this morning.

We are going to look at some statements that are praiseworthy thoughts and some that are not. We are going to turn our statements into paper balls that we can throw around so that everyone gets a variety of different statements to look at.

Each time you catch a ball of paper, open it, read it and decide if you want to keep it, drop it or bin it. Keep the praiseworthy thoughts, drop the thoughts that are not helpful to you, bin the thoughts that are damaging to you and could lead to unpraiseworthy words and deeds.

If you think you might need some help with this, or that someone else might need your help then go ahead a find a partner.”

ACTIVITY 2

Paper Scrunch – Keep it, Drop it, Bin It

(You could also do this activity with fairly small soft balls)

Options

1. Have statements and pictures on paper (see appendix A for ideas but come up with some of your own as well)
2. Have people write their own words or draw their own pictures in the meeting
3. Do a combination of the above

You will need multiples of at least 5 per person to ensure everyone has an opportunity to receive a number of different statements during this activity.

Hand out sheets of paper (and pens for options 2 & 3).

- ❖ Ask everyone to write statements that describe some praiseworthy and not so praiseworthy thoughts. (Options 1 & 3)

- ❖ Ask everyone to scrunch up their paper.
- ❖ Once the papers are scrunched up they can throw it to someone else.
- ❖ Remind everyone that there will be some non-readers who will need assistance in this activity. You might like to make sure they have a reading buddy before you start.

“We need to remember to ask God to help us, with the help of His Holy Spirit, to practice keeping our thoughts on what is true, pure, right, holy, friendly, and proper (point to each of these words around the room as you say them). The thoughts that we have affect what we say and what we do. The Holy Spirit helps us sort those thoughts before we speak or act on them. We do this so that we can check that our thoughts, our words and our actions are pleasing to God.

It’s a bit like this....”

DEMONSTRATION

(See Appendix B for instructions – if you have a large congregation you may want to set up more than one station where people can do this.)

ACTIVITY 3

Reflection | Decision Time

It would be helpful to speak to the music team and their Big Buds / Prayer Pals about the reflection prior to the meeting. This will allow them to participate in the activity before the remainder of the congregation comes forward.

“Just as we have seen the water filtered this morning when we make mistakes we ask God to forgive us and to help us.

It is always good for us to do something that helps us to remember what we have been learning so please come and pour a little of the impure water through the filter as a reminder to bring your thoughts, your words and your actions to God every day. When you have done this take a bottle of clean water. The water reminds us what God does for us. You might like to take a drink from your water bottle to signify what God has done for you.”

REFLECTION:

Give everyone else an opportunity to come forward and sign a “Fix Your Thoughts” card and pray.

BENEDICTION

Philippians 1:9-11

“I pray that your love will keep on growing and that you will fully know and understand how to make the right choices. Then you will still be pure and innocent when Christ returns. And until that day, Jesus Christ will keep you busy doing good deeds that bring glory and praise to God.” (CEV)

APPENDIX A

My annoying brother never helps with the dishes – sometimes I want to punch him.

I am loved and unique.

Someone has offended me – they apologised but I can't let it go.

I am not going to try and be friendly to that person who is nasty to me.

It's a new day and I get to start all over again.

I don't want to help clean up – maybe I can sneak off and no one will notice.

Our leaders are doing a great job – I wonder how I can encourage them.

I think I will surprise my mum with flowers – I really love her.

I can't wait to tell everyone the juicy gossip I found out.

I know my mum is super busy this week – I think I will help her out as much as I can.

I can't stand that girl who brags about having a TV in her room when I don't.

There isn't anything wrong with illegally downloading movies from the internet – it doesn't hurt anyone.

She/he's hot – she/he's not.

That kid is always on his/her own – I wonder if he/she needs a friend.

I heard someone from our church is sick – I think I will make them a get well card.

If I get up earlier I will have time to pray and read my Bible – I am going to make a plan to do that.

I think my wife/husband/housemate is looking tired this week – I will get dinner and do the dishes so he/she can have a rest.

My friend is so kind and generous to people – I am so glad he/she is my friend.

God blesses me in so many ways – I need to thank him more.

I am really hopeless – no wonder I don't have friends.

I never do anything right – no wonder I am always in trouble.

Jesus loves me.

There is nothing special about me.

I wish people would leave me alone – they are so annoying.

Today is going to be the best day.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

I love the world God created – it's so beautiful.

Also see Appendix C which contains some pictures you could use

APPENDIX B

NB Try this experiment before the day!

Things You'll Need

- ❖ 2 glasses or glass jars (one filled with water, one empty)
- ❖ Funnel (that will sit on top of the jug/jar)
- ❖ Cotton balls, enough to tightly pack the spout of your funnel
- ❖ 1 spoon or paddle pop stick
- ❖ Water
- ❖ A handful of dirt or soil

You can make a funnel for this experiment by cutting a 2 litre bottle in half crosswise. Place the top half that includes the neck and mouth of the bottle upside down inside the bottom half. The top half of the bottle should look like a funnel inserted into the bottom half of the bottle.

Instructions

1. Place cotton balls into the “spout” of the funnel, the cotton balls will filter out the soil.
2. Place the funnel into the top of the empty glass or jar.
3. Add the soil to the water and stir it in.
4. Pour the water into the top of the funnel device. The water will pass through the cotton balls, filtering out all of the soil. The clean and clear water will come out the spout into the bottom half of the glass/jar.

I can't wait to tell everyone
the juicy gossip I found
out.





Ahh!! I don't want you coming near me!!



The world is a beautiful place from this angle.



This is fun I'm glad to be able to share my things.



Why am I so sad?

This is fun I'm glad to be able to share my things.



I like to share!!





Give me a hug.



Give me a hug.



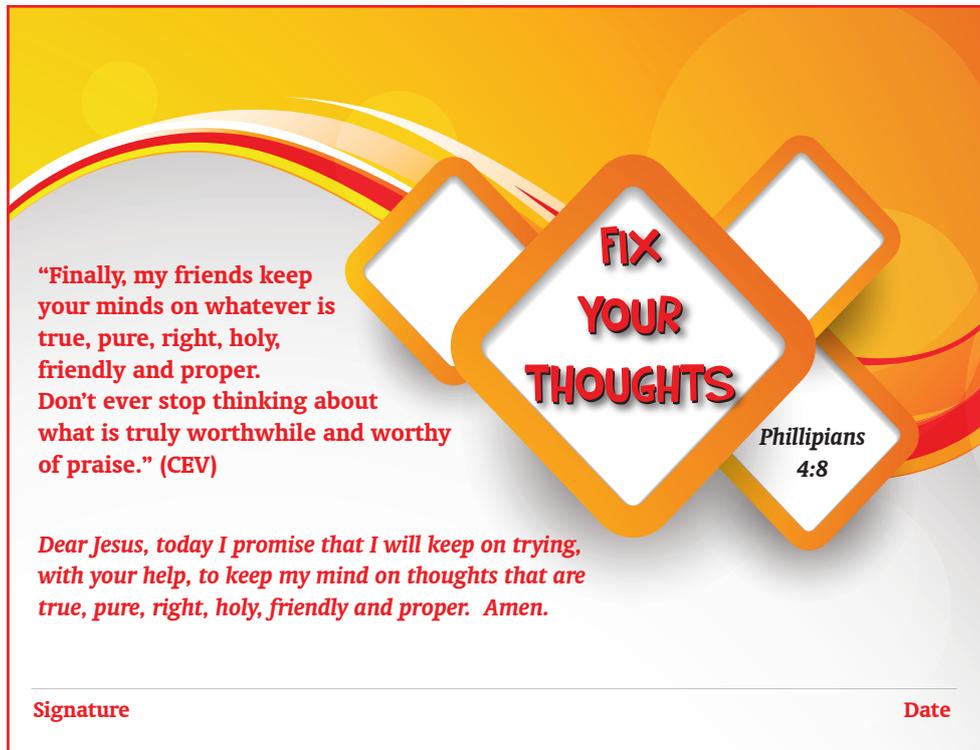
Why are you here, I thought I told you to stay away!!



I am not going to try and be friendly to that person who is nasty to me.



Please photocopy enough cards below on white cardboard for your children who are not Junior Soldiers and also for adults if you choose to use them as an All Age Worship.



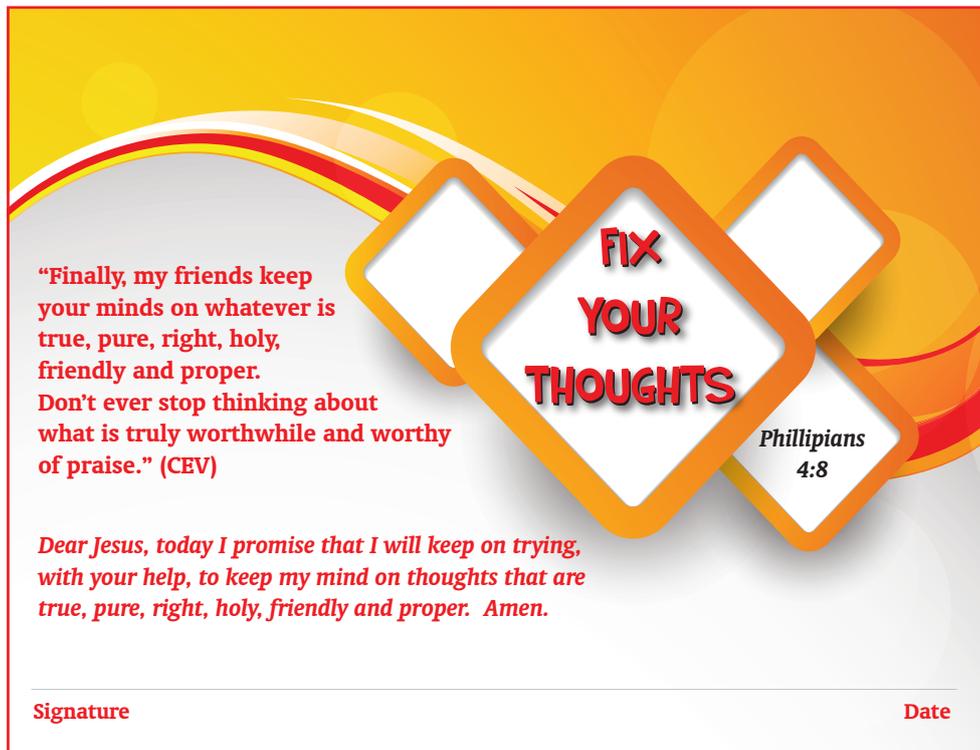
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*Phillipians
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Dear Jesus, today I promise that I will keep on trying, with your help, to keep my mind on thoughts that are true, pure, right, holy, friendly and proper. Amen.

Signature _____ Date _____



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Sample of the photo clip holder and card

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