



Unit 1

LESSON 1 – Rules, rules, rules!

For the children to explore and understand the importance of rules and guidelines, and why God has outlined some for us.

“Jesus said: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind.’ This is the first and most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like this one, and it is, ‘Love others as much as you love yourself.’” – Matt. 22:37-39 (CEV)

Ten Commandments – Part 1

LESSON 3 – The whole Holy Spirit

For the children to explore and understand how the Holy Spirit gives special gifts and abilities to all believers and how we, as Junior Soldiers, can use those gifts to strengthen our local corps and live God’s way.

“God’s Spirit makes us loving, happy, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle, and self-controlled ... God’s Spirit has given us life, and so we should follow the Spirit.” – Gal. 5:22-25 (CEV)

Spiritual gifts

LESSON 5 – Staying connected

To help the children understand that to continue to be a true follower of Jesus they need to stay connected with him.

“We believe that continuance in a state of salvation depends upon continued obedient faith in Christ.” (To keep good, we trust in Jesus to help us and we must go on doing as he wants us to do.) – Doctrine 9

Doctrine 9

LESSON 7 – Love others = love me

For the children to explore and understand the importance of loving and treating others the way they want to be treated.

“The second most important commandment is like this one. And it is, ‘Love others as much as you love yourself.’” – Matt. 22:37-39 (CEV)

Commandment 2

LESSON 9 – The armour of God

For the children to understand the different parts of God’s armour and how they can help us to stand against Satan.

“Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.” – Eph. 6:11 (NIV)

God’s armour

LESSON 2 – 10 + 1 special rules

For the children to explore and understand some of the commandments that God has set out for us.

“Jesus said: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind.’ This is the first and most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like this one, and it is, ‘Love others as much as you love yourself.’” – Matt. 22:37-39 (CEV)

Ten Commandments – Part 2

LESSON 4 – Not law but grace

For the children to come away with an understanding that they are not ruled by law but God’s grace and wonderful kindness, however, that does not mean that we just do what we like.

“Don’t let sin keep ruling your lives. You are ruled by God’s kindness and not by the law.” – Rom. 6:14-15 (CEV)

God’s grace

LESSON 6 – God is number one

To help children understand that there is only one God and that we worship only him.

“Do not worship any god except me. Do not make idols that look like anything in the sky or on Earth or in the ocean under the Earth. Don’t bow down and worship idols.” – Ex. 20:3-5 (CEV)

Commandment 1

LESSON 8 – Refugees and asylum seekers

For the children to explore the truth that all people are created equally and all are deserving of acceptance and justice.

“So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” – Gen. 1:27 (NIV)

Asylum seekers

LESSON 10 – Evangelical vision

For the children to come away with an understanding of the history of The Salvation Army’s beginnings through the evangelical vision of Catherine and William Booth.

“While women weep, as they do now, I’ll fight; while little children go hungry, as they do now, I’ll fight; while men go to prison, in and out, in and out, as they do now, I’ll fight; while there is a drunkard left, while there is a poor lost girl upon the streets, while there remains one dark soul without the light of God, I’ll fight. I’ll fight to the very end!” – William Booth

Salvation Army beginnings



Unit 2

LESSON 1 – I say, I say, I say...

For the children to explore and understand the power and impact of the tongue, the damage it can do and how God can help us to use it wisely.

"It only takes a spark, remember, to set off a forest fire. A careless or wrongly placed word out of your mouth can do that."
– Jam. 3:5 (*The Message*)

Junior Soldier promise – our words

LESSON 3 – Sharing is caring

For children to explore and understand God's views on giving and what he requires of us in relation to money, time, talents, abilities, creativity, etc.

"God loves people who love to give. God can bless you with everything you need, and you will always have more than enough to do all kinds of good things for others."
– 2 Cor. 9:7-8 (CEV)

Giving – talents, time, tithing

LESSON 5 – Inspired by God – part 1

For the children to understand that God inspired people to record the important truths about himself and that this record is guidance for them on how to live.

"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." – Doctrine 1

Doctrine 1 – part 1

LESSON 7 – Jesus the servant King: What an example

For the children to understand that to be like Jesus doesn't mean to live like a king, it means to live like a servant. This is a lesson about humility and serving.

"You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had."
– Phil. 2:5 (NLT)

Jesus washes the feet of the disciples

LESSON 9 – Whose story is it?

To help children understand that many things we associate with Christmas are not part of the Bible's story about the birth of Jesus. To consider why these things have been added and how they impact our understanding of Christmas.

"So work with fear and trembling to discover what it really means to be saved. God is working in you to make you willing and able to obey him." – Phil. 2:12-13 (CEV)

Christmas

LESSON 2 – R.E.S.P.E.C.T

For children to understand the importance of showing respect and that by showing respect in all areas of their lives they are honouring God.

"Honour your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you." – Ex. 20:12 (NLT)

Showing respect

LESSON 4 – I'm special! You're special!

To help the children understand they are special to God and that God loves it when we treat others like they are special too.

"You are the one who put me together inside my mother's body, and I praise you because of the wonderful way you created me. Everything you do is marvellous! Of this I have no doubt." – Ps. 139:13-14 (CEV)

We are special to God

LESSON 6 – Inspired by God – part 2

To help the children to understand why there is an Old and New Testament and the reasons for the different kinds of writing in the Bible.

"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." – Doctrine 1

Doctrine 1 – part 2

LESSON 8 – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

For the children to explore and understand the history and culture of Australia's Indigenous peoples and to reflect on how they can personally contribute to reconciliation and justice.

"Live in harmony by showing love for each other. Be united in what you think, as if you were only one person." – Phil. 2:2 (CEV)

Reconciliation

LESSON 10 – The Salvation Army – Identity

For children to understand that there are unique, distinctive elements to The Salvation Army's identity; things that show who we are and who we belong to.

"Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others. Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus." – 2 Tim. 2:2-3 (NLT)

Understanding The Salvation Army



Unit 3

LESSON 1 – Keeping our promise

For the children to review their Junior Soldier promise and explore what it means to them, and to identify some of the things they might find helpful in keeping their promise.

“Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do. Suppose someone falls down. Then his friend can help him up. But suppose the man who falls down doesn’t have anyone to help him up. Then feel sorry for him!”

– Ecc. 4:9-10 (NIRV)

Junior Soldier promise

LESSON 3 – Jesus = truly human

For the children to explore how Jesus was fully human and how that can help to impact our faith.

“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.” – Doctrine 4

Doctrine 4

LESSON 5 – Free to be you

For children to understand that they are unique and loved creations of God and can be confident being themselves.

“You created the deepest parts of my being. You put me together inside my mother’s body. How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well.” – Ps. 139:13-14 (NIRV)

Be happy being yourself

LESSON 7 – Talking to God

To help the Junior Soldier discover and explore prayer, focusing specifically on adoration and thanksgiving.

“Always give thanks to God the Father for everything. Give thanks to him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

– Eph. 5:20 (NIRV)

Prayer – adoration and thanksgiving

LESSON 9 – Self Denial

For the children to explore what ‘self denial’ means within The Salvation Army and how Junior Soldiers can participate and respond.

“Deny yourself some little luxury, some pleasant article of food, some ornament, some pleasure, in short, sacrifice something which, without inflicting bodily harm, will get some money, send the money thus saved into this fund, and the effort will be completed right off.” – General William Booth, 1886

Self Denial

LESSON 2 – Super-human power

To help the Junior Soldiers to explore that once they have made a choice to follow God that it is the Holy Spirit who empowers and uses them.

“If you love me, you will do as I command. Then I will ask the Father to send you the Holy Spirit who will help you and always be with you. The Spirit will show you what is true.”

– John 14:15-17 (CEV)

Holy Spirit – empowers and helps us

LESSON 4 – Jesus = truly God

For the children to explore how Jesus was divine and how God has made a way for us to be in a right relationship with him.

“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.” – Doctrine 4

Doctrine 4

LESSON 6 – What are you thinking?

For the children to understand the impact of their thoughts on who they are and to explore what sorts of things God wants us to focus on.

“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.” – Phil. 4:8 (CEV)

Junior Soldier promise – thoughts

LESSON 8 – Talking to God about myself and others

To help the children understand that they can bring their needs and the needs of others to God.

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done.”

– Phil. 4:6 (NLT)

Prayer – confession and needs

LESSON 10 – ‘An empty tomb’ – Easter

To help the children understand there is strong evidence that Jesus was dead but came back to life and to consider how we know that the story of the resurrection is true.

“I told you the most important part of the message exactly as it was told to me. That part is: Christ died for our sins, as the Scriptures say. He was buried, and three days later he was raised to life, as the Scriptures say.” – 1 Cor. 15:3-4 (CEV)

Easter – resurrection



Unit 4

LESSON 1 – Let us be...

For children to explore and understand the way that Jesus wants us to live and to consider the difference between what the world values and what God values.

“When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on the side of a mountain and sat down. Jesus’ disciples gathered around him, and he taught them.” – Matt. 5:1-2 (CEV)

Beatitudes

LESSON 3 – God loves us – just because

For the children to explore and understand that God’s grace is given to them regardless of what they do or who they are, and that – when they accept God’s free gift – others will be able to see that they belong to God.

“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.” – Doctrine 8

Doctrine 8

LESSON 5 – Actions speak louder than words

For the children to understand that what they do is sometimes more important than what they say – especially if the two don’t match up; and to learn that what they do can be seen by others. Are they doing what God wants them to be doing?

“God planned for us to do good things and to live as he has always wanted us to live. That’s why he sent Christ to make us what we are.” – Eph. 2:10 (CEV)

Junior Soldier promise – deeds

LESSON 7 – I can trust God no matter what

For children to explore and understand that through the happy and the challenging days, they have a God they can trust.

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” – Josh. 1:9 (NIV)

Trust God

LESSON 9 – Founders’ Day – 2nd July

For the children to explore how God called Catherine and William Booth to start The Salvation Army and to understand that God uses all sorts of people to be his leaders.

“God shall have all there is of William Booth.”
– General William Booth, 1844

Founders’ Day

LESSON 2 – Honouring mums

For children to explore how they might honour mums or other significant women who are a positive influence in their lives.

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord for this is right. ‘Honour your father and mother’ – which is the first commandment with a promise – ‘that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the Earth.’” – Eph. 6:1-3 (NIV)

Mother’s Day

LESSON 4 – Power to serve!

To help the children to explore and understand the events of Pentecost and that the Holy Spirit is God with us. With the Holy Spirit’s power, we are able to help and care for others.

“On the day of Pentecost all the Lord’s followers were together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from Heaven like the sound of a mighty wind!” – Acts 2:1-2 (CEV)

Pentecost

LESSON 6 – How much is enough?

For children to explore and understand that they don’t always need to have more, and that they can be content with what they have.

“Don’t fall in love with money. Be satisfied with what you have. The Lord has promised that he will not leave us or desert us.” – Heb. 13:5 (CEV)

Be happy with what you have

LESSON 8 – One body – many parts

For children to explore and understand God loves each of us and we are all important and valued.

“The body of Christ has many different parts, just as any other body does.” – 1 Cor. 12:12 (CEV)

God loves everyone

LESSON 10 – The Salvation Army – symbols

For children to explore and understand the reasons behind why we do some distinctive things in The Salvation Army.

“We’re an Army saved, by blood and fire made strong;
And with righteousness we mean to conquer wrong;
This shall be our universal battle song:
There’s salvation for the world.” – William Pearson, 1896

Mercy seat, Holiness table, sacraments, motto, salute



Unit 5

LESSON 1 – Let your light shine

For the children to explore and understand their responsibility to help others know and love God while they continue to grow as disciples.

“Let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven.” – Matt. 5:16 (NIV)

Junior Soldier promise – I will help others to follow him

LESSON 3 – The cry of my heart

For the children to explore God's heart for his children.

“Lord who rules over all, how lovely is the place where you live! I long to be in the courtyards of the Lord's temple. I deeply long to be there. My whole body cries out for the living God.”
– Ps. 84:1-2 (NIRV)

International Day of Prayer for Children

LESSON 5 – The fruit of the Spirit

For the children to explore and understand the ‘fruit of the Spirit’, with a particular focus on looking at the ‘fruit’ as a whole and not individual characteristics.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” – Gal. 5:22-23 (NET)

Fruit of the Spirit – as a whole

LESSON 7 – The Holy Spirit can help me be more like Jesus

For the children to explore and understand the practical outworking of the Holy Spirit.

“God's Spirit has given us life, and so we should follow the Spirit.” – Gal. 5:25 (CEV)

Practical working of the Holy Spirit

LESSON 9 – Standing up for others

For the children to explore and understand that, at times, God calls us to be someone who will stand up for others, support them and speak out against things that are unfair or unjust.

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice.” – Prov. 31:8-9 (NLT)

God calls us to speak for others

LESSON 2 – For everyone

For the children to explore and understand that Jesus has taken the punishment for everyone, so that whoever chooses to believe in him can and will be saved.

“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.” – Doctrine 6

Doctrine 6

LESSON 4 – Only one Church

For the children to explore and understand that as followers of Jesus we are part of a larger church body.

“Some of us are Jews, and others are Gentiles. Some of us are slaves, and others are free. But God's Spirit baptised each of us and made us part of the body of Christ. Now we each drink from that same Spirit.” – 1 Cor. 12:13 (CEV)

We are all one Church – God's

LESSON 6 – The Holy Spirit impacts who we are

For the children to explore and understand that the Holy Spirit impacts who they are by producing fruit in them.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” – Gal. 5:22-23 (NET)

Fruit of the Spirit – Holy Spirit

LESSON 8 – Special project week

The purpose of this lesson is to provide time and space to work on a group project or other parts of the award passports.

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind.”
– Matt. 22:37 (CEV)

Projects

LESSON 10 – Father of Compassion

For the children to explore and understand that God is a Father of Compassion and that his love is evident through his interactions with humanity throughout history.

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honour your father and mother’ – which is the first commandment with a promise – ‘that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the Earth.’” – Eph. 6:1-3 (NIV)

Father's Day

Unit 6



LESSON 1 – Faith

For the children to discuss faith and to explore what faith looks like in relation to the story of Abraham.

“Faith makes us sure of what we hope for and gives us proof of what we cannot see.” – Heb. 11:1 (CEV)

Abraham's faith

LESSON 3 – The injustice of poverty

For children to explore and understand that poverty exists in the world, but it is not part of God's plan; God requires his people to act justly, love mercy and humbly obey him.

“See that justice is done, let mercy be your first concern, and humbly obey your God.” – Mic. 6:8 (CEV)

How can we respond to poverty?

LESSON 5 – All messed up

For the children to explore and understand that the choices of humans, from the beginning of time, impact our world and relationships today.

“We believe that we were created in the image of God to live in harmony with God and creation, a state which was broken by disobedience and sin and, as a result, we live under the compulsion of sin, separated from God and unable to save ourselves.” – Doctrine 5

Doctrine 5

LESSON 7 – Who has God created me to be?

For the children to explore and understand that God has made each of them in a specific way and they should use all they have to worship and serve him.

“I cannot go in these,” he said to Saul, ‘because I am not used to them.’ So he took them off. Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.” – 1 Sam. 17:39b-40 (NIV)

David and Goliath

LESSON 9 – Never too small or young!

For the children to explore and understand that they are important and of value to God and his work in the world now – not just in the future. They don't have to be an adult to do great things for God.

“Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.” – 1 Tim 4:12 (NIV)

Children can do God's work

LESSON 2 – Let's go on a prayer walk

For the children to explore and identify the needs of their local community. To participate in the experience of interactive prayer for their community.

“First of all, I ask you to pray for everyone. Ask God to help and bless them all and tell God how thankful you are for each of them.” – 1 Tim. 2:1 (CEV)

Prayer – for our community

LESSON 4 – The global Salvation Army

For the children to explore and understand the role of The Salvation Army in sharing the love of Jesus with people around the world.

“God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die.” – John 3:16 (CEV)

How does The Salvation Army share the love of Jesus?

LESSON 6 – Stay hooked on God

For the children to explore and understand how they can remain focussed on God and avoid things that may harm them.

“Don't be like the people of this world, but let God change the way you think. Then you will know how to do everything that is good and pleasing to him.” – Rom. 12:2 (CEV)

Junior Soldier promise – protecting ourselves from harm

LESSON 8 – With God I can do it

For the children to explore and understand that God has made each of them in a specific way and they should use all they have to worship and serve him. God has made you able to do his work, and you should do it.

“David answered Goliath: ‘You've come out to fight me with a sword and a spear and a dagger. But I've come out to fight you in the name of the Lord All-Powerful.’” – 1 Sam. 17:45 (CEV)

David and Goliath

LESSON 10 – All welcome at the stable

For the children to explore and understand that with the birth of Jesus, God demonstrated that he values everyone and welcomes all into his family as his children.

“Think how much the Father loves us. He loves us so much that he lets us be called his children, as we truly are.” – 1 John 3:1 (CEV)

Christmas – everyone is welcome in God's family

Unit 7



LESSON 1 – You can't stop God from loving you

For the children to explore and understand that nothing can ever separate them from God's love.

"I am sure that nothing can separate us from God's love – not life or death, not angels or spirits, not the present or the future, and not powers above or powers below. Nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord." – Rom. 8:38-39 (CEV)

God will always love us

LESSON 3 – Salvation

For children to understand and explore the importance of being truly sorry and believing that God will forgive them as a necessary part of salvation.

"But if we confess our sins to God, he can always be trusted to forgive us and take our sins away." – 1 John 1:9 (CEV)

"We believe that repentance towards God, faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and regeneration by the Holy Spirit, are necessary to salvation." – Doctrine 7

Doctrine 7 – Part 1

LESSON 5 – The perfect match

For the children to explore and understand that The Salvation Army has a rich heritage of meeting people's physical needs as well as their spiritual needs and tackling social justice issues head-on. This lesson is to celebrate past achievements, specifically the impact the Army had on the match-making industry in Victorian England.

"Don't be jealous or proud, but be humble and consider others more important than yourselves. Care about them as much as you care about yourselves." – Phil. 2:3-4 (CEV)

The Salvation Army – physical and spiritual needs

LESSON 7 – Prayer is important

For the children to understand that praying is an important part of being a follower of Jesus, and to explore a little about what prayer is and how we communicate with God.

"Pray at all times and on every occasion in the power of the Holy Spirit. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all Christians everywhere." – Eph. 6:18 (NLT)

Prayer – what it is and how we communicate with God

LESSON 9 – Sacrifice

For the children to understand what the season of Lent is all about, as they explore why and how followers of Jesus participate in Lent.

"Dear friends, God is good. So, I beg of you to offer your bodies to him as a living sacrifice, pure and pleading. That's the most sensible way to serve God." – Rom. 12:1 (CEV)

Lent

LESSON 2 – You're the one God needs for the job

For the children to explore and understand that God might ask us to do things we don't want to do, but – with his help – we can do it.

"Christ gives me the strength to face anything." – Phil. 4:13 (CEV)

Jonah

LESSON 4 – Salvation

For the children to understand and explore how the Holy Spirit can change how we live and who we are.

"People who are ruled by their desires think only of themselves. Everyone who is ruled by the Holy Spirit thinks about spiritual things." – Rom. 8:5 (CEV)

We believe that to be saved we must be sorry for doing wrong and trust in Jesus, then the Holy Spirit will make us new people. – Doctrine 7

Doctrine 7 – Part 2

LESSON 6 – It's just not fair!

For the children to explore and understand that some children in our world are not treated fairly and we can have a positive impact on seeing them receive fair treatment.

"Whenever you possibly can, do good to those who need it." – Prov. 3:27 (GNT)

We can help children to get fair treatment

LESSON 8 – The Bible: a letter from God

For the children to understand that reading, exploring and engaging with God's Word is an important part of being a follower of Jesus.

"Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path. I've promised it once, and I'll promise it again: I will obey your righteous regulations." – Ps. 119:105-106 (NLT)

Engaging with God's Word

LESSON 10 – Rescue!

For the children to explore and understand that Jesus is able to rescue us from the consequences of the bad choices that we make.

"God rescued us from the dark power of Satan and brought us into the kingdom of his dear Son, who forgives our sins and sets us free." – Col. 1:13-14 (CEV)

Easter – Jesus rescues us from the bad choices we make



Unit 8

LESSON 1 – I choose

For the children to explore and understand the choice they make to ask God for forgiveness and follow him.

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me." – Rev. 3:20 (NIV)

Junior Soldier promise – I have asked him

LESSON 3 – Living out the Lord's Prayer

For the children to explore and understand the prayer that Jesus gave us and how each section can impact what we think, say and do.

"This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name." – Matt. 6:9 (NIV)

The Lord's Prayer

LESSON 2 – Pray like Jesus

For the children to explore and understand the prayer that Jesus gave us and how each section impacts how we pray.

"When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on the side of a mountain and sat down. Jesus' disciples gathered around him, and he taught them." – Matt. 5:1-2 (CEV)

The Lord's Prayer

LESSON 4 – Courageous mums!

For the children to recognise and appreciate what the significant women in their lives have done to support and encourage them.

"The Lord gave me just what I asked for. Now I am giving him to the Lord, and he will be the Lord's servant for as long as he lives." – 1 Sam. 1:27-28 (CEV)

Mother's Day – appreciating significant women

LESSON 5 – Living green

For the children to explore and understand that we are blessed to live in God's beautiful creation. He has given us care over it and we have a responsibility to look after all that he has provided.

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the Earth." – Gen. 1:1 (CEV)

God's wonderful creation

LESSON 6 – Special project week

The purpose of this lesson is to provide you with some time and space to work on a group project or other parts of the award passports.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind." – Matt. 22:37 (CEV)

Projects week

LESSON 7 – Prodigal son

For the children to explore and understand God's grace and unconditional love for us.

"His father replied, 'My son you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we should be glad and celebrate! Your brother was dead, but he is now alive. He was lost and has now been found.'" – Luke 15:31-32 (CEV)

Prodigal son

LESSON 8 – Lost everything

For the children to explore and understand that we are born and live separated from God until we choose to enter into right relationship with God, and this is worth celebrating.

"Jesus said, 'In the same way, there is more happiness in Heaven because of one sinner who turns to God than over 99 good people who don't need to.'" – Luke 15:7 (CEV)

Prodigal son

LESSON 9 – An invitation to begin

For the children to explore and understand The Salvation Army's heritage of practical Christianity and to know that because of our love for God, we should invite others to share what we have.

"No one gets a blessing if they have cold feet and nobody ever got saved while they had a toothache." – William Booth

Salvation Army – heritage of practical Christianity

LESSON 10 – All are equal

For the children to explore and understand that the Holy Spirit, God the Father and Jesus the Son are equally important in the Trinity.

"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." – Doctrine 3

Doctrine 3 – the Trinity

Unit 9



LESSON 1 – Matching words with hearts

For the children to explore, understand and demonstrate that they can examine their hearts and then match their prayers with the real state of their hearts.

“The Lord sneers at those who sneer at him, but he is kind to everyone who is humble.” – Prov. 3:34 (CEV)

The parable of the pharisee and tax collector

LESSON 3 – Worship only one

For the children to explore and understand that God is the only person/object that we worship.

“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.” – Doctrine 2

Doctrine 2 – part 1

LESSON 5 – Following instructions

For the children to explore and understand how they might honour their dads or other significant men who have a positive influence in their lives.

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord for this is right.” – Eph. 6:1 (NIV)

Father’s Day – honouring dads

LESSON 7 – Generosity

For the children to explore and understand why it is important for us to be generous and how our attitude to being generous is important.

“Each of you has been blessed with one of God’s many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others. So use your gift well.” – 1 Pet. 4:10 (CEV)

Generous attitudes

LESSON 9 – Fiery furnace

For the children to explore and understand that if we stand for what is right, others are able to see God.

“My dear friends, stand firm and don’t be shaken. Always keep busy working for the Lord. You know that everything you do for him is worthwhile.” – 1 Cor. 15:58 (CEV)

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

LESSON 2 – I will be his loving and obedient child

For the children to explore and understand the decision they have made to love and obey Jesus.

“Love means that we do what God tells us. And from the beginning, he told you to love him.” – 2 John 1:69 (CEV)

Junior Soldier promise – loving and obedient child

LESSON 4 – Always involved

For the children to explore and understand that God is still involved in, and in charge over all, creation.

“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.” – Doctrine 2

Doctrine 2 – part 2

LESSON 6 – Working in The Salvation Army

For the children to explore and understand the variety of ways that people serve within The Salvation Army.

“Our people should learn to spend their time doing something useful and worthwhile.” – Tit 3:14 (CEV)

The Salvation Army – ways to serve

LESSON 8 – Sanitation

For the children to explore and understand that access to clean water is a significant problem around the world and that there are many ways we can help.

“Set up a place outside the camp to be used as a toilet area. And make sure that you have a small shovel in your equipment. When you go out to the toilet area, use the shovel to dig a hole. Then, after you relieve yourself, bury the waste in the hole. You must keep your camp clean of filthy and disgusting things.” – Deut. 23:12-14 (CEV)

Social justice – clean water and facilities for all

LESSON 10 – Standing strong

For the children to explore and understand that it is important to stand strong for what is right, even when it is not popular.

“I’ve commanded you to be brave and strong, haven’t I? Don’t be alarmed or terrified, because the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” – Josh. 1:9 (CEB)

Daniel and the lion’s den

Unit 10



LESSON 1 – Heavenly treasures

For the children to explore and understand why it is important to focus our time and energy on our relationship with God, rather than on things, items or objects.

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
– Matt. 6:21 (NIV)

Parable of the rich fool

LESSON 3 – Being trustworthy

For the children to explore and understand what it means to be people of ‘integrity’ – showing goodness, honesty and being true.

“Pray for us. Our consciences are clear, and we always try to live right.” – Heb. 13:18 (CEV)

Being trustworthy

LESSON 5 – Part of the conversation!

For the children to explore and understand how they might recognise an opportunity to introduce God into a conversation.

“He went to the Jewish meeting place to speak to the Jews and to anyone who worshipped with them. Day after day he also spoke to everyone he met in the market.” – Acts 17:17 (CEV)

Mars Hill

LESSON 7 – What is perfect?

For the children to explore and understand that, with the help of the Holy Spirit, they can experience holiness.

“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.”
– Doctrine 10

Doctrine 10

LESSON 9 – A gift

To help the children explore and understand that there are many prophecies in the Bible that show God planned to send Jesus to be with us and make things right between us and God.

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” – Is. 9:6 (NIV)

Christmas – prophecies

LESSON 2 – Living with sadness and disappointment

To help children understand that life is not always going to be easy, but when hard times, sadness and struggles come, God promises to always be with us.

“You are with me, and your shepherd’s rod makes me feel safe.”
– Ps. 23:4 (CEV)

God is with us through everything

LESSON 4 – Homelessness

For the children to explore and understand that there are people who don’t have a place to live, and how God wants us to respond to this.

“When I was hungry, you gave me something to eat, and when I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink. When I was a stranger, you welcomed me, and when I was naked, you gave me clothes to wear.” – Matt. 25:35-36 (CEV)

Homelessness

LESSON 6 – Creative prayer stations

For the children to explore, understand and experience some different ways they can pray and what they might pray for.

“Don’t be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks.” – Phil. 4:6-7 (CEB)

Creative ways to pray

LESSON 8 – Whom shall I fear?

For the children to explore and understand that they can trust God to help them face their fears.

“The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?”
– Ps. 27:1 (NIV)

Halloween

LESSON 10 – Social expressions

For the children to explore and understand social work in The Salvation Army.

“Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.” – Jam. 2:15-17 (NIV)

Faith in action

Unit 11



LESSON 1 – Living healthy

For the children to explore and understand that how they look after themselves physically, emotionally and relationally is important to God.

“God paid a great price for you. So use your body to honour God.” – 1 Cor. 6:20 (CEV)

Why should we be healthy?

LESSON 2 – Including others

For the children to explore and understand that we all seek to belong; and to reflect on how they show love, inclusion and acceptance for others.

“When others are happy, be happy with them, and when they are sad, be sad. Be friendly with everyone. Don’t be proud and feel that you are smarter than others. Make friends with ordinary people. Don’t mistreat someone who has mistreated you. But try to earn the respect of others, and do your best to live at peace with everyone.” – Rom. 12:15-18 (CEV)

Jemima’s Lullaby

LESSON 3 – The Young Soldier

For the children to explore and understand that programs and resources for children have been included since the early days of The Salvation Army.

“And then he told them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.’” – Mark 16:15 (NLT)

The Young Soldier – publications

LESSON 4 – Let’s celebrate

For the children to explore and understand that we can celebrate because Jesus defeated and established himself as the ruler of the world.

“Suddenly Jesus met them and greeted them. They went near him, held on to his feet, and worshiped him.” – Matt. 28:9 (CEV)

Easter – a time of celebration

LESSON 5 – How do you know prayers are answered?

For the children to explore and understand that God always hears and listens to us when we pray.

“We are certain that God will hear our prayers when we ask for what pleases him.” – 1 John 5:14 (CEV)

Prayer

LESSON 6 – The Generals

For the children to explore and understand how God has used key people in The Salvation Army; this lesson will focus specifically on the importance of the role of the General of The Salvation Army.

“The Lord doesn’t see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” – 1 Sam. 16:7 (NLT)

The role of the General

LESSON 7 – Parable of the talents

For the children to explore and understand that God asks us to be faithful and true in how we use the talents, gifts, relationships and opportunities he gives us.

“Each of you has been blessed with one of God’s many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others. So use your gifts well!” – 1 Pet. 4:10 (CEV)

Using our gifts

LESSON 8 – Bibles for all

To help the children explore and understand that not everyone in the world has easy access to God’s Word, the Bible, and how they might be able to help with this.

“He said to them, ‘Go everywhere in the world. Tell the Good News to everyone.’” – Mark 16:15 (ERV)

Sharing the Bible

LESSON 9 – Anzac Day

For the children to explore and understand the link between the sacrifice made by the Anzacs for our bodies and the sacrifice Jesus Christ made for our souls.

“Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” – John 15:13 (BSB)

Sacrifice

LESSON 10 – Sheep and goats

For the children to explore and understand that this is God’s creation and there are rules in place for how we are to live, what is right and what is wrong.

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘My father has blessed you! Come and receive the kingdom that was prepared for you before the world was created.’” – Matt. 25:34 (CEV)

Doctrine 11

Unit 12



LESSON 1 – Psalms as prayers

For the children to explore different types of psalms and understand how they might be able to use them to express themselves to God.

"I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart, I will glorify your name forever." – Ps. 86:12 (NIV)

Prayer

LESSON 2 – Doubting Thomas

For the children to explore and understand that it is normal and okay to have doubts, even doubts about Jesus and what we believe about him.

"Jesus said, 'Thomas, do you have faith because you have seen me? The people who have faith in me without seeing me are the ones who are really blessed!'" – John 20:29 (CEV)

Growing in faith

LESSON 3 – The red shield and me

To help the children explore and understand the red shield and the Red Shield Appeal. The lesson also encourages the children to be actively involved in acts of service to those in need.

"What good is it to say this, unless you do something to help? Faith that doesn't lead us to do good deeds is all alone and dead!" – Jam. 2:16-17 (CEV)

Helping others

LESSON 4 – Through the eyes of a child

For the children to explore and understand that each of us will see and experience God differently and the importance of sharing our stories.

"You must be very careful not to forget the things you have seen God do for you. Keep reminding yourselves, and tell your children and grandchildren as well." – Deut. 4:9 (CEV)

International Day of Children and Youth

LESSON 5 – Parable of the seeds and soils

For the children to explore how they can hear and understand the message of God then, keep it in their heart, live it out and share it with others.

"The seeds that fell on good ground are the people who hear and welcome the message. They produce thirty or sixty or even a hundred times as much as was planted." – Mark 4:20 (CEV)

Sharing the Good News

LESSON 6 – How do we glorify God?

For the children to explore and understand the various ways they can glorify God by what they think, say and do.

"I give thanks to you, my Lord, my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify your name forever." – Ps. 86:12 (ESV)

Living for God

LESSON 7 – Inclusive children

For the children to explore and understand God's heart for those who are often left out, and to think about how we can include these people in our life and in the life of the church.

"You must not give the best seat to the one in fancy clothes and tell the one who is poor to stand at the side or sit on the floor." – Jam. 2:3 (CEV)

Inclusion

LESSON 8 – Thanks party

For the children to explore and understand that giving thanks is not something you only do once but is an ongoing attitude put into action.

"Whatever happens, keep thanking God because of Jesus Christ. This is what God wants you to do." – 1 Thes. 5:18 (CEV)

Gratitude

LESSON 9 – Endurance

For the children to explore and understand that God will help us persevere when things get tough and we feel like giving up.

"Don't get tired of helping others. You will be rewarded when the time is right, if you don't give up." – Gal. 6:9 (CEV)

Persistent faith

LESSON 10 – Who is God?

For the children to explore and understand some of the characteristics and attributes of God.

"The Lord is the greatest God, king over all other gods. He holds the deepest part of the Earth in his hands, and the mountain peaks also belong to him. The ocean is the Lord's because he made it, and with his own hands he formed the dry land." – Ps. 95:3-5 (CEV)

Understanding the character of God

Unit 13



LESSON 1 – Reading the Bible

To give the children an opportunity to explore and understand how all the pieces of the Bible fit together to form the 'Big Picture'.

"Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes." – Eph. 1:4 (NLT)

Using and understanding the Bible

LESSON 2 – I have a purpose

For the children to explore and understand that they have a purpose in life and that God has a thoughtfully and carefully designed plan for them.

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." – Eph. 2:10 (NLT)

Finding purpose

LESSON 3 – Conflict resolution

For the children to explore and understand safe and healthy ways to resolve conflict.

"Losing your temper causes a lot of trouble, but staying calm settles arguments." – Prov. 15:18 (CEV)

Practical strategies for conflict resolution

LESSON 4 – Who is the greatest

For the children to explore and understand that greatness in the Kingdom of Heaven is not found in power or popularity but in humility.

"If you put yourself above others, you will be put down. But if you humble yourself, you will be honoured." – Luke 14:11 (CEV)

Valuing others and self

LESSON 5 – Understanding different religions

To acknowledge that there are people of many faiths living in our community; to gain a brief understanding of the key similarities and differences; and to consider how we can best respond as disciples of Jesus.

"Jesus told him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.'" – John 14:6 (NLT)

Diversity

LESSON 6 – Living with courage

For the children to explore and understand how we can live with courage in our everyday lives as well as in the big, scary moments.

"This is my command – be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." – Josh. 1:9 (NLT)

Speaking up for self and others

LESSON 7 – Listening to music

For the children to explore music as a way of connecting with God and expressing emotions, and to understand how the music we listen to can impact our mood, thoughts and beliefs.

"When you meet together, sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, as you praise the Lord with all your heart." – Eph. 5:19 (CEV)

Connecting with God through music

LESSON 8 – Caring for people

For the children to explore and understand why The Salvation Army is dedicated to caring for people and how this is expressed.

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." – John 15:12 (NIV)

The Salvation Army mission statement

LESSON 9 – Palm Sunday

For the children to explore and understand what happened on Palm Sunday and why it is significant.

"Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hail to the King of Israel!" – John 12:13b (NLT)

God's big story

LESSON 10 – Tenebrae

For the children to explore and understand the sorrow and triumph of Easter through engaging in a Tenebrae service.

"I have come as a light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer remain in the dark." – John 12:46 (NLT)

Easter

Unit 14



LESSON 1 – Creative engagement with the Word

For the children to explore and experience creative ways to engage with the Bible.

“What God has said isn’t only alive and active! It is sharper than any double-edged sword. His word can cut through our spirits and souls and through our joints and marrow, until it discovers the desires and thoughts of our hearts.” – Heb. 4:12 (CEV)

Using learning styles to connect with the Bible

LESSON 3 – Creating faith pathways

For the children to explore how they progress along their faith pathway as they grow closer to Jesus and understand how they can help to engage their friends and families in faith pathways.

“I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow.” – 1 Cor. 3:6 (NLT)

The Salvation Army mission statement

LESSON 5 – Christian mentoring

For the children to explore and understand what Christian mentoring is, why it is important and how they could mentor others.

“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”
– 1 Cor. 11:1 (ICB)

Learning and leading

LESSON 7 – Listening to God

For the children to understand that they can discern God’s voice more easily by spending time with him.

“The Lord is our God, and we are his people, the sheep he takes care of in his own pasture. Listen to God’s voice today!”
– Ps. 95:7 (CEV)

Taking time for God

LESSON 9 – When disaster strikes

For the children to explore and understand that God is with us in every situation including a natural disaster and to explore the role of The Salvation Army when responding to a natural disaster.

“God is our shelter and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. So, we will not be afraid, even if the earth is shaken and mountains fall into the ocean depths; even if the seas roar and rage and the hills are shaken by the violence.”
– Ps. 46:1-3 (GNT)

Confidence and courage in God

LESSON 2 – The heart of forgiveness

For the children to understand that God requires us to forgive those who have hurt us and for the children to explore and understand the truth that God will forgive our wrongdoings.

“But if we confess our sins, he will forgive our sins. We can trust God. He does what is right. He will make us clean from all the wrongs we have done.” – 1 John 1:9 (ICB)

Forgiven and forgiving

LESSON 4 – The influence of friends

For the children to explore and understand the effect of both positive and negative influences on their behaviour and responses.

“Don’t be like the people of this world, but let God change the way you think. Then you will know how to do everything that is good and pleasing to him.” – Rom. 12:2 (CEV)

Peer pressure and accountability

LESSON 6 – I want more!

For the children to explore and understand how much is enough and what to do with excess.

“Don’t be greedy! Owning a lot of things won’t make your life safe.” – Luke 12:15b (CEV)

Generosity

LESSON 8 – Praying in colour

For the children to explore how they can use colour to focus their thoughts and pray, and to understand how they can build praying in colour into their daily activities and schedules.

“You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world.” – Matt. 5:14 (*The Message*)

Practical exploration

LESSON 10 – Beginnings

For the children to explore the beginning of the world through the story of its creation and understand that God continues to give us new beginnings when we need to make a new start.

“Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new.” – 2 Cor. 5:17 (CEV)

Fresh start



Unit 15

LESSON 1 – Never alone

For the children to explore and understand that God is always with us even when we feel alone.

“This is my command – be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” – Josh. 1:9 (NLT)

Presence of God

LESSON 3 – The church in the Church

For the children to explore and understand that the Christian Church is part of something bigger than their local corps.

“Jesus came to them and said: ‘I have been given all authority in Heaven and on Earth! Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples.’” – Matt. 28:18 (CEV)

Belonging to the broader Christian Church

LESSON 2 – No worries

For the children to explore Jesus’ command not to worry and to discover that he says this because God cares for us.

“I tell you not to worry about your life ... Only people who don’t know God are always worrying about such things. Your Father in Heaven knows that you need all of these.” – Matt. 6:25,32 (CEV)

Living in the promise that God cares for us

LESSON 4 – Healthy habits

For the children to explore God’s desire for us to lead healthy lives and understand that we can form habits that keep us healthy in body, mind, and spirit.

“Dear friend, I hope all is well with you and that you are as healthy in body as you are strong in spirit.” – 3 John 2 (NLT)

Holistic health

LESSON 5 – Connecting with the elderly

For the children to explore and understand the benefits of intergenerational connections with the elderly.

“You have taught me since I was a child, and I never stop telling about your marvellous deeds. Don’t leave me when I am old and my hair turns gray. Let me tell future generations about your mighty power.” – Ps. 71:17-18 (CEV)

Intergenerational connection – potential for project

LESSON 6 – Body image – image of God

For the children to explore how God sees us and to understand that we are made in his image and reflect the goodness of God to others.

“So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” – Gen. 1:27 (NLT)

Seeing ourselves as a reflection of God

LESSON 7 – Grace vs justice

For the children to explore and understand that we experience both grace and justice in God.

“Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.” – Rom. 3:24 (NLT)

The connection between God’s grace and justice

LESSON 8 – Lectio Divina

For the children to explore and understand how they can form a deeper relationship with God through Lectio Divina.

“Please, Lord, hear my prayer and give me the understanding that comes from your word.” – Ps. 119:169 (CEV)

Practical tool for personal meditation

LESSON 9 – War time work

For the children to explore and understand the role of The Salvation Army in times of war – both historical and current.

“Do as God does. After all, you are his dear children. Let love be your guide. Christ loved us and offered his life for us as a sacrifice that pleases God.” – Eph. 5:1-2 (CEV)

Suitable for Anzac or Remembrance Day

LESSON 10 – Promises, promises

For the children to explore some of the promises that God has made to his people and to understand that we can follow his example by keeping the promises that we make.

“God’s way is perfect. All the Lord’s promises prove true. He is a shield for all who look to him for protection.” – Ps. 18:30 (NLT)

Big picture of God’s plan

Unit 16



LESSON 1 – When I am tempted

For the children to explore how Jesus responded to temptation and to understand how, with his help, we can resist temptation.

“The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.” – 1 Cor. 10:13 (NLT)

Holy living

LESSON 3 – A tree and its fruit

For the children to explore a passage of the Bible (using the Swedish Method) to gain a deeper understanding of these verses.

“A good tree produces only good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. You can tell what a tree is like by the fruit it produces.” – Matt. 12:33 (CEVUK)

Practical tool for exploring Scripture

LESSON 5 – Building healthy communities

For the children to explore what a healthy community looks like and understand the part they play in contributing to a healthy community.

“We should keep on encouraging each other to be thoughtful and to do helpful things.” – Heb. 10:24 (CEV)

The Salvation Army mission statement

LESSON 7 – Bouncing back – resilience

For the children to explore and understand that hope in Christ allows them to keep on trying no matter what happens.

“I may have fallen, but I will get up; I may be sitting in the dark but the Lord is my light.” – Mic. 7:8b (CEV)

Strategies for building resilience as a follower of Jesus

LESSON 9 – Prayer in action

For the children to explore different ways to pray and to understand that prayer can be a part of all that we do.

“You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I’m far away.” – Ps. 139:2 (NLT)

Practicing prayer in play

LESSON 2 – International Day of the Girl

To understand more about the issues that girls are facing around the world and how we can make a difference by using our voice.

“Words of wisdom come when good people speak for justice.” – Ps. 37:30 (CEV)

Understanding global issues of injustice

LESSON 4 – Using technology

For the children to understand that technology can be used in positive ways, but it can also be misused. For them to explore some ways that they can use technology to make a positive difference.

“Dear friend, don’t let this bad example influence you. Follow only what is good. Remember that those who do good prove that they are God’s children, and those who do evil prove that they do not know God.” – 3 John 11 (NLT)

Living with technology as a follower of Jesus

LESSON 6 – My family – my role

For the children to explore and understand that they can have a positive and productive role within their family and contribute to harmonious relationships.

“Children must always obey their parents. This pleases the Lord. Parents don’t be hard on your children. If you are, they might give up.” – Col. 3:20-21 (CEV)

Understanding personal mission within a family

LESSON 8 – Being still in a busy world

For the children to explore and understand that even when we are busy God is with us and we can be aware of him.

“Our God says, ‘Calm down and learn that I am God.’” – Ps. 46:10 (CEV)

Practicing being still with God

LESSON 10 – Advent

For the children to explore the themes of Advent and to understand how they can share the peace, hope, joy and love of Jesus with others.

“The Saviour – yes, the Messiah, the Lord – has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!” – Luke 2:11 (NLT)

Suitable to combine with a Christmas party