Junior Soldiers

Unit 1 : Lesson 6

God is Number One

PURPOSE : 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.'

Exodus 20:3–5

Consider & Prepare

In order to help the kids explore the topic of this lesson we want them to think about the two commandments below (one and four).

We want to affirm that there is only one God, who made our world and created each one of us. He has been caring for us since he made us and deserves to be worshipped. To do this appropriately and respectfully, he must be first in our life. He is more important than our possessions, friends or anything else we can think of.
It is important that the children also understand the importance of Sundays as being a special day set aside for focusing on God and spending time with our church family. One way we can show God how much we love him is by worshipping him, by serving others and by coming together with other Christians to celebrate how good God is.

There are lots of ways we can worship God in what we do every day, but Sunday - when we join together as a church community - is a special day.

Read:
Exodus 20

Take note of commandment 1 (verses 2–5)
'I am the Lord your God, the one who brought you out of Egypt where you were slaves. 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.' (CEV)
Take note, also, of commandment 4 (verses 8–11)
'Remember that the Sabbath Day belongs to me. You have six days when you can do your work, but the

seventh day of each week belongs to me, your God. No one is to work on that day - not you, your children, your slaves, your animals, or the foreigners who live in your towns. In six days I made the sky, the earth, the oceans, and everything in them, but on the seventh day I rested. That's why I made the Sabbath a special day that belongs to me.' (CEV)

What you will need:

For 'Connecting In'

- A big candle and tea-light candles with the name of each child on the bottom
- Butcher's paper and thick felt-tip markers
- Set of 'matching cards' (pairs – memory game)

For 'The Main Thing'

- Butcher's paper and thick felt-tip markers
- Rocks/stones/pebbles, goggle eyes and glue

For 'Tying In'

- The big candle and tea-light candles from the "connecting In' section

For 'Home & Beyond'

- Print off a Home & Beyond card for each child.

Connecting In

Source of Light ...

- Light a big candle and tell the kids that, for this activity, the candle represents God.
- Hand out a tea-light candle to each of the children.
- Ask them to light their candles.
- 'How are you going to do that?'
- 'Oh, I forgot to tell you that you can't use the big candle - or my matches! - and only the things that we have in this room.' *(Obviously it can't be done – unless any of the kids have a packet of matches in their pockets.)*
- **Link**: 'In this room there is only one source to light our candles from, the large candle that is already lit. There is only one God and he is the source of life for us! Everything comes from him. He is one of a kind and so we worship him.'
- Get the kids to put their candles aside for the moment. We'll come back to them later.
- Pray that God will help the kids to learn about Him today – how much he loves them and how we can show our love for Him.

Find the one ...

- Divide your group into two smaller groups.
- At one end of the room, spread out the 'matching game cards' (pairs – memory game).
- Give each group a single card (i.e. one card for the whole group) that they have to match – they need to find their 'one' card.
- Only one person can have a turn at a time. They can go to the table with their card and have one go at turning over a card to find their match. They turn the card back over if it is not a match and go back and tag the next person.
- Keep going until each group has found their 'one' card.
- **Link**: 'Today we have been trying to find the 'one' card – the only match for the card that your group had. There is only one match for us and that is God. Today we are going to explore a couple of the commandments that reinforce for us that there is only ONE GOD and that we need to set aside time to worship Him.'

The Main Thing

Worship only one God …

- Get the children to split into small groups of 2, 3 or 4.
- Hand out two pieces of butchers paper, textas and pens to each group.
- On one sheet, get the kids to draw/write some of the things they might find in nature.
- On the other sheet get the kids to draw/write some of the things they like to spend their time doing.
- After they have finished, get each group to share what they have included on their pages. Make special note of some of the similarities between the groups.

Read Exodus 20:2 - 5 and 8 - 11 together.

- **One God - only**
  - → The passage says, *"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."*
  - → Have a look at the first sheet and see if there are any of things that you listed in nature that people might worship.
  - → Give the kids a rock/stone/pebble each, along with some goggle eyes and get them to stickthemonthe rock.
  - → Would you worship this rock? Will it talk back to you? What will it do for you? Will it love you?
  - → 'Crazy stuff really, but some people do it. To worship a stature is to worship a big rock.'
  - → Have a look at the second sheet of paper. What are the things that people might worship on this sheet?
  - → Are there any others that you could add? *(Money, television, sport, food etc.)*
  - → What are verses 2-5 telling us about who we should worship, who should be number one in our lives?
- **One God – priority**
  - → *"…but the seventh day of each week belongs to me, your God."*
  - → There are so many things that we love to do with our time; things we should do with our time, and ways that we waste our time.
  - → Have a look at the second sheet; number the things that you like to do in order of how much time you spend doing them, i.e. number one will be the thing you spend most of your free time doing.
  - → Share your top three with everyone.
  - → Where does spending time with God come on your list? Does it make it into your top 10?
  - → This scripture tells us that we need to make time for worshipping God away from all the other things that we like to do. How do you think you might shuffle your priorities to make time for God?
- **Worship**

  In order to explore different ways of worshiping God you might like to play 'charades' or a game of 'hangman.'
  Get the kids to think of some ways that they know of worshipping God both inside and outside the church. It is good to include some of the key things that The Salvation Army does when worshipping God, e.g. singing, playing music, giving their offering/tithe, praying, reading the Bible, sharing time, songsters, preaching, etc.
  The kids can then 'reveal' something they thought of by using it as a 'hangman' word or by acting it out without speaking.

Tying In

- Get the children to come back and look at the big candle.
- Get them to look at their candle. Let them know it has their name on the bottom (be careful if they turn their candle over and it still has wet wax).
- "Our names are on the bottom because it is our choice to worship 'ONLY GOD' and our choice to make 'GOD NUMBER 1' and a key priority in the way we spend our time."
- Ask them to have a think about something they could choose to do a bit less often so that they could spend more time getting to know God.
- Give each child an opportunity to share and then to light their candle (from the big candle), telling God that they want to choose Him as their number one priority.
- Pray together for each other to make God number one.

Home & Beyond

Print off the 'Home & Beyond' cards attached. The children might like to keep these in their journals or notebook where they could write or stick the challenges, reflect, answer questions or complete activities each week.

- Ask your parents/Big Bud how they like worshiping God when they are at church and when they are at home.
- Share a favourite way you like to worship God with them too and why it is your favourite.
- (Be mindful that some children's parents don't come to church, encourage them to ask the first question of their Big Bud and to share what they like with both their parents and their Big Bud.
- **Challenge** – turn off the television early a couple of times this week and spend time with God. Next time, share what you did.

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