

# Junior Soldiers

## Unit 3 : Lesson 5



## Free to be you!

**PURPOSE :** For children to understand that they are unique and loved creations of God, and should be happy 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.'*

**Psalm 139:13-18**

## Consider & Prepare

**Read:**

Psalm 139

Read the JustSalvos' booklet 'Sexualisation of Children: What you need to know.' (This booklet gives you some great background to the issue as well as some things to think about and some things to do - this will give a great basis for you for this lesson with your Junior Soldiers)

[http://salvationarmy.org.au/justsalvos/up/downloads/Sexualisation\\_of\\_Children/infoBook.pdf](http://salvationarmy.org.au/justsalvos/up/downloads/Sexualisation_of_Children/infoBook.pdf)

Today's lesson is based around the JustSalvo's children's curriculum that has been put together to address the sexualisation of children.

It is an alarming trend that children are wanting to become more and more like the adults they idolize in the media. This is having devastating effects on their development later in life. However, even in children, we are starting to see serious health and wellbeing issues. Children have the right to be protected, and should be allowed to develop their body, soul and mind in a healthy and supportive environment. As adults, we must begin to tackle and be aware of the aggressive advertising targeting or kids, simply to make a profit. We must also begin to prepare and safeguard our children so that they are able to withstand the pressures that are placed upon them.

From this lesson, we hope children will learn that they don't need to try to become like the people they see on TV; that they don't need to talk and act in ways adults do in the media; that they don't need to wear the clothes they see adults wear in magazines; that it is right for them to behave and want to behave as children. Above all we hope that children can gain a sense that they are unique and loved creations of God, and should be happy being themselves.

You will find the JustSalvos children curriculum for 'Sexualisation of Children' alongside this lesson or you can download it from JustSalvos' download page. It is also good to have a look at some of the other resources available on this site, there might be some things that are helpful for projects or other lessons that you are preparing:

<http://salvationarmy.org.au/justsalvos/downloads/>

You will also need a copy of *Walter Wants Wings* for this lesson. This is a special children's book that has been written specifically for use with this resource pack and works great with children of all ages (*even grown-ups too*). It really helps the children to engage with this challenging topic. If your corps does not have a copy of this book then you can buy one from Salvationist Supplies for \$7.50 (call 1800 100 018 or order at [www.salvationarmy.org.au/supplies](http://www.salvationarmy.org.au/supplies)).



#### Things you will need:

- Download the JustSalvos children's curriculum for 'Sexualisation of Children'.
- Choose what activities you are going to use for your lesson.
- Source a copy of *Walter Wants Wings*.
- Gather all that is needed for the activities/games/stories you are going to use.
- Print of cards for the Junior Soldiers with the 'Home & Beyond' information on them for each of the Junior Soldiers to place them in their notepad or journal for this weeks challenge.

## Home & Beyond

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

The next lesson for Junior Soldiers is going to be a focus on 'clean in thought'. So, building on the lesson that they have just participated in and in preparation for next time, encourage the children to stop and think about the things they say in their everyday environments and the things they access on television or other forms of media.

#### Challenge for all ...

Reflect this week on the things that you see...

- On television shows
- In television advertising
- Magazines or 'junk' mail that is delivered to your letterbox
- Signs that you see
- On the internet
- Things that you read
- Games that you play

Stop, think, reflect...

- Are these things that realistically portray children?
- Are these things that God would be happy with me seeing/watching?
- Is this who God created me to be?

Play the 'It's fun to be me' game from the children's curriculum with some people in your family.

- Talk constantly for 30 seconds naming all the things that are amazing and wonderful about you.
- Who can list the most?
- Maybe your family would like to add some other things to your list.



for all ...

Is this wine  
bo me' game lion  
... things that are

May



# How to challenge for all ...

- Are the... who God creates from the clinical... are amazing

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# How to overcome the challenge for all ...

- Are the things that God creates so amazing that they are amazing to the children of men?

- Who are your family members? Things to your list:



# How to find the things that you see... In the things that you see...

- Are the things that God creates so amazing that they are amazing to the children of men?

- Who are your family members? Things to your list:

