

# Junior Soldiers

Unit 6 : Lesson 4

## The Global Salvation Army



**PURPOSE :** For the children to explore and understand that Jesus died not only for us but for the whole world so that all people can be connected with Him. They will also explore The Salvation Army's part in letting people know about Jesus, considering a variety of ways the Army's mission makes a difference 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. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn its people.**

**He sent him to save them!'**

**John 3:16-17 (CEV)**

## Consider & Prepare

### Read:

John 3:16-17

Matthew 28:16-20

International website – [www.salvationarmy.org](http://www.salvationarmy.org)

*Who are these Salvationists?* Shaw Clifton, Salvation Army National Publications, 1999, Chapter 10 'Salvationist Internationalism' (check with your corps officer to see if they might have a copy of this book, an excerpt is below)

*'Salvationist internationalism is not a complicated thing, but it is one of the Army's hallmarks. We think globally, simply because the Army is in so many countries: 106 at the latest count. We use 160 languages. These simple facts carry with them profound implications. Our internationalism comes to us today with all the overtones of our past and our historical heritage; it dictates many of our values; it is occasionally inconvenient for administrators; but all in all it is seen by Salvationists as a very significant blessing.*

*Perhaps no other modern church, save for the Roman Catholic church, functions on the basis of a worldwide network of national churches all giving administrative, financial and spiritual allegiance to a central spiritual and administrative head, with each national body acting not only in its own interests but also in the wider interests of the international body. In Catholicism all roads lead to Rome; in the Army they lead to the office of the General of the Salvation Army at International Headquarters on Queen Victoria Street, London, England.*

*The Army's founder, William Booth, rejoiced in the spread of the Army beyond the shores of Britain and interpreted this phenomenon as a clear sign and proof that God was pleased with the Army and was deliberately blessing it by empowering its overseas expansion. It was this theological rationale for overseas growth that gave rise directly to the conviction in Booth's heart that Salvationist internationalism should be thought of and treated as a sacred trust from God. This in turn influenced policy decisions in London. Keeping the international Army intact and free from schism was given the highest priority.'*

The Salvation Army began (under that name) in 1878 and within five years had also begun work in Australia, France, Canada, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sweden, Switzerland and the USA. It quickly became an international movement and continues, to this day, to expand into new countries and cultures.

This internationalism is based not only on common practices and a common form of administration and leadership, but also on the 11 doctrines of The Salvation Army. You can attend any Salvation Army church in any country in the world and know that the same Christian beliefs will be taught and believed. This gives an amazing consistency and strength to our movement that, as General Shaw Clifton alludes to in the quote above, has helped us avoid schism and breaking into separate 'Salvation Armies' because of doctrinal differences.

The children should know that Junior Soldiers in any country in the world—from Argentina to Italy to Zimbabwe—are taught the same doctrines, the same mission and the same faith-based priorities. As General Linda Bond has said, there is only one Army, one mission and one message for the whole world.



### **What you will need:**

#### **For 'Connecting In'**

- Supplies for your sorting activity (lollies, tins, buttons, screws, pictures etc.)

#### **For 'The Main Thing'**

- Large map of the world
- Paper
- Sticky notes/sticky dots/coloured-headed pins
- Textas, pencils and writing implements
- *The Salvation Army Year Book* (each corps should have a copy of this but if you are having difficulty contact your divisional headquarters to borrow a copy)
- A computer or iPad with access to the internet
- Your suggestions from the year book and the international website

#### **For 'Home & Beyond'**

- Print off the Home & Beyond cards for each child
- Zip lock or brown paper bags
- One bouncy ball per child
- List of countries where The Salvation Army is present

## **Connecting In**

### **This goes with that...**

For this activity you will need a bunch of items for sorting, items that are different but have something in common e.g. lollies, cans of food items, screws or nails, buttons or pictures of people that are cut out of magazines or newspapers.

- 'Have a look at the items in the middle of the floor/table, we need to sort them into groups today, I wonder how we are going to do that? Perhaps by colour, by size, by shape, weight etc.'
- Give the children some time to think about how they are going to sort the items (depending on the size of your group and the number of items that you have, these will dictate how this activity is done: you could divide the children into two or three groups if you have enough items or they could work as one large group)
- Let the children have some time to divide and sort their items and then explain how and why they have divided them that way.



**Link...**When we look at things, items, objects and people, we will usually make a judgment about the category or group that they might belong to. For example, if you see someone wearing a police uniform you could safely assume they are a member of the police force, if you saw someone with grey hair, wrinkly skin and a walking stick, you could safely assume they were an older person.

There are many people, programs, churches and services around the world that all look different but fit into the same category...they are part of the global Salvation Army. There will be something they do, how they think or what they wear that connects them into the international body of The Salvation Army.

Just like today when we sorted the lollies/tins/buttons/nails/screws or pictures—they fitted into different categories/groups but they also fitted into the larger group that somehow united them. We have lots of different groups in The Salvation Army but they are all part of the one church and the one mission of The Salvation Army.

## The Main Thing

### For the world, Jesus died...

For this activity you will need a large map of the world, if you don't have one you could see if you could borrow one from your local school or have one printed on a large sheet. (These maps come in handy especially when we are thinking about mission and how we can impact others outside our local community.) You will also need something to stick or pin onto the map to identify the countries, e.g. small sticky notes/flags, smaller sticky dots or coloured headed pins and you'll also need some Salvation Army songbooks.

Some of you may have sung the words to this song (song 821) from *The Salvation Army Song Book*:

We're an Army fighting for a glorious King;  
We will make the world with hallelujahs ring;  
With victorious voices we will ever sing:  
There's salvation for the world.

*For the world, for the world, Jesus died, Jesus died,  
For the world, for the world, there is room in Jesus' side.  
All the world to save, to battle we will go,  
And we ever will our colours boldly show,  
With a trumpet voice we'll let the millions know  
There's salvation for the world.*

We're an Army brave, arrayed in armour bright;  
We will turn the world from darkness into light;  
As we march along we'll shout with all our might:  
There's salvation for the world.

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 James Pearson (1832–92)*)

- What stands out for you in the words of this song?
- What does it say to you about The Salvation Army's mission?

It would be good to set the group up in a large circle on the floor or around a large table (or a group of tables connected together) with the map in the centre.

Together, identify all the countries that have The Salvation Army established in them (you will get this information from the *Salvation Army Year Book*, the international website or from the attached list). Put a sticky note on them (it would be good to use small sticky notes/flags or even some little sticky dots or coloured headed pins) .

Sit back and look at the map and the amazing amount of places where The Salvation Army is making an impact.

Get some children to choose a county/territory that they would like explore and see what sort of work is happening there. Look up that county in the year book and see what sort of information you can find about that country.

(NOTE: Be aware that some smaller countries are linked together with others to make one territory, e.g. Fiji is linked with New Zealand and Tonga. On the other hand, there are also a number of countries that are divided into several territories, e.g. Australia, USA and India.)

It would be good for you to have a look through the year book before the lesson and choose some information that you would like to share with the children. It is important that the children get a good cross-section of work that is done internationally, not just looking at what happens in the developing countries but also what happens in England, America, Canada, Germany etc.

The international website also has a lot of good information on it for you to explore either prior to the lesson or to have a computer/iPad with access to the internet available to check things out in conjunction with the year book during the lesson ([www.salvationarmy.org](http://www.salvationarmy.org)).

On the website there is a section titled 'News'. Have a look at it with the children and share a couple of recent events that have happened around the world or have a look prior to the lesson and print out a couple of the news reports to share. These news reports are updated regularly so it is good for you to check in and see what is currently happening internationally.

One of the latest news reports (at time of writing) has the General telling of the exciting advancement of the army into the Kingdom of Cambodia. This takes effect from 22 November 2012 and takes the total number of countries in which the Army has officially recognised work to 126!

### **What the General has to say...**

The General is the international leader of our movement. General Linda Bond is our current General and took office in January 2011. She was born in Canada, has served in the UK, the US and Australia, and is now based in London. She has also travelled extensively for the Army as General.

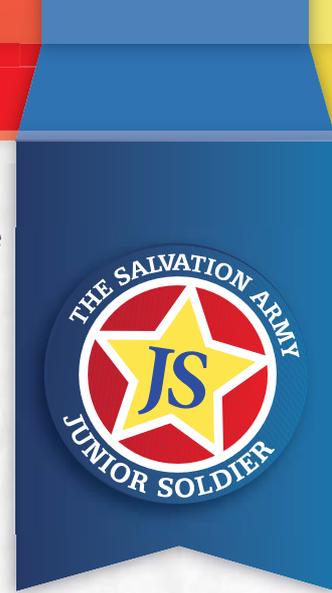
In October 2011 at International Headquarters in London, General Bond announced a worldwide focus for the Army under the heading, 'One Army, one Mission, one Message'.

She has promoted a range of matters (see the bullet points below) and asked all Army territories to work towards these goals. To provide some accountability, she has asked all territorial commanders to inform her on what they are doing to achieve these goals in their territory.

This sort of campaign is only possible because of the Army's internationalism; that is, she hasn't provided a different plan and vision for Africa and another for India and a different one for France, and so on. It's the same plan for every Salvation Army territory, division and corps in the world.

**ONE ARMY:** We see a God-raised, Spirit-filled Army for the 21st century—convinced of our calling, moving forward together We will...

- deepen our spiritual life



- unite in prayer
- identify and develop leaders
- increase self-support and self-denial

**ONE MISSION:** Into the world of the hurting, broken, lonely, dispossessed and lost, reaching them in love by all means We will...

- emphasise our integrated ministry
- reach and involve youth and children
- stand for and serve the marginalised
- encourage innovation in mission

**ONE MESSAGE:** With the transforming message of Jesus, bringing freedom, hope and life. We will...

- communicate Christ unashamedly
- reaffirm our belief in transformation
- evangelise and disciple effectively
- provide quality teaching resources



## Tying In

### What next?

Have a look at the map and see what countries that The Salvation Army is not represented in. It would be great to have a 'dreaming session' with the children, allowing them some time to think about those countries and what the communities might be like and what sorts of things The Salvation Army could be involved in there in the future.

### Prayer...

Stand together in a circle around the map and ask the children to pray for The Salvation Army in a particular country, it might be for a particular program that you have talked about, the Junior Soldiers in that place or just for The Salvation Army in that country in general.

Ask one of your leaders to finish in prayer and thank God for the special gift that we have of being connected to an international movement with so much variety, but also so much in common and that He will continue to help each of us connected with the international Salvation Army to make a difference for the kingdom of God.

## 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.

### Praying for the Salvation Army world...

You will need to provide the children with a pack of goodies before they leave the session today for their Home & Beyond activity. In a zip-lock or brown paper bag you will place a bouncy ball and a list of the countries that The Salvation Army is present in.

- Through the week it would be good if you could pray for all the countries The Salvation Army is present in.
- You can do this by bouncing the ball and on each bounce pray for one country: I wonder how many you could do in one go?
- You could do this by throwing the ball into the air and catching it and each time you catch it, pray for one country: I wonder how many you will be able to pray for before dropping the ball?
- You could do this by bouncing the ball off a wall and then catching it and each time you catch it pray for one country: I wonder how many you will be able to pray for before having to chase the ball?



