

# Junior Soldiers

Unit 7 : Lesson 3



## 'Salvation!'

**PURPOSE :** 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**

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

**Doctrine 7**

**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 (simplified version)**

## Consider & Prepare

**Read:**

Psalm 103:12

1 John 1:9

This lesson is one of two lessons (Lessons 3 and 4) covering Doctrine 7. This first one is a long lesson with lots in it, you might like to use all the material and do it over a two week/two session slot, or you can modify it to suit your group/structure. It would, however, be good to do all of the Connecting In section.

While you can't really play favourites with the doctrines, there's no doubt that this is one of the more crucial ones in establishing a relationship with God. Children need to know how salvation is obtained and understand that it is a gift (of grace) given by God and not in response to our own hard work, effort or sacrifices.

God *wants* us to be saved. All we have to do is declare our sinful state and place our trust in Jesus and we will be saved.

The 'recipe' to being friends with God can be used by anyone and is easy as 1, 2, 3: we need to be genuinely sorry for past sins against God, we need to trust Jesus, and the Holy Spirit will take away the heaviness of our sin and give us a fresh start.

**NOTE:** Check if any of the children are allergic or sensitive to any of the ingredients included in the fudge recipe. If there are any allergies in your group you might like to use an alternative 3-ingredient recipe that is safe for all the children to enjoy. For example, fairy bread or a Vegemite sandwich.

## What you will need:

### For 'Connecting In'

- Microwave
- Microwave safe jug or bowl
- Slice tray
- Wooden spoon
- 500 grams milk chocolate
- Tin of condensed milk
- Packet of chocolate clinkers
- A copy of *Shrek* (optional)

### For 'The Main Thing'

- A backpack (sturdy enough to hold bricks/rocks)
- 3–4 bricks or rocks
- Bibles
- Large area to play 'East and West' game

### For 'Tying In'

- Flash Paper\* (cut up into note-sized pieces)
- Matches
- Textas or pens

\*Flash paper is a magic resource commonly also used in illustrations about taking sins away. You can enquire at local magic shops or it can be ordered from:

[www.taylorsmagic.com.au](http://www.taylorsmagic.com.au), phone (02) 9680 4141 (New South Wales)

[www.geelongfireworks.com.au](http://www.geelongfireworks.com.au), phone (03) 5299 5078 (Victoria)

<http://cheapflashpaper.com/au>, phone (03) 84001762 (Victoria)

NOTE: If you are unable to get a hold of Flash Paper you might like to use Lux Flakes (laundry soap) instead. If you opt for this alternative illustration you will also need a see-through bucket or container.

### For 'Home & Beyond'

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



# Connecting In

## As easy as one, two, three...

For this activity you will need access to a microwave, a microwave safe jug or bowl, slice tray, wooden spoon, 500 grams milk chocolate, a tin of condensed milk and a packet of clinkers.

NOTE: Before doing this activity with the children you will need to check if any of the children are allergic or sensitive to any of the ingredients included in the fudge recipe. If there are any allergies in your group you might like to use an alternative 3-ingredient recipe that is safe for all the children to enjoy. For example, fairy bread or a Vegemite sandwich (bread, butter and sprinkles/Vegemite).

Follow these simple steps to make some yummy chocolate fudge:

1. Crush the clinkers.
2. Place the milk chocolate and condensed milk in a microwave safe bowl/jug.
3. Microwave for 1–1½ minutes (depending on the microwave) to soften the chocolate.
4. Mix to combine.
5. Add crushed clinkers and stir through.
6. Pour into slice tray and refrigerate, ready for the children to share at the end of the lesson.

As you prepare the fudge you might like to invite some of the children to help you. It would be good to highlight a few times throughout this activity that there are only three ingredients you need to make this recipe.

**Link:** Today we have made some yummy fudge to share. There were only three ingredients we needed to make this recipe; so easy to remember. After making it a couple of times, you could probably just make it off the top of your head without even looking at the recipe.

- I wonder if you can think of any easy meals you or others make at home without looking at the recipe?
- How many steps or ingredients are needed for them?

Today we are going to explore one of the key beliefs of The Salvation Army. It talks about the three ingredients that make up the recipe of being a friend of

God and connected to Him. It's as easy as one, two, three... just like the three ingredients that we used to make the fudge, there are three key ingredients to being connected with God.

1. Say sorry to God
2. Trust and believe in Jesus
3. Be changed by the Holy Spirit

So in this lesson we are going to talk mostly about the first two parts, saying sorry to God and trusting Jesus, and next time we will look more at how it is important to let the Holy Spirit changes us.

### Are you really sorry?

Watch a clip from the movie *Shrek*. Begin at scene 16 (when the counter reads 1 hour, 11 minutes, 24 seconds) where Shrek apologises to Donkey. Alternatively, you could have two volunteers act out the following scene.

#### Script:

**Donkey:** Come back here! I'm not through with you yet!

**Shrek:** Well, I'm through with you!

**Donkey:** Uh-uh. You know you are always, 'Me, Me, Me.' Well, now it's my turn. So you just shut up and pay attention. You are mean to me. You insult me, and you don't appreciate anything I do. You are always pushing me around or pushing me away.

**Shrek:** Oh yeah? Well, if I treated you so bad, how come you came back?

**Donkey:** 'Cause that's what friends do. They forgive each other.

**Shrek:** Oh yeah, Donkey, I forgive you...for stabbing me in the back!

**Donkey:** Oh! You are so wrapped up in layers, Onion Boy, you're afraid of your own feelings!

**Shrek:** Go away!

**Donkey:** See! There you go, doin' it again just like you did to Fiona. All she ever did was like you, maybe even love you.

**Shrek:** Love me? She said I was ugly. A hideous creature! I heard the two of you talking.

**Donkey:** She wasn't talking about you. She was talking about somebody else.

**Shrek:** She wasn't talking about me? Then who was she talking about?

**Donkey:** Uh-uh. No way. I ain't sayin' anything. You don't want to listen to me. Right? Right?

**Shrek:** Donkey...

**Donkey:** No!

**Shrek:** Okay, look: I'm sorry. Alright? I'm sorry. I guess I am just a big, stupid, ugly ogre. Can you forgive me?

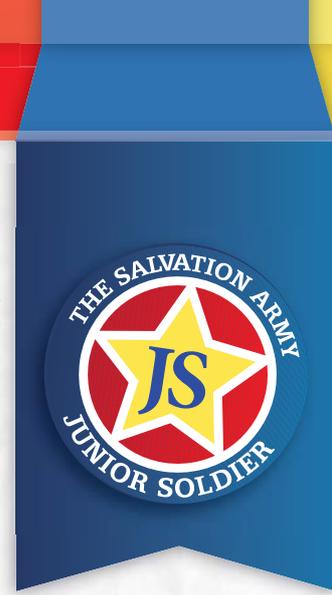
**Donkey:** Hey, that's what friends are for, right?

**Shrek:** Right. Friends?

**Donkey:** Friends!

**Link:** Donkey and Shrek are angry and disappointed with each other. They are having some friendship trouble. Can you think of a time when you've had friendship troubles or had a fight with someone in your family?

- How was the problem solved?
- Do you think Shrek was truly sorry?
- Do you find it hard to say sorry?



**Roleplay:** Choose a scenario (such as lying to a parent or gossiping about a friend) to help illustrate a comparison between what a genuine apology might look like and what a fake one would. Invite one or two children to help you roleplay a scenario where either you or a volunteer respond with a sharp, fake apology. Repeat the scenario responding with a genuine apology.

- Do you think that I was really sorry? Why/why not?
- How can we tell if an apology is heartfelt/real? (e.g. tone of voice, facial expression, using name, change in attitude/behavior following the apology.)



## The Main Thing

### Backpack...

For this illustration you will need a backpack (sturdy enough to hold bricks/rocks) as well as 3–4 bricks or rocks.

You will need to choose a child (or leader if you would prefer) that could hold the weight of a few bricks or rocks in a backpack for a few minutes. Place the empty backpack on the child's shoulders/back.

- We are going to use this backpack today to represent us/our heart.
- I want you to have a think about what happens if you don't say sorry? How do you feel? (*Guilty, worried, afraid, yucky, disappointed, problem remains or gets worse, hard to be close or talk to loved one/friend, your heart feels heavy.*)
- When we hurt other people or make poor choices, the feelings and consequences of our actions stick with us. (*As you repeat some of the children's responses place a brick into the backpack, e.g. we feel guilty when we don't say sorry – put in brick – we can feel sad when we hurt others – put in a brick etc.*)
- We carry the guilt...and the disappointment...and the worry...and it starts to weigh us down and get heavy. (*Ask your volunteer...*) Is that starting to feel heavy? Do you think it would make it harder to do things with these bricks on your back all day?
- Well, God loves us so much and doesn't want us to carry our mistakes and heavy feelings around with us. If we say sorry to God and truly mean it... and we trust and believe in Jesus, God will help to take away that heaviness. (*Remove the bricks from the backpack as you talk...*)
- God can remove our guilt and fear if we trust and believe in Him. He can take away the heaviness and yucky feelings. (*Ask your volunteer...*) Does that feel better without the bricks weighing you down?

Find and read 1 John 1:9 together:

*'But if we confess our sins to God, he can always be trusted to forgive us and take our sins away.'* (CEV)

Find and read Psalm 103:12 together:

*'He has removed our sins as far from us as east is from the west.'* (NLT)

You might like to share this short passage with the children to help them grasp this bible verse a little better. It is from a great children's devotional book called *Thoughts to Make Your Heart Sing* by Sally Lloyd-Jones:

### Far, Far Away

When God says he forgives us, he is saying,

'I've sent all the wrong things you ever did far, far away from me.

I've hurled them away where no one can ever look on them – not even me!

Where is the farthest place you've ever traveled? God has sent your sins farther.

What's the farthest place you can even imagine? Galaxies twelve billion light years away?

God sends your sins even farther away than that! You won't ever see them again.

(page 47)

Imagine if you stood in the desert in the middle of Australia and looked to your left and you could see just flat land for a few kilometres before it got hazy and too far away, and then you looked to your right and saw the same thing. Now, imagine getting those points—as far as you can see to your left and as far as you can see to your right—to come together. Impossible, yeah?

Well, that's what God says he will do with our sins. He will remove them from us as far as the east is from the west, that is: as far apart as those two points you almost can't even see.

We don't have to think about the bad things we've done previously; we don't have to remember them; we don't have to be upset by them. They're gone. History. Disappeared. They're outta here!

That's how God forgives our sins, and that's how we should forgive people; we forgive them fully/entirely/totally.

Wow, those scripture verses are amazing, I wonder what you think...

- I wonder how these verses make you feel.
- What are they telling us about the sins/wrong choices that we make?

These verses are some promises that you can remember to help you know how God deals with us when we say sorry and what he does with our sins. They are something strong that you can hold on to.



### East & West Game...

This game has been adapted from the traditional 'Port & Starboard' game. The leader calls out a direction and the players respond by doing the action associated (listed below). If a player responds with the wrong action or is too slow to follow, they are out of the game. The last player still in the game is the winner. To make the game less competitive, players do not get 'out'. Instead, they can be considered 'lost' and stand out for a count of 20 seconds before being 'found' and returning to the game. You might like to add some of your own directions to make the game more challenging.

#### Game directions:

- 'East' – move to east of room/area
- 'West' – move to west of room/area
- 'Mountain' – join hands above head in a mountain shape
- 'Valley' – lie down
- 'Bottom of ocean' – hold nose with one hand and wiggle arm above head as if going under water
- 'Birds of the sky' – flap like a bird

Playing the game of East and West today, we have been only been thinking about how far one side of the room is to the other—but if we think about the verse from Psalm 103, it talks about how much farther God will take our sins away from us. We can also think about in in relation to the bottom (depths) of the ocean to the unending heights of the sky (universe). I think it is comforting to know that God will take our wrong choices so far away from us when we truly say sorry and believe in Him.

# Tying In

## Just like that...

For this activity you will need some Flash Paper\* (cut up into note-sized pieces), matches, textas or pens. (\*Flash paper—for more information see note at beginning of lesson.) This activity needs to be done by the leader and is a very powerful illustration.

When you set Flash Paper alight, it doesn't leave any ash/residue. It is a great way to help illustrate how once God forgives our sins they are gone for good.

'Today we have talked about being truly sorry for the things we've done and the choices we've made and believing that God will take them away—just like He reminds us in 1 John 1:9 and Psalm 103:12.' (Think of something you are sorry for and share it with the children. You might even like to write it on the piece of Flash Paper. As you are talking, hold up the piece of paper.)

'If I just hide this piece of paper will it be gone forever? It is the same with our mistakes and unwise choices—if we hide them from God, they are not really gone but if I say sorry to God and trust Jesus (*light the paper*) He will take my sin away for good!'

Invite the children to think of something that they might be sorry for and repeat the process with them. Finish this section with a prayer for all the things that people have said sorry for.

\*If you are unable to get a hold of Flash Paper you might like to use Lux Flakes (laundry soap) to illustrate this message instead. When you place a small amount of Lux flakes into water they dissolve completely. You will need to just talk about the things you are sorry for if you use this alternative illustration as you will not be able to write on the flakes.

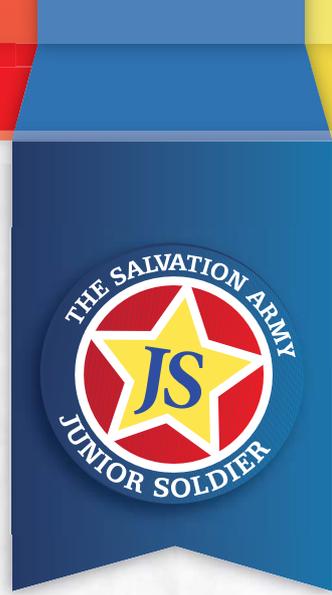
# Home & Beyond

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.

## Before & after...

***'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)**

- Read 1 John 1:9 with your family or Big Bud
- While you are at home or at school this week, you might see or hear some apologies taking place. If you do, stop and think about the difference between a 'true' apology and a 'fake' one.
- Pin up your Home & Beyond card with the verse on it (or write it our fancy for yourself) and read it as a reminder to talk to God about the things that you are sorry for.





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