

Junior Soldiers

Unit 8 : Lesson 9

An Invitation to Begin!



PURPOSE : For the children to explore and understand The Salvation Army's heritage of practical Christianity in their country 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 toothache!'

William Booth

Consider & Prepare

Read:

Luke 14:7–14 – how to be a guest

James 1:19–25 – hearing and obeying

James 2:14–26 – faith and works

This lesson covers both the beginnings of The Salvation Army in Australia and New Zealand and also the practical nature of how we 'do' church that is a hallmark of the Army around the world.

NOTE: There are sections of this lesson where you will select either the Australian or New Zealand text, based on where you are based.

It may also help you to have familiarized yourself before the session with the early days of The Salvation Army in Australia or New Zealand. There is a large amount of existing material about the beginnings of The Salvation Army in these countries, those in New Zealand could read *Fight the Good Fight: The History of the Salvation Army in New Zealand 1883–1983* by CR Bradwell (1982), especially pages 1–13, while those in Australia could read *Booth's Drum* by Barbara Bolton (1980), especially chapter one.

Or you could have a look at the website links below:

salvos.org.au/about-us/our-history/125-years-in-australia.php#highlights

salvos.org.au/about-us/our-history/125-years-in-australia.php

www.teara.govt.nz/en/1966/salvation-army

www.airgale.com.au/valpy/d3.htm

Much of the early efforts and faithfulness within The Salvation Army can be seen as understanding and implementing the scripture passages listed above.

Pioneers of Army work in the first year or two were in for, often, rough treatment and much anger from the community who couldn't understand why Christians would form an 'army' and have 'soldiers', or who thought that our methods of 'doing church' were too radical and unusual (who sings hymns with a brass band instead of a pipe organ?). However, after the Army had a chance to establish itself and show its practical help of those in distress and need, it became very popular very fast. The early 1900s were boom days for the Army.

The quote above from William Booth shows that Booth wanted people to be saved, but maybe there were practical matters that had to be addressed urgently first. How could you expect someone to sit and listen to a sermon about why they should be saved, if they're in agony with a toothache! The quote is quite light-hearted and seemingly frivolous, but it actually captures a lot of Army theology and methodology in it.



What you will need:

For 'The Main Thing'

AUSTRALIA

- Printed copy of the painting 'Meeting in the park' by Pro Hart or projector and digital copy. Contact THQ if you can't source the image.
- Sheets of butchers paper
- Rulers
- Printed sets of cards for the key events in Australia's history (enough for each team)
- Pencils
- Coloured pencils or markers
- Glue

NEW ZEALAND

- Enlarged map of New Zealand (www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/map/new-zealand-map.htm - free to use for educational purposes).
- If you have younger children in your group, draw the timeline templates before the lesson.
- One printed set of cards for the key events in New Zealand's history

For 'Tying In'

- Bibles

For 'Home & Beyond'

- Print off the Home & Beyond cards for each child.

Connecting In

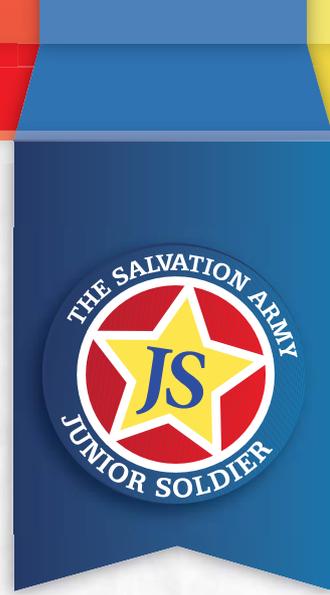
Interesting stories...

Invite the children to tell one of the most interesting stories that they can from their own history, this might include their immediate family or perhaps generations that have gone before. It would be good to have one of your own appropriate stories prepared to share, to help the children to connect with this activity.

Use the following as prompts if necessary:

- How their family/ancestors came to this country
- Famous/significant people in their ancestry
- Stories from their parents'/grandparents' childhoods
- Stories from their parents' wedding day
- Stories from their own childhood
- Journeys they might have been on
- Their earliest memory

Link... 'Our history, the things that have happened in our lives and even some of the things that have happened before we were born in our families, help to make us who we are today. In our lesson today we will be looking at some of the history of The Salvation Army in this country and how some of the things that happened shaped who The Salvation Army are today.'



The Main Thing

AUSTRALIA

Show the children the painting 'Meeting in the park' by Pro Hart.

- What can you see in this picture?
- What do you think is happening in this picture?
- What do you think is the most important thing in this picture? Why?

This is a painting of the first meeting of The Salvation Army in Australia. It was held on 5 September, 1880 in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens. I wonder if you can see the following:

- Edward Saunders preaching?
- What he is standing on?
- John Gore, who accompanied the singing?

At this meeting Edward Saunders gave a surprising invitation. He said to the people who had gathered: 'If there's a man here who hasn't had a square meal today, let him come home to tea with me.'

Let's look at some more details of how The Salvation Army began in Australia.

Divide the children into teams. If you have a small group, then you can all work together. If you have younger children you might consider drawing the timeline templates before the lesson begins.

1. Give each team a sheet of butcher's paper, a ruler and a pencil. They will also need glue and coloured pencils or markers for drawing the cartoons.
2. Write a heading on the top of your paper, 'How Did it Begin: The Salvation Army in Australia'
3. Draw an 80cm line near the bottom of your paper to form a timeline (show the example below).
4. Make a mark every 10cm along the line, including the beginning and end point of your line.
5. Under the beginning of the line write 1880. Under the next mark write 1885 and so on, each mark for each five year gap, all the way up to 1920.
6. When each team has completed drawing up their timeline, hand each team a set of cards containing the key events of the history of The Salvation Army in Australia. Ensure that the cards are given in random order. Ask the teams to race to stick the cards in the correct places on their timeline.

'When I say to, stick the cards onto the timeline in the correct places by using the dates on the top of each card. Go!'

When the race is completed, take turns reading each of the cards aloud. As the cards are being read, invite the children to draw cartoons on their timelines to illustrate what happened at each point.

NEW ZEALAND

'In many countries, the work of The Salvation Army started in one place then spread out through the country over time. In New Zealand, however, The Salvation Army began appearing in many places around the same time.'

'Here is a map of New Zealand. We are going to look at all the places that The Salvation Army showed up within just over a year.'

Invite different children to stick the various cards onto the map in the correct locations. As they are doing this, you might like to read the following stories which give more information about these events.

5 April 1882 – Dunedin

Miss Arabella Valpy came from a wealthy family but she worked to help people who were poor and hurting in her community. She and her sisters also worked together to set up the Band of Hope Coffee Rooms.

26 July 1882 – Otago

The Otago Daily Times newspaper said that England had already sent New Zealand plagues of thistles, sparrows and rabbits and that sending The Salvation Army would be like sending another nuisance plague.

27 March 1883 – Dunedin

Captain George Pollard's original applications for officership were rejected because of his frail build. He proved himself as tough enough, however, by resisting the violent attacks of the skeleton-army on him and his fellow soldiers at Peckham Corps in South London.

1 April 1883 – Dunedin

There were five meetings held on the first day in Dunedin as well as meetings every night of the following week. The afternoon and evening meetings were crowded and large numbers had to be turned away.

13 April 1883 – Auckland

On leaving the hall after the first meeting in Auckland, Lieutenant Wright was struck in the face with a projectile, on the second night he received a bloody nose. On the third night members of The Skeleton Army rushed the hall during the service throwing gravel and mud through the windows. When Wright went out to confront the trouble makers he was attacked by at least 20 men, pushed to the ground and kicked repeatedly. Wright and his new converts continued with their work.

The Skeleton Army was a group set up to disrupt and destroy The Salvation Army because of its stance on alcohol. They tried to disrupt meetings and marches. Black, sticky tar was put onto alley walls which damaged Salvation Army uniforms as they marched past, they threw eggs filled with blue paint. They also threw rocks and rats, marching while loudly playing musical instruments or shouting, and even physically assaulting Salvation Army members at their meetings. Some soldiers died at the hands of The Skeleton Army.

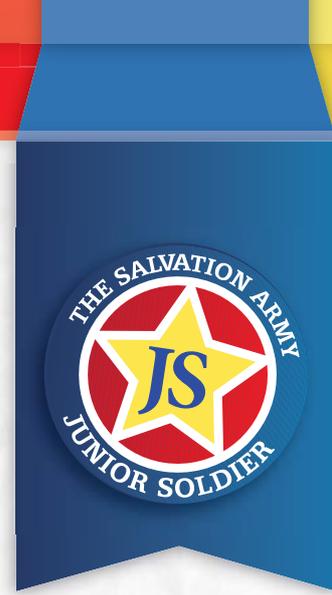
20 May 1883 – Christchurch

The first meetings drew large crowds, mostly of rowdy trouble makers; the Christchurch press wished The Salvation Army luck in dealing with the large number of troublemakers that lived in Christchurch. Within a month, Christchurch had over 200 soldiers on its roll.

Captain Harry Edwards was given the nickname 'Ironsides' because of the way in which he dealt with the street gangs who threatened him and the other soldiers. As the attackers threw projectiles, mostly bottles and rocks, Captain Ironsides would stand boldly, holding his position and ducking and catching whatever dangerous object came near him. When asked if he would throw them back he answered that that would be unwise as it would give the thugs more ammunition.

17 June 1883 – Wellington

When Wright, Colley and White arrived in Wellington they found that The Skeleton Army was already waiting for them. Due to the press coverage of events in other cities the police decided that they would not allow The Skeleton Army to disrupt the meetings in Wellington. Sailors from the Wellington Naval Brigade also determined to run The Skeleton Army out of town as their flag was the skull and cross bones flown by pirates and the sailors of the port city considered this an insult.



Tying In

AUSTRALIA

The work of The Salvation Army began with Edward Saunders' invitation, 'If there's a man here who hasn't had a square meal today, let him come home to tea with me.' He went on to tell about the power of God to change lives.

NEW ZEALAND

The work of The Salvation Army began when Arabella Valpy sent an invitation to William Booth to send officers to begin working with people in need in Dunedin.

BOTH

The invitation was given because someone cared about people in need and wanted to share the good news about Jesus while helping people in practical ways.

Ask the children to look up Luke 14:12–14. Move to a different location in the room, or outside if possible, and ask a few children to read a verse each.

- What do you think Jesus is saying in these verses?
- Why do you think Jesus would say this?

'In the world that Jesus lived in, the people who were most left out were the ones who were sick or hurt or faced special challenges or who were poor. Think about your life at school, home, church etc.

- Who are the people that you think are most left out?
- Can you think of the names of some people that you know that get left out when invitations are given for parties or meals?

Take some time to pray now on your own: ask God to help you to remember how much he loves these people. Ask him to help you to show kindness to them and to include them whenever you can.'

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.

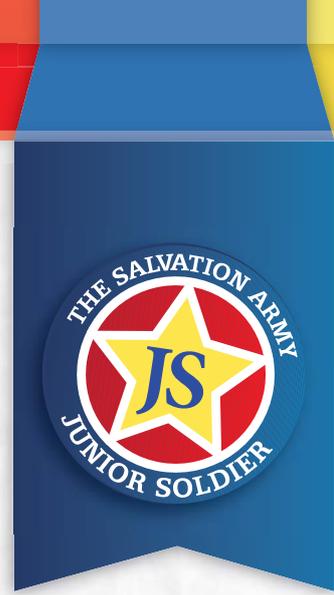
Part 1

- Talk to someone in your family about your family history.
- Ask someone older to tell you some stories about when you were a toddler.
- Ask them about the things they remember from their own childhood.

Part 2

Ask your family if you can invite someone that you know who usually gets left out, for a meal at your place or a picnic at a nearby park. You might like to make an invitation and deliver it.

If this is not possible, you might be able to invite them to sit with you at lunchtime at school or invite them to join your group of friends for a game.





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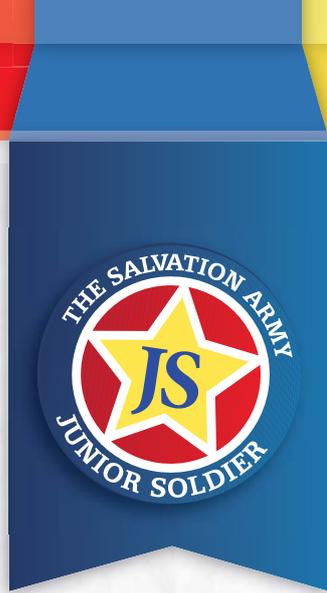
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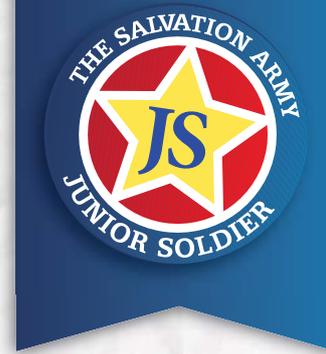
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New Zealand Key Events:



<p style="text-align: center;">5 April 1882</p> <p>Miss Arabella Valpy sends a generous donation to William Booth and asks him to send someone 'to the rescue of perishing souls' in Dunedin.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">26 July 1882</p> <p><i>The Otago Daily Times</i> publishes a very negative article about the letter from Miss Valpy</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">27 March 1883</p> <p>Captain George Pollard (aged 20) and Lieutenant Edward Wright (aged 19) arrive at Bowen's Pier, Port Chalmers on General Booth's orders, responding to Miss Valpy's invitation.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">1 April 1883</p> <p>First official Salvation Army meeting in New Zealand, held in Dunedin.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">13 April 1883</p> <p>First open air meeting in Auckland.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">20 May 1883</p> <p>Christchurch Corps opened by Captain Harry 'Ironsides' Edwards who had been transferred from Melbourne after the rapid and early success of Pollard and Wright</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">16 June 1883</p> <p>First edition of the New Zealand <i>War Cry</i> magazine was produced</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">17 June 1883</p> <p>Captain Colley (a young English officer who had been serving in Australia), Lieutenant Wright and Jabez White (a convert from the first meeting in Dunedin) hold the first meeting in Wellington. The Skeleton Army had already set up to disrupt them.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">24 June 1883</p> <p>Timaru holds the first Salvation Army meeting outside a major city centre.</p>

Australia Key Events:



<p>1880 Salvation Army starts in Australia</p> <p>The Salvation Army began its work in Australia on 5 September, 1880. Two converts of The Salvation Army in London, Edward Saunders and John Gore, led the first Salvation Army meeting in Australia from the back of a greengrocer's cart in Adelaide Botanic Park.</p>	<p>1883 Prison ministry established</p> <p>The Salvation Army's world-wide prison ministry began during the 1880s when Major James Barker began conducting chapel services in the Melbourne gaol. The work quickly developed to include a ministry for ex-prisoners whereby Salvation Army officers – the 'Prison Gate Brigade' – would stand at the prison gate and invite released men to start a new life.</p>
<p>1885 Missing Persons work</p> <p>By the end of 1885 the work of helping people to find missing family members and friends had begun in Melbourne Sydney. Their workers were called the 'hallelujah detectives'. They also helped young women who were pregnant and unmarried to track down the fathers of their babies and encourage them to support their children. This work is now known as the Family Tracing Service.</p>	<p>1890 First employment bureau</p> <p>In 1890, Australia experienced the worst depression the country had known, with unemployment worsening each day. By winter 1890, the Army had been asked by the government to open a free labour bureau in Melbourne to help people find jobs. This was the first known employment office in Australia.</p>
<p>1900 World's first feature film</p> <p>The Salvation Army Limelight Department was Australia's first film production company. It operated from 1897 to 1910. The Limelight Department produced the world's first multi-media presentation using the moving picture film technology of the day. The film, <i>Soldiers of the Cross</i>, was produced during 1900 and the Limelight Department also recorded the birth of the nation at Federation in 1901.</p>	<p>1905 General Booth visits Australia</p> <p>After touring the Holy Land, William Booth visited both Australia and New Zealand. It was his fourth, and final visit to Australia. He visited Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide.</p>
<p>1914–1918 WW1 ministry</p> <p>During WW1, The Salvation Army became known for the work of its chaplains, who cared for soldiers wherever they went. One example was the chaplain to the First Infantry Brigade, 'Fighting Mac' McKenzie, who went ashore with the troops at Gallipoli. In one three-day period, Fighting Mac conducted 647 funerals. He was later awarded a Military Cross for his work, an honour virtually unheard of for a military chaplain.</p>	<p>1920s Children's holiday camps</p> <p>Children living in poor areas of Sydney during the 1920s were rarely able to leave the slums. The Salvation Army decided to offer these children the 'holiday of a lifetime' at the Army's Collaroy centre on Sydney's beautiful northern beaches. During the Depression, mothers were invited too. The Salvation Army continues to run Red Shield holiday camps for disadvantaged children.</p>