

Junior Soldiers

Unit 9 : Lesson 3



Worship Only One!

PURPOSE : For the children to explore and understand that God is the only person/object that we worship.

'We believe that there is only one God, who is infinitely perfect, the Creator, Preserver, and Governor of all things, and who is the only proper object of religious worship.'

Doctrine 2

'There is only one God, and he is altogether perfect in every way. He is the Creator, Preserver and Governor of all things. We should not worship anyone or anything else.'

Doctrine 2 (simplified version)

Consider & Prepare

Read:

Exodus 20

Matthew 5:17

John 14:5-14

Handbook of Doctrine, chapter 2, in particular pages 25, 26, 34-36

'We believe that God is the Creator of the world and sustains it by his gracious purpose. The world and all that is in it was created fundamentally good because it was brought into being by a holy, wise, powerful and loving God.' *Handbook of Doctrine*, p.25.

This is part one of a two-part lesson on the second doctrine of The Salvation Army. The first lesson is about God being the only proper object of religious worship and the second lesson explores God's continued involvement with His creation and how he is still in charge.

As Christians, we worship God and God alone. This belief is foundational to our faith. If a Christian says he worships God *and* someone/something else, he/she is not a Christian. We don't worship the Bible, we don't worship the Church, we don't worship William and Catherine Booth, we don't worship The Salvation Army. All of these may have a special place in our hearts and in our faith life, but the only true object of our worship is God.

During this lesson we will touch on other religions, it is important not to be disrespectful of what they believe and what/who they worship (it may even be that some of your children have friends or family members of other faiths), but we want the children to be clear on who Christians worship.

Once we've established this point, in the next lesson we will look at something of the function of God as Creator, Preserver and Governor of the universe.

What you will need:

For 'Connecting In'

- Items that you may have gathered from a recycle art factory, craft supplies like wool, boxes, icy-pole sticks, paper, cardboard, foil, ribbon, clay etc.
- Sticky/masking tape

For 'The Main Thing'

- Whiteboard/blackboard or large sheets of butchers paper and the appropriate writing implements
- Symbols printed out for each of the five main world religions (attached)

For 'Tying In'

- Bibles (preferably CEV)
- Butchers paper or journals
- Textas or other writing/drawing implements

For 'Home & Beyond'

- Print off the 'Home & Beyond' cards for each child.
- Small tub/container of playdough or paper magiclay for each child



Connecting In

Build an idol...

For this activity you will need to have a range of supplies available for the children to use e.g. items that you may have gathered from a recycle art factory, craft supplies like wool, boxes, icy-pole sticks, paper, cardboard, foil, ribbon, clay etc. You will also need some sticky tape or masking tape to help with this activity.

'Some of you may have seen or heard of the reality television show *Australian Idol*, can you tell me what the aim of the show is? I wonder if you can tell me what an idol is. (Give the children an opportunity to contribute what they think and what they know about this word.)

The definition of idol is: An image or representation of a god used as an object of worship. A person or thing that is greatly admired, loved, or celebrated, e.g. 'movie idol Tom Cruise'.

Today we are going to work in small groups for an allocated time and create an idol; an idol that you think might be something that could be worshipped. (Give the children an allotted time, e.g. five minutes, to complete this task.)

We are looking for the most creative idol you can create in your group in this time. Ready, set, go.'

Link... 'Great job everyone! How creative are some of those idols that you have put together in your groups! We have had some fun today putting these together but there are some very interesting things in our world that people worship and that we might class as an idol.

- Who do we worship? Anyone else? (Make sure that if they mention God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit that we talk about them as one God, the Trinity.)

Today we are going to explore one of the beliefs that we have in The Salvation Army, in fact in the Christian Church we are part of. We worship only one God and believe that He is the only true God that we should worship...nothing else...no-one else...zippo!

The Main Thing

Idolise, worship, love or enjoy...

For this section of the lesson it would be good to have use of a whiteboard/ blackboard or large sheets of butchers paper as well as the appropriate writing implements in order to collate the children's responses to the categories below. It is important that you also have some answers to the following questions/ categories for children to see part of your story, you might even like to show some pictures/images for this section.

- Who is your favourite singer or music group?
- Who is your favourite television show or movie star?
- Who is the sporting team that you support?
- Who is your favourite sports star?
- What is your favourite restaurant, take away or food item?
- What is your favourite toy, game, book or play item?

Explore the above areas with the children to help identify things that they love, follow, support or enjoy.

'I am sure that some of these things take up a lot of our time and energy and some people might even say that they 'idolise' some of these people, teams or items.

We can certainly love cricket, playing cricket, watching cricket, cheering for your cricket team and even following a particular cricket player—but we are not to 'worship' cricket. Lots of the things that we love and enjoy spending our time on are fabulous but it is really important that these things, people and teams do not become more important in our lives than following and connecting with God.'

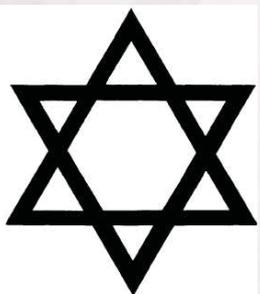
- I wonder if you had to put all the things that you love in a list of things that are most important to least important where God would fit in.

Other religious worship...

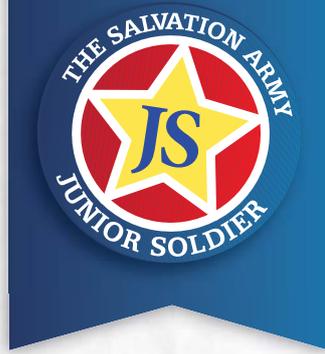
'I wonder what you might have heard or know about other main religions around the world. Let's have a look at some symbols of the five biggest religions from around the world and see if you might know something about them or about who they worship. *(You will need to print off the symbols that are included at the end of the lesson—you might like to hang them up or just hold them up individually to see if the children can identify which symbol goes with which religion.)*

- Buddhism
- Hinduism
- Judaism
- Islam
- Christianity

These are the symbols for the five biggest world religions; I wonder if you know what or who they worship.'



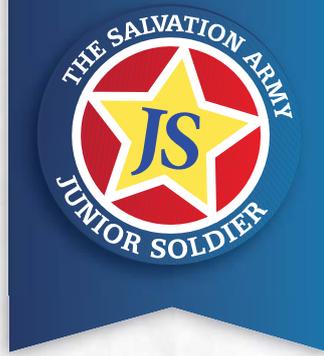
- Buddhism – Buddha, he was a wise man whose name was originally Siddharta Gautama
- Hinduism – 330 million gods; the main ones are called Siva, Rama and Krishna
- Judaism – Yahweh, this is another name for God (but they don't believe Jesus was part of God)



- Islam – Allah, their holy book is not the Bible but the Koran
- Christianity – God; the religion is named after His son, Jesus Christ.

These are the symbols and who each of these religions worship, but we want to highlight today that as Christians, as people who want to live like Christ taught and showed us and, as members of The Salvation Army, we believe that God is the only proper object of religious worship.

There are many things that we love and enjoy but, as we chatted about earlier, it is important that we do not worship these things and that they do not become more important than God in our lives. There are also heaps of other things and people that others worship—today we have just looked briefly at the five biggest world religions—but today we want to highlight that we only believe in God and He is the creator of our world, our universe and of us, too. Let’s have a look at what the scriptures say about worshipping God.



Tying In

Explore the scripture...

‘There are a number of places in scripture where it talks about there being only one God that we worship. We are going to have a look at two passages today and see what stands out for you.’

Divide your group into small groups (depending on the size of your group). They will need Bibles, butchers paper or journals and textas or other writing/drawing implements.

In your groups read together:

Ephesians 4:4–6 (CEV)

‘All of you are part of the same body. There is only one Spirit of God, just as you were given one hope when you were chosen to be God’s people. We have only one Lord, one faith, and one baptism. There is one God who is the Father of all people. Not only is God above all others, but he works by using all of us, and he lives in all of us.’

Exodus 20:3–5a (NIV)

‘You must not have any other god but me. You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods.’

- I wonder what stands out for you in these passages.
- What do you like?
- I wonder what God is saying to you today from these passages.
- Are there any questions or ‘wonderings’ that you might have from what you have read or heard? (*It is a great opportunity to let children wonder about the scripture, e.g. ‘I wonder where Jesus fits in if we are saying there is only one God or I wonder why God is a jealous God’ etc.*)

Take some time to pray and worship God. You might like to play some music or sing a song together or open up for the children to pray if they would like.



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.

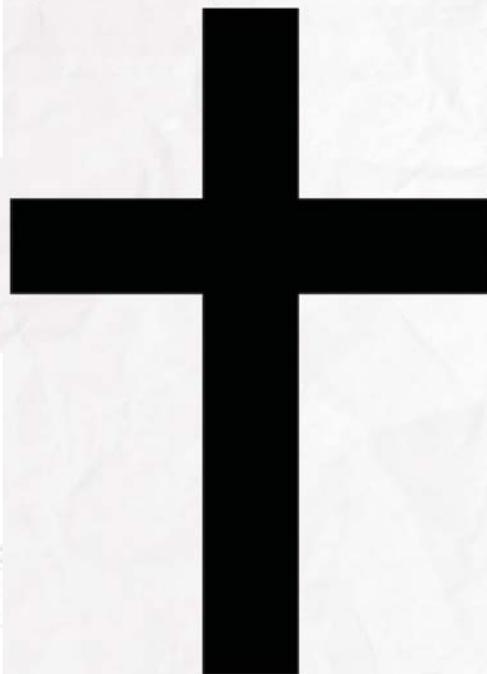
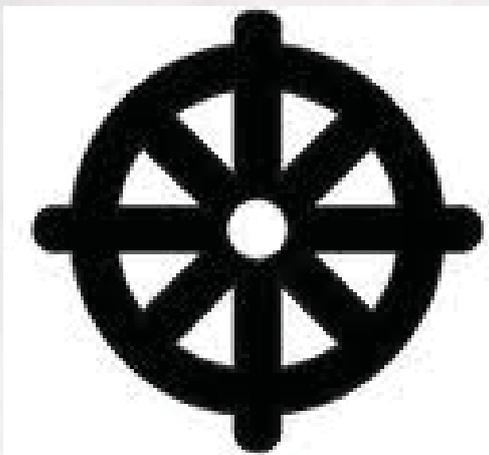
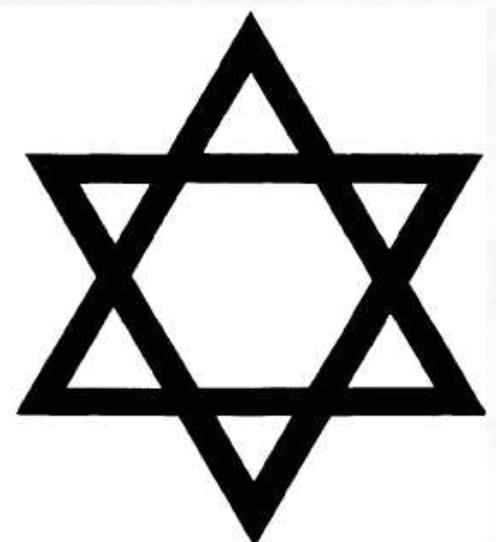
For this 'Home & Beyond' you will need a small tub/container of playdough or paper magiclay for each child.

Just one...

Today we explored how as Christians (Christ followers), we worship only **'one'** God.

We want our **'one'** God to be number **'one'** in our lives and sit above everything else.

- Use the material that you've been given to make something that reminds you that there is only **'one'** God and that He needs to be number **'one'** in our lives.
- When you have finished, place your item somewhere where it will remind you to pray and worship our number **'one'** God.



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