

# Junior Soldiers

Unit 11 : Lesson 8



## Bibles For All!

**PURPOSE :** To help the children explore and understand that not everyone in the world has easy access to God's Word, the Bible, and how they might be able to help with this.

**'He said to them, "Go everywhere in the world. Tell the good news to everyone.'"**

**Mark 16:15**

## Consider & Prepare

**Read:**

Mark 16:15

The story of Mary - [www.biblesociety.org.uk/uploads/content/projects/mary\\_jones\\_story.pdf](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/uploads/content/projects/mary_jones_story.pdf)

Social justice refers to the notion that everyone in the world can live safe and dignified lives, unaffected by discrimination and inequality, and has basic human rights. Backing up this ideology is the belief that God created people to live that way but his perfect world was broken by sin. We believe that in the same way that the world was broken (by choosing sin) it can be made whole again (by choosing justice through Jesus).

Although some complex issues are involved, social justice is also basic to our lives. It has an impact even on the playground when we are young. Little kids have an innate sense of justice: just try distributing lollies unevenly and hear the instant and loud cries of injustice, 'That's not fair!' There is a deep sense within us of what is right.

So what is injustice? Injustice is anything that oppresses and undermines a person's right to live equally with others and fairly in life. Injustice relates to greed, harmful practices and beliefs that diminish and often humiliate people. From a Christian perspective it is anything out of line with the will of God.

Is it God's will that everyone should have access to the good news about Jesus? Yes, it is. Can we print enough Bibles so that everyone in the world could have one? Yes, we can. So what do we call it when some people have access to Bibles and some people don't? We call it an injustice.

Today we are learning about the Bible Society and how we can help to spread the good news of Jesus around the world. The reason the Bible Society exists is because people either cannot earn enough to purchase their own Bible or do not know how to read. Through fundraising events that happen throughout the world, the Bible Society teaches and provides Bibles to different countries. They have a specific project each year that children can especially be involved in to help provide access for children to God's word.

For 2014, the Bible Society is helping to put Bibles in the hands of children in China. When you download or receive your resource pack for the 'Get The Word Out' project, you will find information about why

China has been chosen as the country for this year. To find out more about the Bible Society and what it does, you can look at their website at [www.biblesociety.org.au](http://www.biblesociety.org.au)

For information about the project and resources for China in 2014, go to [www.biblesociety.org.au/projects/get-the-word-out-in-china](http://www.biblesociety.org.au/projects/get-the-word-out-in-china)

You can also call them on 1300 Bibles (1300 242 537) to place an order.

### What you will need:

#### For 'Connecting In'

- A variety of approximately 20 items that range in value from under \$1 to \$10
- Bibles
- A \$10 note
- Container with slips of paper for children's names
- Butchers paper or whiteboard and appropriate markers

#### For 'The Main Thing'

- Paper
- Textas
- Bible
- Current resources from the Bible Society's 'Get The Word Out' project.
- [www.biblesociety.org.au/projects/get-the-word-out-in-china](http://www.biblesociety.org.au/projects/get-the-word-out-in-china)

#### For 'Tying In'

- Bookmark/Bible tag template from the Bible Society website
- Blank paper
- Textas

#### For 'Home & Beyond'

- Print off the 'Home & Beyond' cards for each child.
- Bookmark/Bible tag template (this can be found under the resources on the Bible Society website).



## Connecting In

### The price is right...

For this section you will need to have spread out on a table a variety of approximately 20 items that range in value. Ensure that you have some items that are worth the full amount of \$10 (CDs, DVDs, iTunes card, magazines etc.) as well as some items that are under \$1. You will need to know the exact cost of each item and have a list so that you can tally up the amount at the end of the challenge. You will also need to have a Bible (which will be counted as an item worth \$10). You will also need to have all the children's names on slips of paper that are folded and placed into a container.

'Today we are going to play a game that is similar to one of the games you might have seen on the television game show *The Price is Right*. I am going to choose some volunteers by drawing one name at a time out of the container. These volunteers are going to come down the front to try and complete the spending challenge.' (Choose your first volunteer by drawing a name out of the container.)

'For this challenge you will be given a \$10 note—not to keep but for you to use for this activity. Your challenge is to choose items that will cost \$10 in total. You can choose more than one item, e.g. a magazine and two packets of chips etc.'

Have someone recording the items that are chosen on a whiteboard or large sheet of butcher's paper. Once the first chosen volunteer has completed their turn, chose another name from the container. You

can choose as many as you have time for. When all the turns are finished take some time to tally the results to see who got the closest to \$10. They are the winner.

**Link:** 'There are a lot of good things on the table to choose from in our challenge today. Lots of the items were worth different amounts.

→ I wonder, if you had \$10 to spend down the street, what would you spend it on? What would you buy?

'One of items on the table today was a Bible; I wonder how much your Bible cost. Perhaps someone bought it for you or you saved up some of your own money to have a particular one that you liked. I wonder how many of you have more than one Bible or at least more than one Bible in the house. We are very fortunate to have our own Bibles or, at least, access to one in your house. Imagine what it would be like if you were not able to read about all the great stories and messages from God and Jesus—I know I would be very sad about that.

'Well, there are many people in our world that do not have access to a Bible and there are heaps of children missing out on being able to read God's Word. On the table today there was a Bible, if you had chosen just that you would have spent exactly \$10.

'Today we are going to explore a group called the Bible Society and how they go about helping people all around the world—including lots of children—have access to a Bible. Each year one of their special projects has a specific focus on children in a particular country, this year it is China. People like you and me can go about helping the Bible Society and for just \$10 can put a Bible in the hands of a child. I wonder if we can make a difference in China.'

### **Find the verse...**

Depending on the size of your group you may like to split the group into teams for this activity. If you do this, make sure that everyone gets a turn at helping to find a verse.

'Today we are going to have a Bible verse race against each other to find selected verses from the Bible.'

Tell the children that once they (or their group) have found the verse that has been called out, they need to run to the front ready to read the verse aloud.

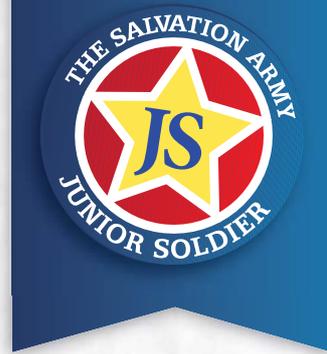
You can either call out the verse that needs to be found or write in on a board out the front so that children can refer to it again if needed. When all the children for that turn have found the verse get them to read it out together.

Some examples of verses to be found are:

- Mark 16:15
- Matthew 28:19
- John 3:16
- Proverbs 30:5
- Deuteronomy 6:5
- Psalm 139:14
- Isaiah 43:5

**Link:** 'Well done to everyone for trying hard to find and read out the verses that were selected today. We are very lucky to be able to play games like this where we can use and read God's word. Did you know that not everyone can afford Bibles or knows how to read them? There are millions of people in the world that don't have a Bible and would really love to either have one or access to reading one.

'Today we are going to explore a group called the Bible Society and how they go about helping people all around the world—including lots of children—have access to a Bible. Each year one of their special projects has a specific focus on children in a particular country, this year it is China. People like you and me can go about helping the Bible Society and for just \$10 can put a Bible in the hands of a child. I wonder if we can make a difference in China.'



# The Main Thing

## The Bible Society...

The Bible Society has some great resources that are available to help support you in your ministry and working together with children and congregations on a project. A new project for children is set up each year with a focus on a specific country, this year it is China. You will be able to download or order the current resources from the Bible Society at [www.biblesociety.org.au/projects/get-the-word-out-in-china](http://www.biblesociety.org.au/projects/get-the-word-out-in-china)

The resources you are looking for are titled 'Get The Word Out' and include lesson ideas for helping to engage your children with the topic, games, crafts and prayer points as well as fundraising ideas and information about China. You might like to have a look at the suggestions from the website along with the information below and plan out what you would like to do in this 'Main Thing' section, there might

also be enough suggestions and material for you to use over two sessions with the children.



## Thankful...

For this activity, you will need to give each child some paper and textas. Encourage the children to make quick responses as this should not be a long activity.

'I am going to ask you some questions and I would like you to write or draw your responses on the sheet of paper that you have been given. There are no right or wrong answers, it is just your response.

- What do you sleep in each night?
- What do you eat for breakfast?
- How many sets of clothes do you have to choose from when you are getting dressed?
- How do you get to school? Is this the only way?
- What chores do you have to do around the house? Each day/each week?
- What do you choose to do when you get home from school?
- When do you read your Bible?

Invite the children to share their drawings/answers with the group.

- 'I wonder if you are thankful for all the things we have just spoken about.

'Imagine if when you woke up in the morning it was so early that it was still dark outside and instead of being able to stay wrapped up in a blanket in a nice comfy bed, you needed to get up and do the chores in the house: making your bed, sweeping the floors, feeding the animals, and having to walk possibly a long way to get water. Then you might even need to come back to help prepare breakfast. But instead of getting to choose what cereal or toast you want to eat, or even having bacon and eggs for breakfast, you are lucky to have a small serve of rice every day.

'What if when you went to get dressed you didn't get to pick out your favourite clothes because you only had one pair of shorts and a T-shirt. Imagine if the only way you could get to school was to walk a very long way, and when you got home you had a small dinner before you had to do more chores before going to bed.

'Imagine not having a Bible to read whenever you chose to, and even if you really wanted to have one your family could not afford one or you didn't know how to read.

'There are many children in the world who live like this every day. There are more than one billion people worldwide that earn less than \$1.00 a day. The reality is that they will never be able to afford to buy a Bible because they need to use the little money they earn to pay for important things such as food and shelter.

'Back in 1804, a man named Thomas Charles, along with some others, realized this need—that people could not afford Bibles even if they really wanted to learn about God. So Thomas and the other men formed what we know today as the Bible Society.

→ I wonder if anyone has ever heard of the Bible Society and what they do.

'The Bible Society provides Bibles to people in countries that really need them. They get lots of donations and people all over the world run fundraisers to help raise money to get Bibles into the hands of people who cannot afford them. This helps those people to then learn about God and have the opportunity to have a relationship with him, just like we do.

'Each year, children in schools and churches are invited to help out by taking part in the 'Get The Word Out' project. This project is aimed at a different country each year and children are invited to raise as much money as they can to help provide Bibles for children in another country. This year (2014), the country is China.'

It would be a great idea to read out some information about this country that you can find in the leader's pack, the 'Get The Word Out' kids magazines or the DVD that should come with your pack.

Get one of the children to look up Mark 16:5 in their Bible and read it out.

→ 'I wonder what you think God is asking us to do.'

'To aid us in this task, we are taking on the project of raising some money to help get some Bibles into the hands of disadvantaged children as our Global Project Task. For every \$10 we raise (just like in our first activity today, just \$10) we can provide one children's Bible and a specially designed bookmark which you can send to be placed in the Bible that will go to a child. So let's get started!'

Use the rest of your lesson to plan out a fundraiser that your children can run to raise money to purchase Bibles for children in China. In the leader's pack that you can download there are lots of ideas that can help in your brainstorm.



Some things to consider during your planning:

- How will you communicate to the church that this is an important project for them to support?
- What advertising needs to be done? How will we do that?
- What will each child be responsible for? Write these on the 'Home & Beyond' cards for each child.
- How much work needs to be done between now and the fundraiser? Can the children complete most of this as part of their project or will they need some help and support?
- What is your goal? How many Bibles does your group want to raise money for, e.g. \$100 equals 10 Bibles? Having a goal will encourage others to be involved to help hit the target.

Once you have planned out your fundraiser you can get the children to start doing some of the tasks with the time you have left or plan some time to meet together. For instance, if they need to make posters or write a speech, they can use this time to get started.

# Tying In

By undertaking this Bible Society project you will be able to complete the Global Project Task in your passport for every level.

## Bookmarks...

For this activity you will need to download the bookmark/Bible tag template from the resource pack on the Bible Society website. You will need two copies per child, one for this activity and one for the 'Home & Beyond' activity.

'For every \$10 that is raised, we are able to provide one Bible for a child in China. We also get to make a special bookmark/Bible tag that will go inside the cover of the Bible for the child to keep when they receive the Bible. On this bookmark we can write our names along with a message that could include a picture or a prayer or both.

'We are going to spend some time now to create a bookmark/Bible tag for some of the Bibles that we will raise money for. *(It would be good for each of the children to create a bookmark. However, if you do not raise enough to have one tag per Bible you can put some together and have two or three messages per Bible.)* Brainstorm together about some of the things you might like to say to the child that is going to receive this Bible. Think about some ways that you might like to decorate it and possibly add a prayer, too.'

## Prayer...

Once the children have finished their bookmarks/Bible tag, invite them to place it in front of them as they all sit in a circle. Encourage them to pray for the child that is going to receive their Bible. Some things that you might like to suggest they pray about are:

- That the child who receives this Bible will come to know God and believe in Jesus.
- That they will have enough of the important things that they need, e.g. food, water, clothes, shelter etc.
- That they will have the opportunity to go to school/church and learn to read.

After all the children have prayed, have a leader finish this time of prayer and thank God for the difference that the children in your group are making by being a part of this project.

# 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.

This will probably be a project that is ongoing and so it is important that everyone is aware what things that they need to do and follow up in the coming days as you work together as a team and encourage the rest of the congregation to support you and get on board. You will also need to provide the children with another blank copy of the bookmark/Bible tag.

## Prepare and Pray...

- List below the things you need to be responsible for in relation to the Bible project.
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- Talk with your family and Big Bud so that they can support you in this project.
- You can also make another bookmark/Bible tag for a child who will receive a Bible from you.
- Remember to pray for them once you have made it!

