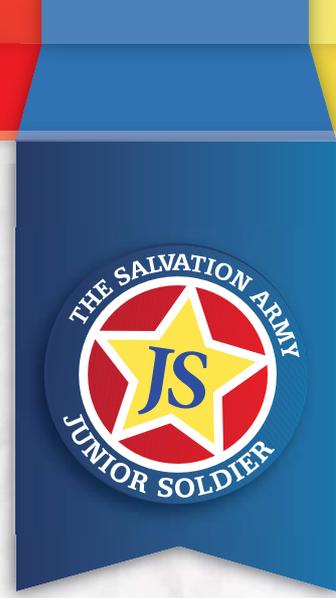


Junior Soldiers

Unit 11 : Lesson 9

Anzac Day!



PURPOSE : For the children to explore and understand the link between the sacrifice made by the Anzacs for our bodies and the sacrifice Jesus Christ made for our souls.

‘Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.’

John 15:13

Consider & Prepare

Read:

Romans 5:6–8

John 15:7–17

The key message in this lesson is that a parallel can be made between the sacrifice that the Anzacs made for their countries and the sacrifice that Jesus made for humankind—both were made to provide freedom. The Anzacs brought political and physical freedom whereas Jesus offers spiritual and eternal freedom.

Some of the words that are associated with the Anzacs are ‘courage, endurance, mateship and *sacrifice*’. There are many stories of men and women who sacrificed their comfort, freedoms and livelihood for others on the battlefield; some, of course, gave the ultimate sacrifice of their life. There are also many stories, from across the centuries, of godly people who sacrificed their comfort and safety—and, yes, even their lives—to share the message of Christ’s sacrifice for us.

God’s intention has always been to be in relationship with humankind, but since the fall (Genesis 2) we have sinned and turned away from God. We read verses such as John 3:16–17 reminding us that God provided a way for us to be in relationship with Him again, but this came at a price. The sacrifice Jesus paid through His death and the victory he won in resurrection means that sin is conquered and salvation is secured for everyone who believes in Him. We can experience freedom from sin and death and have assurance of eternal life when we believe in God because of Jesus’ sacrifice.

Anzac Day is celebrated once a year, remembering the thousands of Australian and New Zealand lives given by men and women on battlefields around the world.

It is important, as you prepare for this lesson, that you take into consideration the age and background of your children. You will need to be considerate about how you share this information (i.e. multiple deaths, injuries, war etc.) realizing that some may find it confronting and you may need to soften some aspects of what is communicated.

Preparation for prayer activity

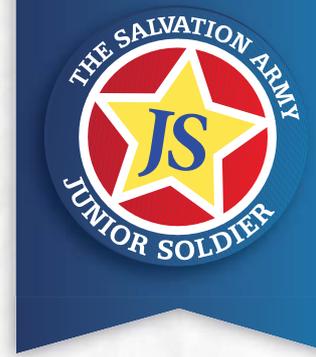
It is important to speak with families of your Junior Soldiers as well as those within your church community. Ask them if they know of the names of any friends or family members who sacrificed their lives in war.

Ode to Anzacs

The following ode and words are included in the YouTube clip. This is a great clip to set the mood for this lesson but remember that you may need to explore and explain what this means with the children.

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

We rightly say 'lest we forget' remembering the great sacrifice of others for our mortal bodies. How much more should we remember the sacrifice that Jesus paid for our immortal soul?



Anzac quick facts

- ANZAC is an abbreviation for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.
- AIF is an abbreviation for Australian Imperial Force.
- 25 April, Anzac Day, was the day the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula in 1915.
- The Anzacs were on the Gallipoli Peninsula for eight months, around 8,000 of them died there.
- The Anzacs were all volunteers (i.e. not conscripted to join up).
- The first dawn service on an Anzac Day was in 1923 and the first official dawn service was held at the Sydney Cenotaph in 1927.
- The 'Last Post' played on the bugle gave one last warning to any soldiers still at large that it was time to retire for the evening. The 'Last Post' is incorporated into funeral and memorial services for defense force personnel as a final farewell and symbolizes that the duty of the dead is over and they can rest in peace.

The significance of the wreath

Wreaths are commonly made from evergreens as a symbol for the strength of life as these plants are able to overcome even the harshest of winters. It is also used to represent everlasting life brought through Jesus and the circular shape of the wreath represents God, with no beginning and no end.

Other components of wreaths are commonly flowers, leaves, fruit, pine, holly (symbolizing immortality) and cedar (symbolizing strength and healing).

In ancient Rome and Greece, people used decorative wreaths as a sign of victory and achievement. Greeks used wreaths as crowns of honour.



What you will need:

For 'Connecting In'

- Bibles
- 'Last Post' YouTube clip (www.youtube.com/watch?v=N82wNjFVeK8) or read out the Anzac ode above.
- A selection of items that have different textures to them, for example: feather, cork, corrugated cardboard, taffeta, flower, a spice that smells etc.
- A cloth to cover the items
- A blindfold
- A long cloth, ribbon or rope

For 'The Main Thing'

- Map of the world and map or pictures of Gallipoli
- Bibles
- Anzac pictures (see appendix)
- Anzac story cards (see appendix)
- Blu-Tack

For 'Tying In'

- A3 sheets of paper, enough for each child
- Some sheets of butchers paper
- Some sheets of coloured paper
- Green and black paint
- Big brush (optional)
- Scissors
- Paper plate or shallow dish
- Red patty pans
- PVA craft glue
- A list of names of family and friends (collected over the past few weeks) connected with your church family, of those who have sacrificed their lives in war.

For 'Home & Beyond'

- Print off the 'Home & Beyond' cards for each child.
- Anzac biscuit recipe



Connecting In

Stuck in the mud...

'I want you to think for a minute about what freedom is and share you ideas with me.' (*Allow some time for the children to think and then share their thoughts.*)

'Today we're going to play a game of stuck in the mud.'

- As per usual rules, there is one child who is 'in' who is to chase the other children in the group and tag as many as possible who are not already stuck in the mud.
- Once someone is caught they then become 'stuck in the mud' and cannot move. The child must stand like a statue with feet and arms out wide so that others know that they are stuck.
- To release someone who is stuck, they must be tagged by one of the children who are 'free' as they yell 'you are now free!'
- The game ends when all the children are stuck in the mud.
- You may like to play a couple of games.

Link: 'Today we have been playing a game of 'stuck in the mud' and having some fun. This is a game where the only way you are able to get free is if someone comes to free you from being stuck in the mud.'

- I wonder how you felt when you were stuck in the mud.
- When you were free (i.e. not stuck), I wonder how you felt when your friends were stuck.
- How hard did you try to free them? Why/Why not?
- What did it feel like when you were freed from the mud by someone?

'Freedom is not always something that those who are trapped can change. There are times when you need others to help you or stand up for you or make a sacrifice for you. In the game, some people who were trying to free their friends made a sacrifice because they got close to the person who was it and also got caught and stuck in the mud. Today we are going to explore some important people that have made sacrifices so that we can be free to do lots of things in our communities. The people that we are going to be thinking about today are referred to as Anzacs and they fought to defend our country and other countries. Anzac stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, so the Anzacs were soldiers from Australia and New Zealand.'

Blind man's bluff...

For this activity you will need a selection of items that have different textures, e.g. feather, cork, corrugated cardboard, taffeta, flour, a spice that smells etc. All the items will need to be placed on a table with a cloth to cover them and you will need a blindfold as well.

Before you play the game, ask the children what they think freedom is and allow them to answer.

- Explain that you will need a volunteer for this game and that this volunteer will not have the freedom to use their sight and touch.
- Choose a volunteer (especially one that does not have any allergies).
- When you have your volunteer, you will need to put the blindfold on them and ask them to stand with their hands joined behind their back.
- Before you start, explain that you have a number of items under the cloth that you would like them to try to guess only using their smell, taste or feel against their face; say you will bring out each item one at a time and that anyone watching is not allowed to help them or give them hints or clues.
- Take one item out at a time and have the child smell, taste or maybe rub their face against it to see if they might be able to work out what the item is.



Link: 'Today it has been fun trying to guess what the items were under the cloth, maybe not so much fun for ... because they were not able to use their eyes or hands to help them. They did not have the freedom to be able to use all their senses to work out the item before them.

- I wonder how you felt when you were blindfolded and unable to use your hands.
- How easy was it for you to work out what the items were?
- When the blindfold was taken off and you were able to move your hands and you were free to use your eyes and touch to explore the items, how did this feel different?
- For those of you who were watching and were free to see the items, how did you feel when your friend was blindfolded and unable to use their hands?
- How hard was it to not call out and help them?
- Why did you want to help them?

'The Anzacs were people who defended our country and other countries. They fought in battles for our freedom and way of life. You could say that Jesus fought in a battle too, a battle against Satan and sin and evil. He was also trying to give us freedom: spiritual freedom.

'We experience freedom in our lifestyle today because of the sacrifices made by the Anzacs, and we can experience freedom in our souls because of what Jesus did for us. We are not bound or owned or ruled by Satan, Jesus has defeated Satan for us. We are free to come to church, to talk to God, to read our Bibles, to learn about Jesus and to worship as we choose to, because Jesus won the battle! Satan wanted Jesus dead and gone, but the resurrection showed that neither Satan nor death could stop Jesus.'

Have the children look up and read together Romans 5:6–8.

- What stands out for you in this passage?
- Do you have any questions about this passage? Maybe we can help each other explore the answers.

'The Anzacs fought for freedom. They sacrificed the comforts of their homes, the love and protection of their families and communities, good health and good living conditions to go and fight for our country. A lot of good people died during this war while serving others.

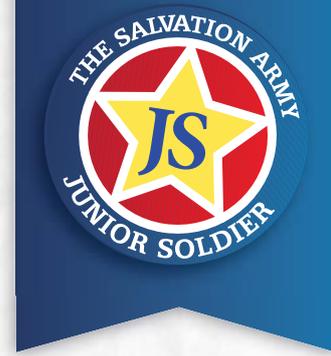
'Jesus Christ won a victory for everyone. He was a sacrifice for us all. He didn't give his life just for those who were doing good things—God sent Jesus to give his life so that we could all be free to have a relationship with Him and live in heaven forever. We are reminded of this in John 3:16–17, let's look at it together (*read the passage*).'

'On Anzac Day we play the 'Last Post' and say the Anzac ode to remember the people who laid down their lives for us.'

Play YouTube clip or read the ode to Anzacs: www.youtube.com/watch?v=N82wNJFVeK8

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
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The Main Thing

Gallipoli...

For this activity you will need a map of the world with a marker showing where you are and a marker showing where Gallipoli is. It would also be good to have a map of Gallipoli as well as some photos of the region.

'Gallipoli is a place on the coast of Turkey. It was the site of one of the most important battles of World War I and one of the main reasons we remember these people on Anzac Day. On the battlefield of Gallipoli one of the biggest problems the Anzacs faced was the environment. They lived in trenches for months: these were open tunnels dug in the ground that filled with mud when it rained. The Gallipoli peninsula is a spectacular place: steep valleys, deep ravines and high cliffs towering above long, narrow beaches. It can be searingly hot in summer and bone chillingly cold in winter. For most of 1915, this was home to thousands of men and women, far from home.

'Conditions were really tough, much worse than just thinking about camping out in a tent; it was really rough. The weather took its toll with great heat or horrible cold along with plenty of rain. There was not always access to water and so some of the troops dug wells or collected rain. Ships brought in most of the water, loading it into tanks on the beaches. In late November 1915, Gallipoli was hit with a huge storm along the peninsula and there was water everywhere. The trenches were flooded and the rain swept away everything in its path. Lots of people drowned and heaps of things they used for living everyday were washed away.

'Living in these conditions was a big sacrifice that these people made as part of the plans to win the war.'

Sacrifice for others...

For this section you will need to print off the Anzac pictures and story cards you will find in the appendices. The story cards will need to be cut up into individual segments.

'Some of the words that are associated with the Anzacs battle at Gallipoli are courage, endurance, mateship and sacrifice. There are many stories of men and women who laid down their lives for others on the battlefield—they gave the ultimate sacrifice. There are also stories of godly people who sacrificed their comfort and safety to share the message of Christ's sacrifice for us.

'We are going to have a look at three stories of people who sacrificed their safety and comfort so that others would know freedom. As I read the stories, I have some pictures and cards about each of these people (*hand out the cards to the children*). When you hear the part of the story that matches the card you have, come and put it up on the wall with some Blu-Tack.'

Story One: Anglican Reverend Henare Wepiha Te Wainohu [Appendix 1].

'When soldiers of the New Zealand Pioneer Battalion recalled 'the Padre', they spoke with great feeling for the Reverend Henare. As chaplain to the Maori troops during World War I, Te Wainohu made a big impression on the soldiers he served. At a time when they were separated from their own people and exposed to great danger, he provided them with spiritual and cultural support and guidance. Henare Te Wainohu risked his life for others on many occasions at Gallipoli. He worked with the medical teams and carried the wounded, gave out water, and comforted the dying—often while he was being shot at!

'On 6 August, the eve of the battle at Sari Bair, Te Wainohu preached a sermon encouraging the soldiers to be fearless in battle and not to turn their backs on the enemy, he reminded them of their duty to uphold the warrior tradition of the Maori: 'Remember you have the *mana*, the honour and good name of the Maori people, in your keeping this night.' This gave courage to the soldiers and hope for an end to the fighting. He was wounded in the back in September 1915.'

Story Two: Salvation Army officer, Captain William McKenzie [Appendix 2].

'Ask Australians to name the most famous Anzac of World War I and most will probably answer, 'Simpson, the man with the donkey'. While Simpson is a household name, the soldiers who fought in the war would give a different answer: Captain William McKenzie.

“'Fighting Mac", as the soldiers nicknamed him, served as chaplain of the AIF 4th Battalion. On Gallipoli, McKenzie won the respect of the Anzacs. Like other chaplains, he conducted burial services, often under shell fire. But he went further, finding chocolates for each man, or cutting steps into a steep part of a track at night. At the Battle of Lone Pine, McKenzie should have been in the rear trenches where it was safer, but he followed the charge, armed with just a shovel! He needed that shovel because over the next few weeks he buried 450 men. For his commitment and bravery, McKenzie received the Military Cross. It is reported that McKenzie led up to 3,000 men to Christ during the war.'

Story Three: Saviour of the World, Jesus of Nazareth [Appendix 3].

'Mary was a young teenage girl engaged to Joseph, a descendant of King David. Mary gave birth to Jesus in a stable in Bethlehem. It was prophesized that Jesus was the Saviour, the Messiah that God had promised to the Jewish people. After Jesus was born, however, the family was forced to run away to Egypt because King Herod, the ruler of Israel, had ordered that this promised King of the Jews must be killed (because he didn't want Jesus to take his place as king).

'After living as a refugee in Egypt for some years, Jesus and his parents returned to the little town of Nazareth and he studied the Scriptures—as all Jewish boys did—and grew to understand his relationship with God his father and with all people.

'At around 30 years of age Jesus called 12 men to follow him as disciples to teach them all he knew about God and to spread the good news of the sacrifice he was about to make. He taught that by loving God we can be free from sin and unwise choices and can live forever in heaven. Believing in Jesus and God still gives hope to people. In John 10:10 it says, 'I have come so that you may have life, and have it to the full.'

'Both the Padre and Fighting Mac pointed soldiers to the fact that there is someone—Jesus—who made a sacrifice that was about for more than protecting countries or property or people, it was a sacrifice that provided us all with the opportunity to win eternal life and victory over sin.'

Have the children open their Bibles to John 15:13 and read it together:

- How would you feel if you were asked to go to war for someone else?
- Which of these men made sacrifices for others?
- How is the sacrifice that Jesus made different to the sacrifice that other people have made?



Tying In

ANZAC wreath...

For this section you might like to use the pictures provided in the appendices or, if you have access to a computer, it might be good to do a search for cenotaphs and see if there is one in your town or close to where you live. It would also be good to have one of the red poppies that are used for remembrance or, if possible, one for each of the children. You will also need some green and black paint, paper plates, A3 paper, red patty pans, a large sheet of butchers paper, some PVA glue, some sheets of coloured paper and some scissors.

'A cenotaph (*show the children a picture*) is a monument that has been built to remember people who have died but whose remains (body) are buried somewhere else. On Anzac Day, people traditionally lay a wreath of flowers at the cenotaph in memory of those who have died.

'Today we are each going to make an Anzac wreath to help us remember the sacrifice of those who have died in wars as well as to remind us of the sacrifice that Jesus made for each of us. The red poppies that are used on Anzac Day and Remembrance Day are a symbol to help us remember those who served in the war as well as to represent the blood of Jesus. The green 'leaves' (hand prints that we will make) that go around it in a circle represents the never-ending life of Jesus and the memories that continue of those who died in war. We are also going to add a cross to our wreaths which will remind us of Jesus' sacrifice for us.'

Here's how you make it...

- Pour some green paint into a paper plate or shallow dish. Lightly dip hand(s) into paint and press hand prints in a circle shape on their sheet of A3 paper.
- You might like to draw a circle shape on the paper with pencil before the children start to help guide where they need to place their hands.
- When each child has finished their circle of handprints, ask them to place one handprint into the circle on the large sheet of butcher's paper. (This will be used for the prayer activity.)
- Paste some red patty pans with PVA glue onto your wreath to make poppies.
- Dip your finger into the black paint and place a dot in the center of each 'poppy'.
- When the paint is dry, the children can cut around their wreath.
- Lastly, place a cross on your wreath to remind you of the sacrifice of Jesus.

- I wonder if you can tell me what each part and colour of the wreath stands for.
- If I now say 'Anzac sacrifice', what does that mean to you?
- If I now say 'Jesus sacrifice' what does that mean for you?

As you take home your wreaths today you will be able to look at it through the coming weeks and remember the sacrifice that others have made for you, for your freedom. Don't forget to pray for the things you are thankful for in regards to this.

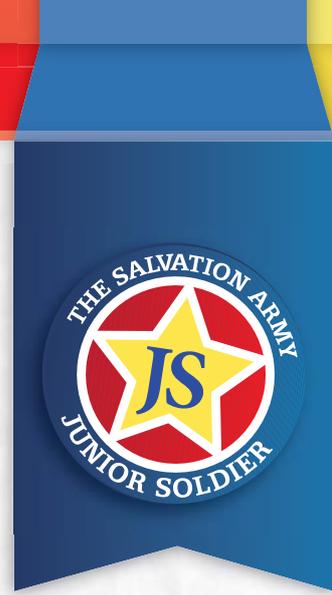
Prayer...

Ask the children to sit in a circle.

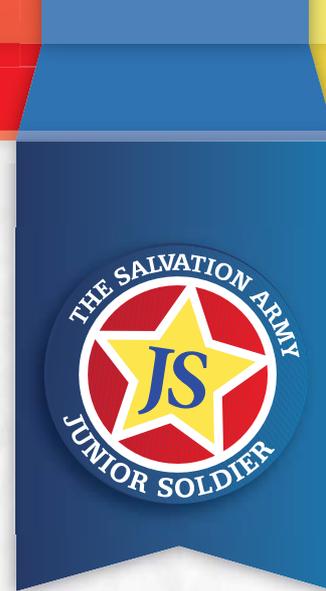
Take the large sheet of handprints on the butchers paper and place it in the middle of the circle.

'Some of your relatives might have been involved in wars in the past or might even be serving or fighting right now. There are also people who are connected to our church community who have lost relatives during a war. I am going to read out a list of names that I have gathered over the last few weeks of some people that you might know or others in our church know. You can choose one or more names to write on your handprint as a way of showing that you remember the sacrifice they have made.'

Once the children have done this, draw a large cross on the page. Ask the children to take turns writing their name on the cross.



Give the children an opportunity to pray for the soldiers who have made sacrifices in the past as well as those who are serving in the services right now. Also encourage them to pray and thank God for the sacrifice that Jesus made for each one of us. Have a leader finish in prayer.



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.

Remembering the Anzac sacrifices...

- Talk to your family or Big Bud about the Anzacs' sacrifices for our freedom and how that makes you feel.
- Talk to your family or Big Bud about the sacrifice that Jesus made for our freedom and how you feel about that.
- You might like to participate on Anzac Day by attending a parade or dawn service.
- As a family, make some Anzac biscuits, you might even like to take some to share with someone you know who has either served or is serving in any of the defense services, or perhaps take some to a nursing home and visit a war veteran.

Anzac biscuit recipe

- 1 ¼ cups plain flour, sifted
- 1 cup rolled oats
- ½ cup caster sugar
- ¾ cup desiccated coconut
- 2 tablespoons golden syrup or treacle
- 150g unsalted butter, chopped
- ½ teaspoon bicarb soda

Preheat oven to 170°C. Place the flour, oats, sugar and coconut in a large bowl and stir to combine. In a small saucepan place the golden syrup and butter and stir over low heat until the butter has fully melted. Mix the bicarb soda with 1 ½ tablespoons water and add to the golden syrup mixture. It will bubble while you are stirring so remove from the heat. Pour into the dry ingredients and mix together until fully combined. Roll tablespoons of mixture into balls and place on baking trays lined with non-stick baking paper, pressing down on the tops to flatten slightly. Bake for 12 minutes or until golden brown.

Home & Beyond

Remembering the Anzac sacrifices for our freedom and how that makes

you feel.

- Talk to your family or Big Bud about the Anzacs' sacrifices for our freedom and how you feel about that.
- Talk to your family or Big Bud about the sacrifice that Jesus made for our freedom and how that makes you feel.
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Junior Soldiers

Appendices



Appendix 1: Reverend Henare Wepiha Te Wainohu



REV. HENARE WEPiha Te Wainohu,
CHAPLAIN, MAORI BATTALION.
Wounded at Gallipoli and in France. Died in New Zealand, 1924.



Wounded in the back	New Zealand Pioneer Battalion
Nickname: the 'Padre'	Battle of Sari Bair
'You have the mana'	Anglican



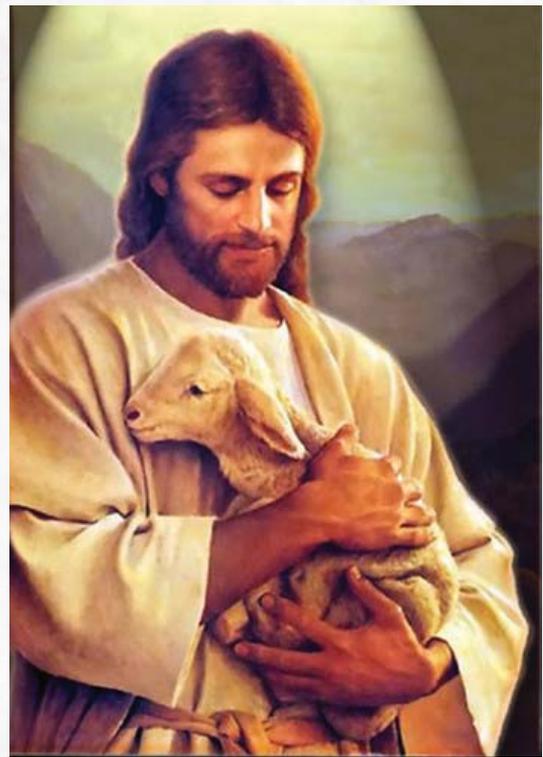
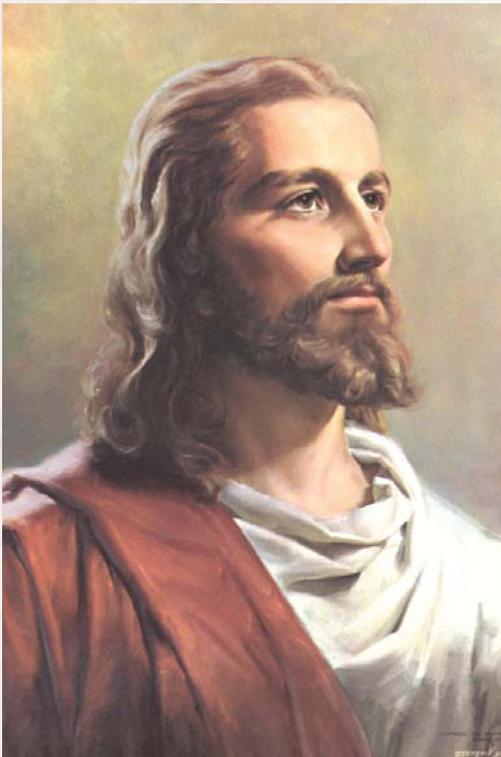
Appendix 2: Captain William 'Fighting Mac' McKenzie



Charged the enemy with a shovel	AIF 4th Battalion
Nickname: 'Fighting Mac'	Battle of Lone Pine
Led up to 3,000 men to Christ	The Salvation Army



Appendix 3: Jesus of Nazareth



Crucified on a cross	Son of God
Nickname: 'The Messiah'	Calvary
'I have come so that you may have life'	Jewish

APPENDIX 4: Examples of cenotaphs

