

# Junior Soldiers

## UNIT 13 : LESSON 8



### Caring for People

**PURPOSE:** For the children to explore and understand why The Salvation Army is dedicated to caring for people and how this is expressed.

**“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.”**

**— John 15:12, NIV**

### Consider & Prepare

The Salvation Army Australia is committed to caring for people. This is one of our four mission intentions and is reflected in all that we do. To help you prepare for this lesson, read these Scripture verses that give insight into why we share the love of Jesus by caring for people:

John 15:12

Proverbs 14:31

James 2:14-17

Genesis 1:26

Read the following statements from the official website of The Salvation Army Australia:

The Salvation Army Australia is a Christian movement dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus. We share the love of Jesus by:

- Caring for people
- Creating faith pathways
- Building healthy communities
- Working for justice

Being there when people need us most; we offer care and compassion as a sacred encounter with transformative potential.

Consider:

- How has your life been impacted by this part of The Salvation Army's mission?
- Why is this part of the mission important or inspiring for you?

### **What you will need:**

For 'Connecting In'

- For Activity – Option 1 – Doorways: Blu-tac. Printed copies of the doors and cards from Attachment 1 (or create your own doors). If you have a large group, print several copies of the cards, or create some additional cards
- For Activity – Option 2 – Guess the Need: Printed copies of the photos from Attachment 2

For 'The Main Thing'

- Printed copies of the door posters from Attachment 1
- If you don't already know, find out about the different services that are provided in your local mission area
- Markers or pens
- Enough Bibles for each child

For 'Tying In'

- A sheet of butchers' paper and marker for each group of two to three children

For 'Home & Beyond'

- Print off the Home & Beyond cards for each child

# Connecting In

Ask the children to think about one thing that they needed this week. What was it? How did they get what they needed?

## Activity – Option 1 - Doorways

Blu-tac five different 'doors' to walls around the room.

Door 1: Advice and help with money

Door 2: Safe place to live

Door 3: Someone to talk to about Jesus

Door 4: Food

Door 5: A playgroup

Give each child one card. Ask them to read their card out loud to the group and then choose which door they would go to. Let them know it is not a test!

Sometimes there is more than one door that would be helpful. They should just select whichever door feels right to them.

Card 1: You have five children under the age of ten and do not have money to feed them this week.

Card 2: You are a teenager who has left home because it is not safe for you there. You don't know where to go or what to do.

Card 3: You are a new mum, and you don't know any other mums in your town. You feel lonely.

Card 4: Each month, you are getting more and more stressed about money. You feel like crying every time you receive another bill.

Card 5: You are curious about God and whether he is real. You want to talk to someone about this.

Card 6: You just lost your job unexpectedly. Your car has also broken down and you don't have enough money to fix it. You wish you had someone to talk to.

Card 7: You want someone to pray for you because your young child has serious health challenges.

Card 8: You wish you could buy some special food for Christmas but barely have enough money to pay for basic meals.

## Activity – Option 2 - Guess the need

I'm going to show you some photos of people who need something. I want you to tell me what you think they need.

Show photos of different people (Attachment 2) and ask the group what they think this person needs.



We might think we know what these people need but we can't tell someone's needs just by looking at them. Every person's story is unique, and what we see with our eyes never gives us a full picture.

### Link:

People have all kinds of needs. Sometimes they need practical things like money or food or clothes. Sometimes they need friendship. They need to feel included and know that someone is listening to them. Often, they need Jesus and connection with God. The Salvation Army helps people in lots of different ways. We sometimes talk about these services as doorways because people can use them to come into the Salvos.

## The Main Thing

I wonder how your family first came to the Salvos?

Let's think for a few minutes about our community. What are some of the ways that people can get help from the Salvos in [name your corps or suburb].

For each answer, ask the children which 'door' that service best fits and write the answer on that door.

Suggest some additional services that are offered in your local mission area and add these to the doors.

What does the Bible tell us about caring for people? We are going to look to the Bible to find out.

Ask the Junior Soldiers to look up the following verses in their Bibles. Ask a volunteer to read each one out loud. If you have a small group, discuss the questions together. For larger groups, ask the children to huddle in groups of three or four for discussion.

John 15:12

- Can you think of one way that Jesus showed people that he loved them?

Proverbs 14:31

- What do you think this verse means?

James 2:14-17

- These verses help us to understand that, when we love Jesus, we must also care for people. Why do you think that is important for us to care for people?

## Tying In

I wonder what caring for people looks like in your life. Think about the different spaces where you interact with people – school, church, home, neighbourhood, etc.

How could you show the love of Jesus by caring for people?

If you have more than six group members, break into groups of two or three people. On butchers' paper, encourage the Junior Soldiers to brainstorm ways that they can care for people in their life.

Once everyone has had time to record some ideas, bring the group back together and invite each group to share one or two ideas from their lists.

- Which of these ideas seem scary or hard?
- Which of these ideas seem exciting?
- Which of these ideas could you do this week?

## Memory Verse

John 15:12

Divide the children into groups of three-five and challenge them to make up a tune and/or actions to go with John 15:12. Give them some time to practice, then invite them to share their song/actions with the group.

## Prayer Time

As a group, walk up to each of the 'door' print outs on the walls. Invite the children to spend time praying at each door.

Pray for those who serve at those services.

Pray for those who are being cared for.

## 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.

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**NOTE:** No copy to be placed below the above black line.  
Please delete this note when finished.

# Home & Beyond

Find out how The Salvation Army is caring for people in your area. Write a card of encouragement to the staff. Ask your Junior Soldier leader or parent to help you send it to them.

OR

Read John 15:12 every day this week. Display it somewhere where you will see it often.

  
**Junior Soldiers**

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## Attachment 1

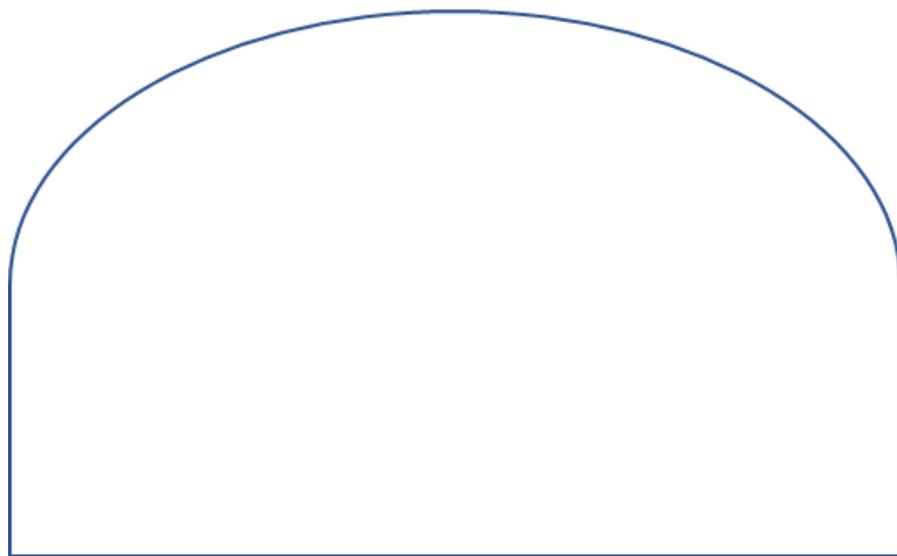
Advice  
and help  
with  
money



Safe place  
to live



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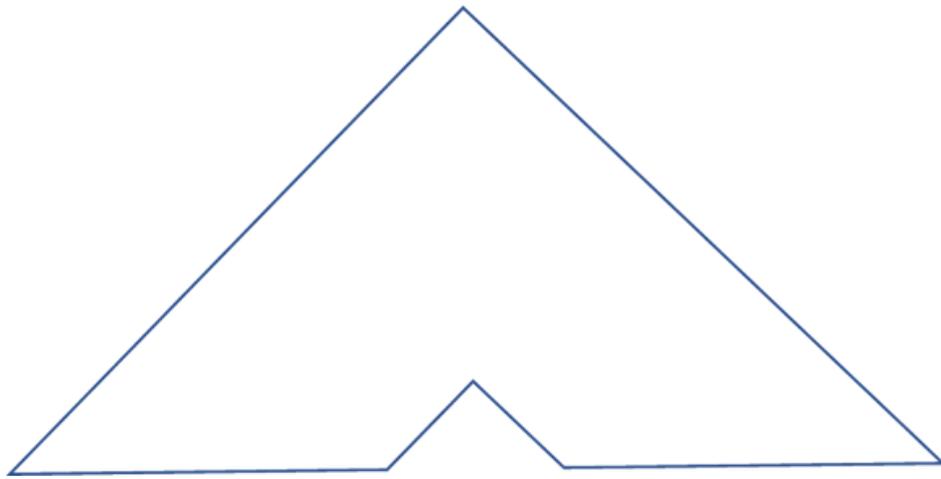


Someone  
to talk to  
about  
Jesus



# Food





# A Playgroup



## Attachment 2

<p>1. You have five children under the age of ten and do not have money to feed them this week.</p>	<p>2. You are a teenager who has left home because it is not safe for you there. You don't know where to go or what to do.</p>
<p>3. You are a new mum, and you don't know any other mums in your town. You feel lonely.</p>	<p>4. Each month, you are getting more and more stressed about money. You feel like crying every time you receive another bill.</p>
<p>5. You are curious about God and whether he is real. You want to talk to someone about this.</p>	<p>6. You just lost your job unexpectedly. Your car has also broken down and you don't have enough money to fix it. You wish you had someone to talk to.</p>
<p>7. You want someone to pray for you because your young child has serious health challenges.</p>	<p>8. You wish you could buy some special food for Christmas but barely have enough money to pay for basic meals.</p>