

# Junior Soldiers

UNIT 14 : LESSON 9



## When Disaster Strikes - TSA Emergency Services!

**PURPOSE:** For the children to explore and understand that God is with us in every situation including a natural disaster and to explore the role of The Salvation Army when responding to a natural disaster.

“God is our shelter and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. So we will not be afraid, even if the earth is shaken and mountains fall into the ocean depths; even if the seas roar and rage and the hills are shaken by the violence.”

Psalm 46:1-3 GNT

## Consider & Prepare

### Read

Matthew 25:35-40

Deuteronomy 31:8

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

In today's lesson, the children will learn about different natural disasters and how to prepare for them. They will also learn about the role of The Salvation Army in a natural disaster. We want the children to understand that God is with them through difficult times and that he provides comfort for them. They can have confidence and courage in God's presence if they are faced with disasters in the future.

It will be good for you as a leader to have an understanding of The Salvation Army's [role in emergency disaster services](#) and when The Salvation Army [started](#) to provide support in natural disasters.

All over the world natural disasters occur like droughts, cyclones, tornadoes, earthquakes, volcanoes, bush fires, tsunamis, floods, landslides and hurricanes. Natural disasters happen for numerous reasons. They can be caused by changes in the earth or the weather, or as a result of human carelessness (bushfires).

The Salvation Army deploys emergency response teams to feed residents in affected communities and to provide meals for emergency services personnel responding to the disaster. The Salvation Army responds to people in times of emergency and disaster by providing assistance such as refreshments, meals, clothing, financial aid, accommodation, emergency shelters, counselling and responsible referral. The Salvation Army continues to provide emotional support, food cards and material aid in the months after a disaster to help communities cope, rebuild and recover.

Consider discussing a natural disaster that relates to your area. Have a good understanding of different types of [natural disasters](#) and how they occur.

It would also be helpful for you to understand the [emergency kits](#) required for different natural disasters as you lead the discussion in 'The Main Thing'.

**Leaders note:** Be aware that some children may have been through a natural disaster. This lesson may bring up trauma for these children. Ensure that you arrange for appropriate support for children who show signs of distress.

If you have not experienced how The Salvation Army supports a community in a natural disaster then you might want to invite someone to come along to share their experience of either living through a natural disaster or helping The Salvation Army.

In the 'Tying In' activity be aware of children with allergies.

## **What you will need:**

### **For 'Connecting In'**

- Guess the disaster 'What am I?' cards (page 9)
- Butcher's paper
- Pens, pencils, crayons

### **For 'The Main Thing'**

- Timeline sheet printed and cut (page 9)
- Masking tape or chalk
- Pen
- Option 1
  - » Butcher's paper for each group
  - » Markers
- Options 2 and 3
  - » Items for an emergency kit and some extra random things not required. *For example, suitable items might include a torch, first-aid kit, tinned food and unsuitable items might include goggles, a skate board, or yoghurt.*
- Option 3
  - » Serving tray
  - » Tea towel

- » Paper
- » Pens or pencils

### For 'Tying In'

- Option 2
  - » Tables
  - » Chopping board
  - » Plates
  - » Butter knives
  - » Bread
  - » Butter
  - » Sandwich fillings (jam or ham, cheese, tomato etc.)

### For 'Memory Verse'

- Puzzle sheet printed and cut into puzzle pieces (page 10)

### For 'Home & Beyond'

- Print off the Home & Beyond cards for each child.
- Print a Memory Verse Puzzle for each child.

# Connecting In

## Activity - Guess the disaster?

*Give clues to some different types of disasters using 'What am I?' cards.*

*After reading each clue, ask the children, 'What natural disaster is this?'*  
*Record the different types of natural disasters on a large piece of paper.*

- What other types of natural disasters can we add?

*Explain briefly about some natural disasters that are relevant to your region and how they occur.*

- Have you ever been affected by a natural disaster?
- How did you feel about that experience?
- Where were you when it happened?
- Who was with you

## Link

Natural disasters are not new, they have occurred for thousands of years. There are stories in the Bible about natural disasters.

- Can you remember any of them?
  - » *Noah's Ark – flooding (Genesis 7)*
  - » *Joseph – drought & famine (Genesis 41)*
  - » *Before God spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai and gave the Ten Commandments, a great shaking of the mountain occurred (Exodus 19:18)*

Natural disasters can be scary but we can have courage because in all times, God is with us.

*Ask the children to look up Deuteronomy 31:8.*

Deuteronomy 31:8 reminds us that, "The Lord himself will lead you and be with you. He will not fail you or abandon you, so do not lose courage or be afraid."

## The Main Thing

The Salvation Army began in Australia in September 1880. Since then, we have helped out wherever people have been in need.

*You might like to read part of the Hobart police report from 20th February, 1967, that mentions the involvement of Salvation Army officers during the bushfires.*

Our first large-scale involvement after a natural disaster was in 1974, after Cyclone Tracey hit Darwin.

How do you think The Salvation Army helps the community when there is a natural disaster?

The goal of our Emergency Services is to help anyone has been affected by an emergency or disaster. This might include victims, witnesses, and families as well as other emergency services providers (police, fire fighters, paramedics etc.). We provide practical and spiritual support. We serve people because of our love for God and others.

*Ask the children to read Matthew 25:35-40.*

- What do you think this means?

These verses are part of a parable, or story, that Jesus told. The story makes it clear that he wants his people to show love by helping people in practical ways. When we help others we are showing our love for Jesus.

The Salvation Army aids people in a disaster in lots of different ways. We send emergency response teams to provide food for people that are living in affected communities and meals for emergency services personnel who are responding to the disaster. We can also provide clothing, money, accommodation, emergency shelters and counselling. We also give information about other services that can help.

### **Timeline Activity:**

*Create a time line of natural disasters that The Salvation Army has supported in Australia.*

*Place a strip of masking tape along the ground and write years along the tape as shown. Alternatively, use chalk to draw a line and write the dates on the ground.*

1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------

*Hand out the cards to the children in random order.*

*Ask the children to put the events in order by placing them on the correct point along the tape.*

- *1974 Cyclone Tracey*
- *1977 Granville Rail Disaster*
- *1989 Newcastle Earthquake*
- *1997 Thredbo landslide*
- *2003 Canberra bushfires*
- *2004 Boxing Day Tsunami*
- *2009 Black Saturday Bushfire*
- *2010 Queensland floods*
- *2011 Cyclone Yasi*
- *2013 NSW Bushfires*
- *2015 Hunter Valley storms*
- *2017 Cyclone Debbie*

*Extra boxes are provided to add other events that may be significant for your area.*

Members of The Salvation Army have been responding to natural disasters in Australia for a long time. They help after a disaster has hit. Often, preparations can be made before a disaster hits as well. For example, many people who live near bush land or in tropical areas keep an emergency kit ready in case of a bushfire or cyclone. Let's think a bit more about what might be kept in an emergency kit.

### **Option 1: Create an "emergency kit"**

*Divide the children into small groups and give each group a sheet of butcher's paper and some markers. Assign each group a different natural disaster to think about.*

*Ask the children to brainstorm and write/draw different items that they would need to have in an emergency kit for that disaster.*

*Refer to [emergency kits](#) for a list of items.*

*When the children have finished listing their items come back as a group and discuss what is/is not needed and why.*

### **Option 2: Scavenger Hunt**

*Create a Scavenger Hunt using various items that would be required in an [emergency kit](#) for a specific natural disaster. Hide various items around your space including items that are suitable and not suitable for an emergency kit. For example, suitable items might include a torch, first-aid kit, tinned food and unsuitable items might include goggles, a skate board, or yoghurt.*

*When the children have finished finding all the items come back as a group and discuss what is/is not needed and why.*

### **Option 3: Memory game.**

- 1. Place a selection of items that you would have in an [emergency kit](#) on a tray. Cover the tray with a tea towel until you are ready to play the game. Vary the number of objects according to the ages of the children.*
- 2. Uncover the tray and place it where all children can see it, or walk around with the tray so that every child can see it.*
- 3. Give the children about twenty seconds to memorise the contents of the tray, then cover it up again.*
- 4. Give each child a paper and pen or pencil.*

5. Allow another sixty seconds for the children to write/draw all of the objects they can remember.
6. When the time is up ask the children to call out the items they can recall and reveal each item as it is mentioned.

## Tying In

How do you think it would feel to help someone who has just been through a cyclone/earthquake/bush fire? (Choose a natural disaster relevant for your area.)

You don't have to be a police officer, ambulance officer or fire fighter to help people in a natural disaster. God has given us all different gifts and abilities to help others. Remember when we serve others (especially those in need) we are also serving God. Part of our job in The Salvation Army in a natural disaster is to serve others and we serve them firstly by providing food.

We are going to play a game to finish our lesson today.

**Option 1: 'Knights, Cavaliers, Mounts' Game** with a natural disaster twist.

1. This game is played in the same way as the 'Knights, Cavaliers, Mounts' game but the options will be cyclone, bushfire or Salvos.
2. Ask the children to find a partner and practise the actions as you explain them.
3. Explain to the children that:
  - » when you call out 'cyclone' one child stands still, while their partner runs/walks around them
  - » when you call out 'bushfire' both children stand together and wave their arms in the air like flames
  - » when you call out 'salvos' one child cups their hands like a bowl while the other child pretends to be scooping food into their hand
4. Ask one member of each pair to stand up and form a circle.
5. Ask the remaining member of each pair to form a second circle on the outside of the first circle.
6. To begin the game, the children in the inner circle stand still while the outer circle runs around them.
7. The leader must call out either 'cyclone', 'bushfire' or 'salvos'.
8. The children will then race to find their partner and do the matching action.
9. The last pair to do so is out, and so it goes until there is a winning team.

**Option 2: Sandwich relay**

1. Divide the children into small equal groups (4-6 children).
2. Have each team line up on one side of a table (you may need a few tables if you have a larger group of children).
3. Place on the tables:
  - » Chopping boards (one per group)
  - » Plates (one per group)
  - » Butter knives (one per group)
  - » Bread
  - » Butter
  - » Sandwich filling ingredients
4. Explain the rules to the children – each child in the group needs to do at least one thing to prepare the sandwich and then they have to go back to the end of the line (if you have a small group they might

*have more than one go or you might not have as many fillings).*

*5. First child puts the bread on the chopping board.*

*6. Second child spreads the bread with butter.*

*7. The remaining children add one filling each to the sandwich (if you have a small group it could be jam; a larger group might have ham, lettuce, tomato, cheese etc.).*

*8. The second last child cuts the sandwich into quarters.*

*9. The last child puts the sandwich on the plate and delivers it to the leader.*

## Memory Verse

**“God is our shelter and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. So we will not be afraid, even if the earth is shaken and mountains fall into the ocean depths; even if the seas roar and rage and the hills are shaken by the violence.”**

**Psalm 46:1-3 GNT**

*Print and cut out the puzzle piece. Place puzzle pieces around the room for children to find and put the scripture back together (page 10).*

After a natural disaster things can be all over the place and some things can be destroyed but we can work together, with God's help, to piece things back together.

## Prayer Time

*In small groups or with a partner, pray for people who have been affected by natural disasters. If there has been a recent event you might like to refer specifically to that.*

- We are going to give thanks for Salvation Army volunteers that help in a natural disaster.
- We are going to pray for God's protection and thank Him that He is always with us in troubled times.

## Home & Beyond

Take the Memory Verse puzzle sheet home.

Cut the puzzle pieces and see if you can put them back in the correct order.

Discuss with your family:

- Is your family prepared if there is an emergency?
- Have you got an emergency kit ready?
- How might you help The Salvation Army in a natural disaster?

INSP. OF POLICE

P.D. No. 45

20FEB1967

FILE NO.

--	--	--

TASMANIA  POLICE

District SOUTHERN Station HUONVILLE Date 17/2/67

SUBJECT: RE: Duties performed by Const. R.E. Belbin No. 448  
During Bush Fires on 7/2/67

Sir,

At about 9.20 A.M. on Tuesday the 7/2/67 I was instructed by Inspector C.F. Hills to travel to Longley. My instructions were to assist Traffic Police who were on duty there owing to a fire at Fern Tree which had closed the Huon Highway. On my arrival at Longley there was a large fire burning on both sides of the Huon Highway about one and a half miles North of the Kingston turn off. The Huon Highway had been closed to all traffic.

I assisted with the traffic for a short time and then made a patrol of the back roads West of Longley. There were several fires burning in this area but no homes were in immediate danger.

Sergeant Pockock and I then travelled through the fire North of the Kingston turn off to investigate a report that a woman was trapped in a house in the middle of the fire. We found that the woman had been removed by firemen. Wethen conveyed a boy we found stranded in the middle of the fire back to Longley and left him with Salvation Army Officers who said they would return him to his home at Sandfly.

I then conveyed a Salvation Army Officer to Neika to provide food & drink to firemen who were unable to return to Hobart because of the fire at Fern Tree.

I was then instructed by Sergeant Pockock to do a patrol of the Kingston Rd. and found that it was possible to go right through to Kingston.

When I attempted to return to Longley I found that there was a large tree accross the Huon Highway about a mile North of Longley. I located a H.E.C. vehicle and we removed the tree from the road with axes and a chain saw. There were very strong winds blowing at this stage and as I travelled to Longley another two trees fell accross the Highway behind me.

On reaching Longley I saw that the town was completely surrounded by fire and several houses were burning. All the people of the town had taken refuge in the Hotel.

I assisted some people who were loading their belongings onto a truck and as I was doing this I was informed that the Hotel was on fire.

# Guess the disaster

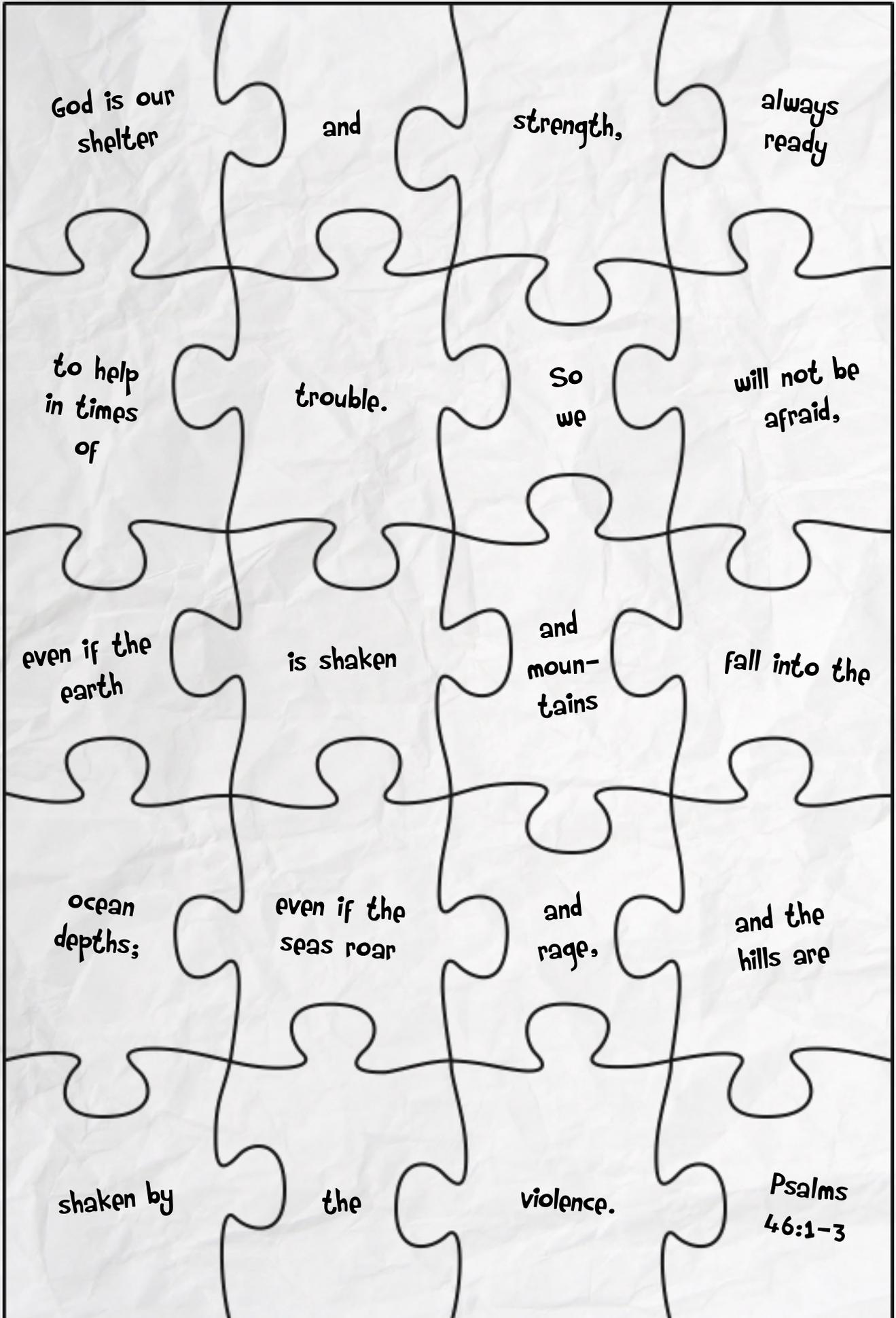
## What am I? Cards

<p><b>Clue 1:</b></p> <p>I cause gigantic waves that occur after an earthquake or volcanic eruption? What am I?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> Tsunami</p>	<p><b>Clue 2:</b></p> <p>I am caused by movement of the earth's plates. What am I?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> Earthquake</p>	<p><b>Clue 3:</b></p> <p>I happen when there has not been enough rain so that crops and plants can't grow. What am I?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> Drought</p>
<p><b>Clue 4:</b></p> <p>I occur in hot, dry weather. I result from lightning strikes or the carelessness of people. What am I?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> Bushfire</p>	<p><b>Clue 5:</b></p> <p>I am a spinning storm that contains strong winds and rain. What am I?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> Cyclone</p>	<p><b>Clue 6:</b></p> <p>I occur when explosions happen from openings in the earth's surface. What am I?</p> <p><b>Answer:</b> Volcano eruption</p>

## Time line:

<p><b>1974</b> Cyclone Tracey</p>	<p><b>1977</b> Granville Rail Disaster</p>	<p><b>1989</b> Newcastle earthquake</p>	<p><b>1997</b> Thredbo landslide</p>
<p><b>2003</b> Canberra bushfires</p>	<p><b>2004</b> Boxing Day Tsunami</p>	<p><b>2009</b> Black Saturday Bushfire</p>	<p><b>2010</b> Queensland floods</p>
<p><b>2011</b> Cyclone Yasi</p>	<p><b>2013</b> NSW Bushfires</p>	<p><b>2015</b> Hunter Valley storms</p>	<p><b>2017</b> Cyclone Debbie</p>

**Memory Verse Jigsaw Puzzle.** Cut pieces carefully along the lines.



# Home & Beyond

Take the Memory Verse puzzle sheet home.

Cut the puzzle pieces and see if you can put them back in the correct order.

Discuss with your family:

- Is your family prepared if there is an emergency?
- Have you got an emergency kit ready?
- How might you help The Salvation Army in a natural disaster?

  
**Junior Soldiers**

# Home & Beyond

Take the Memory Verse puzzle sheet home.

Cut the puzzle pieces and see if you can put them back in the correct order.

Discuss with your family:

- Is your family prepared if there is an emergency?
- Have you got an emergency kit ready?
- How might you help The Salvation Army in a natural disaster?

  
**Junior Soldiers**

# Home & Beyond

Take the Memory Verse puzzle sheet home.

Cut the puzzle pieces and see if you can put them back in the correct order.

Discuss with your family:

- Is your family prepared if there is an emergency?
- Have you got an emergency kit ready?
- How might you help The Salvation Army in a natural disaster?

  
**Junior Soldiers**

# Home & Beyond

Take the Memory Verse puzzle sheet home.

Cut the puzzle pieces and see if you can put them back in the correct order.

Discuss with your family:

- Is your family prepared if there is an emergency?
- Have you got an emergency kit ready?
- How might you help The Salvation Army in a natural disaster?

  
**Junior Soldiers**