

# NOW MORE THAN EVER

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2024

## TEAM MEETING GUIDE

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

The Salvation Army acknowledges and honours the contributing relationships that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have with Country. This relationship includes all living things on the land, in the waters and in the sky.

We acknowledge and recognise our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders as the cultural practitioners who demonstrate reciprocal relationship with Country.

Through deep understanding of this unique bond that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have with Country, we commit ourselves to better understand and contribute to having right relationships to Country and to each other.

### CALL TO ACTION

In Bundjalung, a Banaam (baa-narm)/Gogaun (gog-orn) or little brother/big brother relationship illustrates how we might work together towards reconciliation. In this type of relationship, both parties have equal responsibility and importance, but

perform different roles. Every person will be a Gogaun at times and a Banaam at other times. A Gogaun carries knowledge, and the responsibility for leadership. A Banaam brings strength to help the Gogaun to succeed in their objectives. The two roles provide balance for each other — and both are equally important for success.

Now more than ever ... We need to create space for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to lead with the knowledge they have as the Gogaun and, just as importantly, we need non-Indigenous Australians to naturally take up the role as Banaam, to support the Gogaun's leadership and vice versa. This is about a partnership of respect and contribution, respecting the knowledge of the Gogaun and the contributing role of the Banaam. When these two roles are working together, we are in right relationship, the relationship is reconciled.



So today, we call on Australians, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, to stand together and take responsibility for our journey towards reconciliation. Bring your knowledge. Bring your leadership. Bring your strength. Bring your support. Now, more than ever, let us unite in our action for reconciliation.

We acknowledge with gratitude Coodjingburra/Bundjalung Elder, Kyle Slabb, for sharing his wisdom and knowledge of Banaam/Gogaun.

## VIDEO – NOW MORE THAN EVER

Discussion questions to follow video.

1. What progress have you already seen in our journey towards reconciliation?
2. What would you like to see more of in our nation as we continue this journey?
3. What will you do to contribute to reconciliation?

## DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

In 2024, as we continue in our journey towards reconciliation, now, more than ever, is the time for us to stand united. This is the time for us to unite, care for each other and work together, with the power of God's Spirit, to achieve reconciliation.

Now more than ever we need the Spirit of the God to bring about change, more respect, more understanding, more justice, more education, more action, more treaty making, more truth telling, more connections, and most of all, now more than ever, we need more reconciliation.

"I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose" (1 Corinthians 1:10, NLT).

God's heart is to change the narrative of injustice in our world. The fight for justice and the rights of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples must continue, along with the Spirit of God, so that this nation will be healed.

## PRAYER

Creator God, we believe that there is a time for everything. We believe that you are at work in our world leading and inspiring us by your Holy Spirit. Now, more than ever, we believe that you are leading us towards reconciliation. Give us wisdom to see our part in this process and courage to play it.

The Bible tells us that you reconciled us to yourself through Jesus. As we continue our journey of reconciliation, we ask that you reconcile all Australians, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, through the power of your healing love.

Amen.

For additional information and resources, visit [Reconciliation Australia – National Reconciliation Week](#).