

Junior Soldiers

Renewal Day 2012



How much is enough?

Intro

Junior Soldier Renewal day is scheduled on the territorial calendar for **Sunday 24 June, 2012**. Your corps may choose to celebrate with a service or include the renewal day segment and/or theme on a different date, but the important thing is that all Junior Soldiers have a chance to review their promise and be supported by the wider church family in their discipleship journey.

Context

In our Junior Soldier material we have a lesson that will help the children and leaders to connect into the theme of 'How much is enough?' This can be found in Unit 4 and Lesson 6. It would be good to use this lesson the time that you meet prior to your renewal day celebration. You can also look at this lesson and use some of the activities and teaching to add into your service, if you wish.

The theme this year is helping our Junior Soldiers and others to focus on our **stewardship** of all the good things that God gives us, our **attitude** to what we have and what we want, and how we might be able to use what we have to **make a difference** and be **generous** to others.

1 Timothy 6:17–18

'Command people who are rich in this world not to be proud. Tell them not to put their hope in riches. Wealth is so uncertain. Command those who are rich to put their hope in God. He richly provides us with everything to enjoy. Command the rich to do what is good. Tell them to be rich in doing good things. They must give freely. They must be willing to share.' (NIRV)

'Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.' (NIV)

'Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others.' (NLT)

'Tell those rich in this world's wealth to quit being so full of themselves and so obsessed with money, which is here today and gone tomorrow. Tell them to go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage—to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous. If they do that, they'll build a treasury that will last, gaining life that is truly life.' (MSG)

The renewal day notes include message outlines and other suggestions for a celebration service as the Junior Soldiers renew their promise and, possibly, where new Junior Soldiers will be enrolled. We have also included an extra project and some family resources that will support the teaching and help reinforce it in a number of environments the Junior Soldiers move in.

Renewal Day Items

The renewal day items for 2012 include three items per child: a CD (that has a special song written just for the Junior Soldiers, using the words of their promise) along with a small pad of Junior Soldier branded 'sticky notes' (with the new Junior Soldier characters printed on each note) and a postcard renewal card (with space for the Junior Soldier and Big Bud to sign as they renew their promise).

The renewal card (including the J.S. promise) and the specially recorded song will help to reinforce the key areas of the promise and, with the sticky notes, it would be good to encourage the Junior Soldiers to use these to: remind them of Bible verses they have read and would like to remember; for writing a special note of thanks or encouragement and leaving it for someone, or just for notes to remember to do, say or think good things.



Display/setting the theme suggestions

For the interactive message you will need a range of boxes to create a visual representation of the distribution of wealth in our world. It would be good to collect these boxes in the weeks leading up to the renewal day service (you could ask some families or your Home League, etc. to help with this) and they can then also be used for part of a display to set the scene and mood for the service. It would be good to have a minimum of 50 boxes for this activity but would work best with 100. The boxes can be any sort of product packaging (square or rectangle type shapes), e.g. boxes for tissues, cereal, biscuits, chocolates, appliances, etc.

You could also add some items to the display like books, a television, Xbox or Playstation, chocolate and food, bike, scooter, other sporting equipment, toys, Lego, iPods, iPad or computer, etc.

You might like to make some murals or posters to add to the walls of your church as well as in the foyer. They could include images from catalogues and magazines of food, specials, clothes, electrical items any sort of consumable would be great. You could even leave some blank spaces and have some catalogues and magazines available for people to cut out and add items before the service. You might also like to leave some space for people to add prayers and reflections during the prayer time or response time after the message or this could be done by adding coloured sticky notes with prayers and reflections.



Options to create your service

We have provided you with a children's story/interactive message to introduce the theme, some prayer ideas, a sermon outline, details for the renewal segment and some song suggestions. You might like to choose from these suggestions or use them all. We have placed the suggestions in order of where we might place them in the meeting, including the renewal segment as a response to the message, not only for the Junior Soldiers but for the whole congregation to be involved in and respond to.

Introduction to the theme:

Children's story/interactive message/illustrations...

80/20...

Get some helpers to come and divide the boxes into 80% and 20% stacks. Tell them how many boxes there are and then the congregation can help to do the maths to work out what needs to be on the 20% side and what needs to be on the 80% side.

When this is done choose some other helpers to come and stick some small cut-outs of people onto the boxes: you will need 100 cutout people (either purchased from a craft shop or pre-cut if you have some volunteers who will cut out some outlines of people for you earlier). Eighty of the people will need to be stuck on the 20% side and 20 people will need to be stuck on the 80% side.

What to do and say:

(Make sure when making the following point that you utilise the visual of the boxes and the people that they have on them, making the illustration more powerful.)

- Did you know that 20% of the people in the world use 80% of the world's resources and 80% of people in the world use only 20% of the world's resources? That is: most of the people in the world don't use much food or electricity or money or gas or water or things you can buy in shops, and a much smaller number of people do use most of these things.
- I wonder if you were one of the people on this side (*pointing to the 20% of people who use 80% of the world's resources*) and had lots of money, what you would spend it on?
- Share three things that you would buy with the person sitting next to you.
- If you had lots of money and could buy anything you wanted, does that mean you would? Or does that mean you should? But just because we can get more, does that mean we should? For example, if you had the money to go to McDonald's and buy 20 Big Macs for your dinner tonight, does that mean you should?
- Maybe there's a better way to use the money—possibly even a way that is both good for you and good for others—rather than just spending it because you can.
- Today it is important for us to think about all the things that we have: food, clothes, housing, toys other items etc., how we use them, how we could share them, how to care for those with less than us, and how to live in a way that pleases God.
- Do you really think that God's plan for humanity was that the majority of people starve or be unhealthy or not have access to clean water? I don't think so. So how can we help make our world a better place for all of God's children, young or old?
- Today is Junior Soldier Renewal Day and they will be renewing their promise to God later this morning, but even if you're not a Junior Soldier, I want you to start thinking about your own commitment to God and to others. How can you help make this world a fairer, safer, healthier, happier, better place?

The Hungry Beast...

You might like to use this clip as an illustration in the service that will help people to think about what they have and how they use it.

This clip from the ABC talks about how much food is wasted in the average Australian house:

<http://hungrybeast.abc.net.au/stories/beast-file-food-waste>

- Wow, I wonder how you felt looking at how much food we waste.
- Do you think that you are wasteful at your house?
- I want to challenge you today to stop and think about what you buy, how much you buy and what you are wasting, throwing away.
- I wonder if you could make a difference by thinking about these things.
- I wonder what you might do?



What do we value? What do we buy?

For this illustration you might like to paste the following figures into a PowerPoint slide.

Explore these figures below, helping to give a picture of the priorities around our world, giving a sense of the waste of money on things that are not so important as some of the things that are listed in the second table.

Global Priority	\$Billions
Cosmetics in the United States	8
Ice cream in Europe	11
Perfumes in Europe and the United States	12
Pet food in Europe and the United States	17
Business entertainment in Japan	35
Cigarettes in Europe	50
Alcoholic drinks in Europe	105
Narcotics drugs in the world	400
Military spending in the world	780

Global Priority	
Basic education for all	6
Water and sanitation for all	9
Reproductive health for all women	12
Basic health and nutrition	13

It is important to think carefully about how we use our money. For example, the table we've looked at shows that more money is spent on make-up and cosmetics in the United States, than is spent on basic education for all children.

Half of the children in the world live in extreme poverty, without adequate food, shelter, sanitation, education and health-care. And the problem isn't that the world can't afford these things for everyone—it can! The problem is that due to greed and the unequal distribution of resources, there are people in the world with more than they need and others with next to nothing.

And we're not only talking about people in developing countries; there are thousands and thousands of people in Australia who are homeless, who rely on food handouts to eat, who sleep in parks and under bridges, who own just one set of clothing—the ones they're wearing.

There are people in Australia who have more than they need, while other Australians go hungry and shiver all night sleeping outdoors without even a blanket.

The way we buy and use things can impact greatly on the poorest people in the world. Before we decide that we 'need' to buy something, we could ask ourselves:

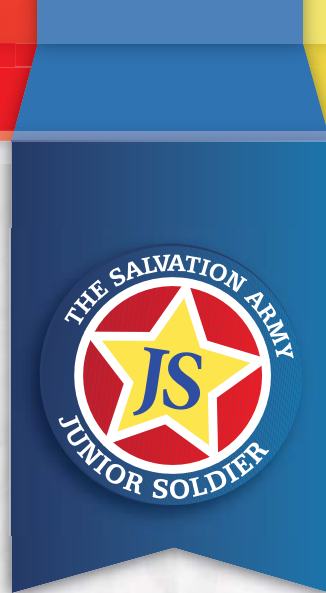
- Why do I need this item?
- What better way could I spend this money?
- If I do decide to buy this item, is there something of mine that I can give away to a charity or to help someone else?



Song/music suggestions

Below are a few suggestions for songs to sing as a congregation or that can be played at a particular time during the service. It would be good to play the Junior Soldier song that has been written by Sarah Green for this day at some point throughout the service (there is a powerpoint presentation alongside these notes that has the words for 'I'm a Junior Soldier' as well as the words of the promise.)

- God's love is bigger than a burger (*Chuffed*, Doug Horley, 2011)
- How wide can your smile be? (*Flabbergasted*, Doug Horley, 2008)
- Every move I make (*Every Move I Make*, Promise Land, 2003)
- Boom-Chaka-Laka (*Phil Joel*, Deliberate Kids/itunes)
- Justice and mercy (*God Rock*, Colin Buchanan, 2011)
- Let your light shine (*Super Strong God*, Hillsong Kids 2005)
- Better is one day (878 – *Praise and Worship*, Matt Redman)
- I'll fight (Nathan Rowe, *I'll Fight*, Soteria)
- Everyday (908 - *Praise and Worship*)
- Change my heart (540 – *Praise and Worship*)
- Seek ye first the kingdom (68 – *Praise and Worship*)
- All that I am - *Sing to the Lord* Vol 1 part 2 or *Magnify* No 4 pub 2002 S.P.S



Prayer suggestions

In the display section (above) we mentioned having some murals set up around the room. It would be good to leave some space on these banners for people to come during the prayer time and add other cutout images, draw some of their own and to write some prayers. Have a table set out alongside the mural or a brightly coloured tablecloth on the floor with some items on it. Have some magazines and advertising pamphlets for people to cut and add to the display as they think about 'How much is enough?'. It would be good to have some brightly-coloured sticky notes to write prayers on and add them to the mural and some textas or paint if you want people to draw, paint or write prayers in spaces that you have provided. Play some appropriate music during this time as people are given the opportunity to participate.

OR

Set up a prayer wall (or prayer walls around the hall) that people can write on. This may be several sheets of butcher's paper pinned/Blu-Tacked to the wall or it may be several whiteboards put in place. Put a different heading on each section of wall and allow people to come and write a prayer or note (provide pencils or textas) on whichever section they feel drawn to. Headings may be: 'I thank God for...', 'I am blessed because...', 'God has given me...', etc.

Message/Sermon

Sermon focus...

How much is enough?

Sermon purpose...

To explore and understand issues relating to wealth, greed, generosity, giving and being blessed. How much do we want? How do we use what we have? How has God blessed us?

Scripture...

1 Timothy 6:17–18

'Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.' (NIV)

Hebrews 13:5

'Don't fall in love with money. Be satisfied with what you have. The Lord has promised that he will not leave us or desert us.' (NIV)

You Will Need:

Nooma DVD 13 – 'Rich' (Available from Koorong or Word for around \$15. If you are not near a store, it can be purchased by phone or online if you have an account.)

Introduction...

The DVD we're going to watch features a monologue from US pastor Rob Bell, some of you will be familiar with the Nooma series of teaching DVDs. In this clip—that runs for about 12 minutes—he talks about what we've been focusing on today, topics of wealth, contentment, being blessed, giving and the distribution of wealth in the world. While there are references to his home country, the USA, his themes are universal and there is much here each one of us can learn from.

Watch the DVD...

Now, while that was one person speaking, this message is not going to be, it's going to be a lot of people speaking—mainly you. If you were to go to a Junior Soldier lesson, you'd find that they're not lectures, they're interactive learning times. So feel free to interact as much or as little as you want to, but here goes...

First things first: tell me, what are ten words that best describe the main themes Rob Bell talked about in that clip? (*Count off the responses and commend them on their choices.*)

At the very start of the clip, he talked about us being blessed by God and he mentioned some things that most of us have that many people in the world don't have. In a little group of people with those sitting near you, discuss for a moment: how have you been blessed already today? What have you used or had or experienced that millions of people in the world haven't enjoyed today? (*Give them a few minutes.*)

If you've moved to form a group, stay there because we'll do some more group chat in a moment, but first, tell me what sort of attitudes do you normally associate with people who are rich? I know we're talking about stereotypes and in generalisations, but what words come to mind? (*Take some responses.*)

Now, bearing in mind that 1.5 million people live on less than \$2 per day, are you rich? Have a chat in your group and decide if you could be considered rich or not? (*Give them a moment.*)

Rob Bell also talked about the need many people feel to have 'more' than what they have, and the need to have the latest, greatest possessions because others do. Why do we have this need to 'keep up with the Joneses' or have more? Talk in your groups for a moment about why we have these needs. (*Give them a few minutes.*)



I'd like to define a few terms as we go along; please tell me, how would you define the word 'generous'? What does it mean to be generous? (*Wait for replies.*)

Have a chat in your group, who have you known or do you know now, who is incredibly generous? It may be with their money, but it may also be with their time or energy or possessions. Who comes to mind when you think of a generous person? (*Give them a few minutes.*)

Next, I'd like you to define for me the word 'content'. What does it mean to be 'content'? (*Wait for replies.*)

Now, have a chat in your groups: Is it always a good thing to be content? (*Give them a few minutes. Sure, we should be content rather than greedy or gluttonous. But in a different context, imagine if we were content with the number of people attending church, or imagine if inventors and explorers were content with the status quo.*)

The passage Rob Bell referred to in the clip was 1 Timothy 6:17–19 (*get a Junior Soldier to read it*). Considering that passage carefully, talk in your groups about the final phrase: what is meant by 'the life that is truly life'? What does that sort of life look like? What is God's intention for our lives? (*Give them a few minutes.*)

In the promise Junior Soldiers sign, it says that they will trust God and be obedient to God. These challenges are relevant for all of us today, not only Junior Soldiers.

When it comes to trusting God, does that extend to your daily needs and lifestyle? Do you trust God to 'give us this day our daily bread' or do you think God doesn't care enough for you to do that?

Are you obedient to God when there is clear instruction in the Bible to give and share and be generous and care for others, or do we fail God in these areas sometimes?

Rob Bell concluded that the Christian lifestyle is not about what you can get but what you can give. So who can you give to this week? Who can you give a moment of your time to? Who can you give a card or letter or text message to to encourage them? Who can you give a meal to? Who can you give a smile and a pat on the back to? Who can you give a donation to? Who can you give a gift to to thank them? Who can you give to this week?

If you want to know 'the life that is truly lived' then I encourage you to place your trust in God, be obedient to God and recognise how blessed we are because of what God has given to us.

(*Use 'All that I am' as your response song; it can be led by the worship team or just have the music played with the words on the screen. This song would also be lovely just as a solo.*)

NOTE: If you can not access the Nooma DVD this message is based on, it can be modified by starting with Luke 12: 13–34 (get a Junior Soldier to read it) and then saying that you want to consider some ideas to do with wealth, greed and giving. Still introduce the interactive approach of the message, but then drop all references to the DVD clip or Rob Bell in the text above.

Renewal Segment

On the day your corps has Junior Soldier Renewal scheduled, opportunity should be given in corporate worship for Junior Soldiers to consider their promise and renew it in a public way. We encourage you to include this segment in response to the message so that, once the Junior Soldiers have renewed their promise, the rest of the congregation can be involved.

After the conclusion of the message, opportunity for the Junior Soldiers to renew their promise can be given.

- It would be good to have the promise on a Powerpoint slide (this can be accessed in the Powerpoint slides alongside these notes) so that people can see and be reminded of the promise that the children are renewing on this day. Have one or all of the Junior Soldiers read/say the promise together before signing their renewal cards.



- As the music is playing, encourage the Junior Soldiers and their Big Buds to come forward, sign their certificate, pray together and receive their CD and sticky notes.
- Pray as a congregation for the Junior Soldiers that God will help them to be generous and content and willing to use what they have to make a difference for others.

Once the certificates have been signed and the Junior Soldiers prayed for, an opportunity for others to come and make a commitment can be offered. Even though the day is specifically about the Junior Soldiers and their promise, it's also encouraging for them to see the rest of the congregation make their own commitment to God, being willing to be challenged and willing to put their faith into practice.

- You might like to have some special sheets of paper (*set up like lists—you might be able to put them on the wall or a big easel if you have access to one, or maybe just on the mercy seat*). Encourage the Junior Soldiers to place their names on the list and then, when they are finished, the adults can be invited to come and place their names on the list if they want to be generous and content and make a difference for others with what they have and do and say.



Sending Out/Benediction

'May we each learn to trust God more and be obedient to his will for our life. May he help us to be people who want to bless others in his name, and to be generous and giving. Amen.'



Extra project suggestions/links

These project suggestions and links could be great opportunities to involve Junior Soldiers with their families, with Big Buds or with corps folk.

Live Below the line challenge: This is a challenge that is held every year (in 2012 it was held 7–11 May, but you can do it anytime) to highlight the cause 'Live below the Line' — www.livebelowtheline.com/au—helping people to understand those who are experiencing extreme poverty and also trying to raise money to make a difference. The challenge encourages people to live on \$2 per day for five days, not an easy task. The Junior Soldiers are too young (healthwise) to participate in the actual challenge but a project could be to work out a menu for the whole Junior Soldier group if they were going to participate. You might like to hold a special night where the Junior Soldiers could cook one of the meals that they suggest and share together. It could also be an opportunity to raise awareness with those in the congregation and to also raise some funds to buy some JustGifts items or donate to Child Sponsorship

Child Sponsorship — www.salvationarmy.org.au/childsponsorship (you could include a section in your service to encourage people to help by making a difference in a child's life)

Just Gifts — www.salvationarmy.org.au/justsalvos/justgifts (you might like to have some catalogues available for people to take or help by directing them to the website)

Other Resources - Below are a couple of websites that you might find helpful in working as a group to come up with a challenge and a way that you could make a difference.

Take time to have a look at the following web page, 'Other ways to give', that give a variety of ways that you as a group could give or donate some items that you do not need or some items that you might be

able to collect from those within your church that would also like to donate. Having a look at this web page might just start the kids thinking; they may have some other ideas of what they would like to do to make a difference rather than just wanting more.

www.givenow.com.au/otherways

www.secondbite.org/resources/ has information on how wasteful we are with food and drink items.

A book that you might like to have a look at is *77 Creative Ways Kids Can Serve*, by Sondra Clark (Wesleyan Publishing House, 2008).

You might like to encourage your Junior Soldiers to make a YouTube clip of them singing to their new CD.



Home & Beyond

Supporting and growing our Junior Soldiers at home...

The family environment is an important element in the life of a Junior Soldier or any young person connected to our corps. It is a key influence on a child's spiritual journey and putting their faith into practice. It is so essential to have open discussions about spiritual matters, wrestle with the big questions, read scripture and wonder about it, and pray together as a family. As a church it is just as essential for us to support, encourage and help to equip families for these discussions.

In the Home & Beyond section of the Junior Soldier lesson 'How much is enough?' the children were encouraged to do a few things...

Do you need it?

- Go through your wardrobe/toy box looking for some of the items that you might no longer need.
- Are there some things that you have not used or worn in the past 6–12 months?
- Think about if you really need this item.
- Ask mum/dad if you can give it away. This might be to someone that you know needs this item or to a charity (like the Salvos!) who will make it available to those who will need it. Perhaps as a group you would like to bring your items together and then donate them.

I think that the above are some questions and challenges that you could all do as a family—you might like to print out the Home & Beyond cards attached for families/households to take away with them this week.

May God continue to bless you in your ministry and as you make a difference in the lives of young people.

Tracey Davies (Captain)
Territorial Children's Ministry Secretary