

Junior Soldier Renewal Day 2019



'Young and Brave' 'Strong and Courageous'

PURPOSE: For the Junior Soldier to explore and understand that life can present challenges and temptations that require us to be strong, brave and have courage.

Don't be afraid, for I am with you.
Don't be discouraged, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you.
I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.
Isaiah 41:10 (NLT)

Consider and Prepare

Intro:

Junior Soldier Renewal Day is scheduled on the territorial calendar for **Sunday 23 June 2019**. Your corps may choose to celebrate on this day with a special **all aged worship service** or include the renewal day segment on an alternate date or in another setting. The important thing is that all Junior Soldiers have an opportunity to renew their promise and be supported and encouraged by the wider Corps family in their discipleship journey.

Context:

This year's theme is **'Young and Brave – Strong and Courageous'** and we will be exploring the fact that life can present challenges and temptations that require us to be strong, brave and have courage. The purpose is to assist our Junior Soldiers and wider congregation to recognise that we all have the challenge of keeping our promises to God and sometimes this requires bravery, strength and courage.

The teaching will explore the Israelites during the time of Isaiah and how they needed to renew their promise to God. This will remind us of the promises that we have made with Him and how it requires courage to keep these promises.

The Renewal Day notes include message outlines and other suggestions for an **all age worship service** as the Junior Soldiers renew their promise and also, where new Junior Soldiers can be enrolled. We have included 'Home and Beyond' family resources that will support the teaching and help reinforce the theme in a number of environments the Junior Soldiers interact in.

On the day your corps has scheduled Junior Soldier Renewal Day, opportunity should be given in corporate worship for Junior Soldiers to consider their promise and renew publically. 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 also respond and renew the promises they have made to God.



Scripture

Read:

Below are the scriptures that will help us focus on this year's theme:

Isaiah 41:10 (THEME VERSE)

(New Living Translation)

Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

(New Living Translation)

Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong. And do everything with love.

Nehemiah 8:10b

(International Children's Bible)

The joy of the Lord will make you strong.'

Renewal Day Items

The Renewal Day items for 2019 include one item per child of each of the following:

- **A Renewal Day card for the Junior Soldier** (with space for the Junior Soldier and Big Bud to sign).
- **A Renewal Day card for the Big Bud** (with space for the Junior Soldier and Big Bud to sign).
- **A set of stickers** with the words 'Young and Brave', 'Be strong and Courageous' and part of the Bible verse from Isaiah 41:10. We encourage the children to place these stickers on everyday items as a reminder (pencil cases, Bibles, etc.)

- A poster with 8 statements as well as space for the Junior Soldier and Big Bud to fill in during the prayer time.

I show courage when:

- I talk about my problems.
- I'm not afraid to make mistakes
- I stand up for myself and others
- I show that I can change for the better
- I say 'No' to things that make me uncomfortable
- I speak up for Jesus
- Things change
- God reminds me of the promises I have made
- (Blank)
- (Blank)



These Renewal Day items are provided to the Junior Soldiers to help reinforce the message that they have explored on their renewal day beyond the church walls. These items along with the 'Home & Beyond' section will help to continue the conversation after the service in a variety of places.

Display/Setting the theme suggestions

Create a display that includes items or images that will be referred to during the service. Items representing young and brave, strong and courageous would be suitable to place around your space. For example:

Young:	Photos of the Junior Soldiers.
Strong:	Basic exercise equipment such as hand weights, skipping ropes, exercise mat, balls, a Pilate's ball.
Brave and Courageous:	Stuffed toy lions, posters

Also the words '**strong**', '**brave**', '**courageous**' and '**young**' printed in colour and as large as possible to place on the walls.

Options to create your service

We have provided an interactive message with **four** Activity Stations to assist with the introduction of the theme, a prayer idea, a sermon outline, song suggestions and details for the renewal segment and 'Home & Beyond' 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 have an opportunity to respond to.

Song Suggestions

- *Forever* by Chris Tomlin
- *The Joy of the Lord is My Strength* by Rend Collective – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x3gLeCiMJqI>
- *Strength Will Rise As We Wait* by Brenton Brown and Ken Riley – Thankyou music



Introduction to the theme

For this activity you will need:

- Lego
- Two tables placed opposite sides of the hall with Lego on them. Cover the tables with a cloth to eliminate kids playing with it before hand and also as a 'da-da' moment during the service.

During the upcoming weeks before the service, contact two children who you know are good at Lego and arrange for them to choose an adult they could work with to create a Lego item on Renewal Sunday. They will need to get together with their chosen adult before the service and plan what they are going to build. They could even practice building their item to ensure they will allow enough time on the day. Explain they only have 20 minutes to build a small item that represents 'young and brave'. Ask them to keep this to themselves so it appears that they were just asked on the spot during the service. You could ask them to supply their own Lego or you could supply Lego for them to use on the Sunday.

Ask the congregation if they have seen the new TV reality show 'Lego Masters' that was on television in May and explain the concept of the show. Teams are given Lego and a theme to build within a timeframe and they are judged and potentially eliminated from the show according to their Lego display. Tell them that today we are going to hold our own 'Lego Masters'.

Choose a couple of kids and adults out of the congregation (the pre-arranged Lego builders) and explain you would like them to build out of the Lego on the tables an item that represents strength and bravery and they have 20 minutes to complete this item. Place them at their tables and ask a couple of leader's to whip off the cloth (dramatically as the da-da moment) as you start the timer.

Explain to the congregation that today we are going to explore the theme 'Young and Brave – Strong and Courageous' and we will be exploring the fact that life can present challenges and temptations that require us to be strong, brave and have courage. We all have the challenge of keeping our promises to God and sometimes this requires bravery, strength and courage.

So let's get started . . .

Interactive Activity Stations

Below is the outline for four activity stations.

For this activity you will need:

- A couple of volunteers at each station to help co-ordinate activities.
- An area for each of the stations
- See each station for a complete individual list



Script

- *I wonder if you know the difference between being brave and being courageous. They do have very close meanings.*

Bravery is the ability to confront pain, danger, or attempts of intimidation with any feeling of fear whereas **courage** is the ability to undertake an overwhelming difficulty or pain despite the eminent and unavoidable presence of fear.

Give an example of bravery and an example of courage.

Bravery – a fire fighter would be brave when he confronts the danger of the fire or bravery could be as simple as trying something new that you could be nervous about. Confronting a new experience.

Courageous – a person who is unwell and has to go through extensive treatment and may even face disappointments.

Explain that we are going to explore today's theme in four groups with activity stations that are placed around the room.

Give the congregation instructions regarding the following activity stations. Families may wish to do the stations together or the Junior Soldier with their Big Bud. If members of the congregation don't wish to do the activities, ask them to sit and pray for the children as they pass through the stations.

Split the congregation into four groups. Send one group to station 1, another to station 2, another to station 3 and the last group to station 4 and give each group 15 minutes to explore their station.

Station 1 – Young

For this activity you will need:

- Tables
- Playdoh
- Printed instructions placed on the wall (see end of document)

Use the playdoh to create something that you enjoy doing or enjoyed doing as a young person.

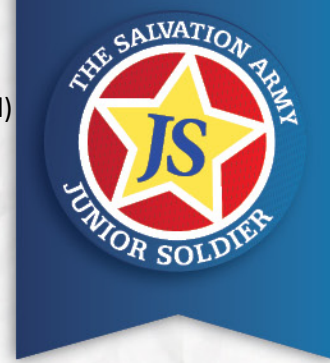
Station 2 – Brave

For this activity you will need:

- Small coloured mats (You might have some in your Playgroup cupboard)
- OR pairs of chairs facing each other

Bravery is the ability to confront pain, danger, or attempts of intimidation with any feeling of fear.

Sit on a mat/chair and share with a friend a time when you were brave. It may have been a time when you felt scared and you needed to pluck up enough courage to try something new or attend a new school. Talk about how it felt.



Station 3 – Strong

For this activity you will need:

- A table
- Colouring pencils/textas
- Pieces of A4 white paper
- The meaning of 'the joy of the Lord' placed on the wall (see end of document)
- Printed instructions placed on the wall (see end of document)
- Printed verse from Nehemiah 8:10b placed on the wall (see end of document)

The 'joy of the Lord' is the deep forever happiness that we feel when we are living life with Jesus. It helps us to stay strong even when times are tough.

Write a sentence or draw a picture about how you see the joy of God in the life of a friend in this group and give it to them. This will encourage them **and** as we build up a person, our own spirit will grow stronger.

'The joy of the Lord will make you strong.' Nehemiah 8:10b

Station 4 – Courageous

For this activity you will need:

- Printed instructions placed on the wall (see end of document)
- The meaning of 'courage' placed on the wall (see end of document)

Play charades in the group using the following statements. Start by saying before each statement 'I show courage when . . .

- I talk about my problems.
- I'm not afraid to make mistakes
- I stand up for myself and others
- I show that I can change for the better
- I say 'No' to things that make me uncomfortable
- I speak up for Jesus
- Things change
- God reminds me of the promises I have made

When time is up gather everyone together and ask a spokesperson (preferably a child with an adult's help) from each station to share what their group has explored at their station.

Check in on the Lego groups and ask them to share their creations with the congregation.



Prayer Suggestion

For the prayer segment you will need:

- Textas
- A4 blank paper

Ask a couple of Junior Soldiers to hand out the paper and textas and while people are sitting in their seats ask the congregation to draw a picture of a time when they broke a promise. Explain that they will not need to share this with anyone else - what they draw is for their eyes only.

Ask the congregation to think about this time and how they felt when they realised they were breaking their promise.

Lead a prayer asking God to help everyone in the congregation to think about the promises they have made to God.

Message/Sermon

Sermon purpose...

For the congregation to explore and understand that we need to be strong and courageous to keep our promises with God. Please be aware that this has been written with children in mind but is also relevant for adults to be reminded of their promises.

You will need children who are confident to speak up in front of the congregation (or ask their Big Buds to stand alongside and help them through). You could use eight children or three or four children who can say a couple of statements each.

Ask the children to spread around the congregation and after a signal, they can all stand and shout out together,

'I SHOW COURAGE WHEN' then one at a time can each shout out their statement,
'I talk about my problems'.

Another child shouts out **'I'm not afraid to make mistakes'.**

The next child shouts out **'I stand up for myself and others'.**

Then they all say again 'I SHOW COURAGE WHEN'.

Another child says, **'I show that I can change for the better'.**

Next child says, **'I say no to things that make me uncomfortable'.**

Another child says **'I speak up for Jesus'.**

Then all the kids say again 'I SHOW COURAGE WHEN'.

One of the kids says **'When things change'.**

The last child says **'God reminds me of the promises I have made'.**

Play True or False . . .

Ask a Junior Soldier and an adult to come up to the front and play a quick quiz. See if you can encourage a child who may be a little shy to come up.

QUESTIONS:

Did the Israelites:

- (A) Always worship God or
- (B) Sometimes worship other gods and idols?

Did Daniel get thrown in the lion's den because he:

- (A) Barracked for the wrong football/rugby team or
- (B) Wouldn't pray to the king?

Did Timothy in the New Testament of the Bible:

- (A) Do what he was called for and preach the gospel or
- (B) Ignore God's calling on his life because he was afraid and not brave enough?

When Jesus was young and His mum couldn't find Him

- (A) Was He in a synagogue talking to the elders or
- (B) Was He playing with his friends at the local park eating McDonalds?

Did the Israelites:

- (A) Break their covenant/promise with God or
- (B) Break their toaster cooking toast one fine morning?

Did Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego get thrown into the fiery furnace because:

- (A) They didn't make their beds that morning or
- (B) They refused to worship a false God?

Congratulate them on being brave and coming up in front of everyone.

Message Script

The key verse for today is from Isaiah 41:10, it says, 'Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand. Isaiah 41:10(NLT)

This was a promise given to the Israelites by God during a time when God was giving the Israelites hope for their future.



The book of Isaiah in the Bible is about the Israelites. Now you may know the Israelites (also known as Hebrews or Jews) because of the story of Moses and the Ten Commandments.

Ask if any of the children can tell you any of the 10 commandments.

Now the story is that God saved the Israelites from slavery from the Egyptians and after the Israelites escaped Egypt, God gave Moses the Ten Commandments to help the Israelites live better lives. The Israelites made a promise to God to follow these commandments. You see Israel was a special nation to God, the Israelites were God's Special people and God was their God. God made a covenant with the Israelites and it was like a promise. For example when we get married we make a promise to our husband or wife that we will love and honour them. This is a covenant that we make with each other.

The Israelites made a promise to love God and to follow God.

Now I wonder if you knew that the first four commandments are about God and the following six commandments are about our neighbours?

The deal was that if the Israelites broke the commandments they would be treated like all the other nations. And guess what? They did break the commandments. They broke the commandment 'You shall have no other gods but me'. They began to worship idols and false gods. Then the other commandments fell apart in their lives and as a result there were more wars. Things started going very badly for the Israelites.

Because the Israelites broke the covenant, their promise to God, He placed a judgement against the leaders of the Israelites. They were being exiled from Jerusalem and from God. They were separated from God.

I am curious, can anyone tell me what the word exile means. (being barred or banned from your own country)

So this meant that they God was very disappointed in them. The consequence was that they were barred from returning to their own country.

The book in the Bible called Isaiah is named after the man who spoke on God's behalf to the leaders of the Israelites so that the relationship between God and the Israelites could be repaired.

As mentioned before the key verse for today is from Isaiah 41:10, it says,

Don't be afraid, for I am with you.

Don't be discouraged, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you and help you.

I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.

Isaiah 41:10 (NLT)



This was a promise given to the Israelites by God during a time when God was giving the Israelites hope for their future.

Now I wonder, do you think that the Israelites deserved to have this hope and the opportunity to come back to God.

How do you feel when you don't keep a promise? Maybe a promise that you made to parents or to a friend?

We can feel discouraged, we can feel afraid for the consequences of the broken promise and we can feel that we have let the other person and ourselves down.

The Israelites broke their promise by not following God. Imagine how they may have been feeling.

When you became Junior Soldiers you made a promise, a covenant with God, that you would pray, read your Bible and lead a life that is clean in thought, word and deed. You also promised to trust God and to follow Him.

Even if you are not a Junior Soldier you may have made some promises or commitments to God over the years. No matter how young or old we are, sometimes we go off track and we need to be reminded of our promises. We need to come back and focus on Jesus.

I wonder how you respond when times get tough or scary?

I wonder how you respond when the school bully is on a rampage through the playground. Do you focus on the bully or do you focus on the promises of God? Do you care about those who are being hurt? Do you choose to be brave, strong and show courage?

I wonder how you respond when things change for you. You might have had to change schools, move to a new state or perhaps adjust when mum or dad move out of home. Do you focus on the challenges or keep on living for Jesus? Changes can be REALLY tough and we may need to spend a lot of time being reminded of God's promises so that we can be brave and show courage.

I wonder how you respond when you hear someone say something nasty about someone else. It takes a lot of courage not to join in. It takes even more strength to remember that God is with you, go against the group and say something nice about that person instead.

When we look at stories in the Bible we can find quite a few about people that were young and brave.

The story about Daniel and the lion's den. Daniel was an Israelite who wanted to keep the ten commandments. He only wanted to pray to the one true God and when He was told that he had to pray to the king he refused and kept praying to the one true God. He stood up for what he believed. Daniel was young and brave.



The story of young Timothy in the New Testament. He was mentored by Paul as a young man to go to Churches and preach about the love of God and how people should live. Remember that in New Testament times people were being killed for talking about Jesus! Timothy was young and brave.

The story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and the fiery Furnace. These guys stood up for what is right. They refused to worship any idols or other gods. They worshipped their one true God.

All these people were young and brave, strong and courageous. They trust God's promises and stood up for what they believed.

When we stand up for what is right, others will see God. God will help us to be young and brave, strong and courageous. We need to follow God, love God and trust God.

He gives us the same promise that He gave the Israelites so many years ago,

Don't be afraid, for I am with you.

Don't be discouraged, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you and help you.

I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.

Isaiah 41:10 (NLT)

We all have the challenge of keeping our promises to God and sometimes this requires bravery, strength and courage.

We spoke about the Israelites breaking their promise to God. This can happen at times whether we are young or older. When can choose to be brave when God reminds us of the promises that we have made.

Even when we fail God calls us back to the promises that we have made with Him. He is faithful, forgives us and reminds us of his love for us. He did this for the Israelites and He will do it for us.

'You may be a Junior Soldier here today thinking about your promise that you made to God when you enrolled:

- *Read my bible*
- *Pray*
- *Be a loving and obedient child*
- *Lead a life that is clean in thought, word and deed*
- *Not use anything that will injure my body or mind*

You may be an adult that has made a promise with God through your covenant as a Senior Soldier or an Adherent or by simply following God. We all have a chance today to be brave, strong and courageous and renew our promises to our faithful God.



Renewal Segment

For this segment you will need:

- Renewal Day item (poster and stickers)
- Renewal Day cards for both the Junior Soldier and the Big Bud.
- The key verse on a PowerPoint slide – Isaiah 41:10
- The Junior Soldier promise on a PowerPoint slide.
- Pens



Response (leading into renewal)

Sometimes thinking about how to be strong and courageous when we are young can be overwhelming but we can remind ourselves of the promises of God every day. Our verse today says,

Don't be afraid, for I am with you.

Don't be discouraged, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you and help you.

I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.

Isaiah 41:10 (NLT)

Today all the children will be given a poster that they can hang up at home as a reminder to show courage and be brave.

Read the poster out.

I show courage when:

- I talk about my problems.
- I'm not afraid to make mistakes
- Stand up for myself and others
- Show that I can change for the better
- Say 'No' to things that make me uncomfortable
- Speak up for Jesus
- Things change
- God reminds me of the promises I have made
- (Blank)
- (Blank)

The last two lines have been left blank for you and your Big Bud to fill in together. You can do this today or make a time to finish it later. As we enter into the renewal time for the Junior Soldiers, we all have a chance to re-evaluate our promises to God and to remember that whether we are old or young we can be brave, strong and courageous with the help of God.

Ask the congregation to repeat with you the key verse,

*'Don't be afraid, for I am with you.
Don't be discouraged, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you.
I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.'*
Isaiah 41:10 (NLT)

It would be good to have the Junior Soldier promise on a PowerPoint slide.
Have one or all of the Junior Soldiers read/say the promise together before signing their renewal cards.



Invite the Junior Soldier and the Big Bud to come up and sign their cards together and fill out their poster.

While they are completing this challenge the congregation can reflect on their own promises that they have made to God.

Play one of the suggested songs from earlier and have the words up on the screen as it is being played. Encourage the congregation to sing or pray.

Once the Junior Soldiers and Big Buds have finished signing their cards and have taken their seats pray, as a congregation, not only for the Junior Soldiers but for everyone in the congregation to know that they can be strong, brave and courageous and that when we keep our promises to God He will be faithful to us and help us.

Sending out/Benediction

Sing one of the songs suggested.

May this verse always resonate in your heart.

*'Don't be afraid, for I am with you.
Don't be discouraged, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you.
I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.'*
Isaiah 41:10

Home & Beyond

Supporting and growing our Junior Soldiers beyond the church environment is really important. This section helps to provide some activities that will help to continue the conversation about temptation and the tools that are available to each of us when we find ourselves in these situations. Please encourage your children and families to participate in one of the activities below and continue the discipling process.



HOME AND BEYOND

'I Show Courage When . . .'

Place your poster up in a space in your home where you are reminded about being 'young and brave, strong and courageous. Over dinner this week, discuss with your family some of the statements on the poster.

Be Strong and Courageous Stickers

You have been given a sheet of six stickers. Think carefully about where you are going to stick them. Choose items or places that you use often so that you are reminded as often as possible these promises that God has given you.

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Be Strong and Courageous Stickers

You have been given a sheet of six stickers. Think carefully about where you are going to stick them. Choose items or places that you use often so that you are reminded as often as possible of these promises that God has given you.

Station 1 – Young



Instructions

Use the playdoh to create something that you enjoy doing or enjoyed doing as a young person.

Station 2 - Brave



Instructions

Sit on a mat/chair and share with a friend a time when you were brave. It may have been a time when you felt scared and you needed to pluck up enough courage to try something new or attend a new school. Talk about how it felt.



Meaning of Brave

'Bravery is the ability to confront pain, danger, or attempts of intimidation with any feeling of fear.'

Station 3- Strong



Instructions

Write a sentence or draw a picture about how you see the joy of God in the life of a friend in this group and give it to them. This will encourage them and as we build up a person, our own spirit will grow stronger.



Meaning of 'the joy of the Lord'

The 'joy of the Lord' is the deep forever happiness that we feel when we are living life with Jesus. It helps us to stay strong even when times are tough.



Nehemiah 8:10b

**'The joy of the Lord
will make you strong.'**

Nehemiah 8:10b



Station 4 - Courageous

Instructions

Play charades in the group using the following statements. Start by saying before each statement 'I show courage when . . .



Meaning of Courage

Courage is the ability to undertake an overwhelming difficulty or pain despite the eminent and unavoidable presence of fear.