

# Junior Soldier Renewal Day 2017



## Heart • Soul • Mind • Strength

**PURPOSE:** For the Junior Soldier to explore and understand that God's law is more than rule-keeping - it's a commitment to a whole life with God, lived in relationship with Jesus.

<sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, "The most important command is this: 'Listen, people of Israel! The Lord our God, he is the only Lord. <sup>30</sup> Love the Lord your God. Love him with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.'

Mark 12:29-30 (International Children's Bible)

### Consider and Prepare

#### Intro:

Junior Soldier Renewal Day is scheduled on the territorial calendar for **Sunday 18 June 2017**. Your corps may choose to celebrate on this day with a special 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 'Heart • Soul • Mind • Strength' and the purpose is to assist our Junior Soldiers and wider congregation to recognise that following Jesus is more than rule-keeping – it's a commitment to a life of love for God, lived in relationship through Jesus.

The teaching will highlight four aspects of the Shema from the Old Testament, showing the simplicity Jesus then brings to the law when He says to love Him with our heart, soul, mind and strength. We will explore how this impacts the part of the Junior Soldier promise that says 'I will not use anything that may injure my BODY or my MIND.'

The Renewal Day notes include message outlines and other suggestions for a worship service as the Junior Soldiers renew their promise and also, where new Junior Soldiers can be enrolled. We have included family resources that will support the teaching and help reinforce it 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 be involved.



### Read:

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

#### **Mark 12:29-30 (THEME VERSE)**

##### **(International Children's Bible)**

*Jesus answered, "The most important command is this: 'Listen, people of Israel! The Lord our God, he is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God. Love him with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.'*

#### **Mark 12:28-34**

##### **(International Children's Bible)**

##### **The Most Important Command**

<sup>28</sup> *One of the teachers of the law came to Jesus. He heard Jesus arguing with the Sadducees and the Pharisees. He saw that Jesus gave good answers to their questions. So he asked Jesus, "Which of the commands is most important?"*

<sup>29</sup> *Jesus answered, "The most important command is this: 'Listen, people of Israel! The Lord our God, he is the only Lord. <sup>30</sup> Love the Lord your God. Love him with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.'* <sup>31</sup> *The second most important command is this: 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself.' These two commands are the most important commands."*

<sup>32</sup> *The man answered, "That was a good answer, Teacher. You were right when you said these things. God is the only Lord, and there is no other God besides him. <sup>33</sup> One must love God with all his heart, all his mind, and all his strength. And one must love his neighbour as he loves himself. These commands are more important than all the animals and sacrifices we offer to God."*

<sup>34</sup> *Jesus saw that the man answered him wisely. So Jesus said to him, "You are close to the kingdom of God." And after that, no one was brave enough to ask Jesus any more questions.*

## **Renewal Day Items**

The Renewal Day items for 2017 include one item per child:

- One 'stress ball' with the Junior Soldier logo and four key words printed on either side 'Heart • Soul • Mind • Strength'.
- 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).

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 that will be referred to during the service. Items representing Heart • Soul • Mind • Strength would be suitable to place around your space. Examples are:

<b>Heart:</b>	Coloured card love hearts, a love heart bunting
<b>Soul:</b>	Coloured card crosses
<b>Mind:</b>	Coloured card question marks, puzzle mind games
<b>Strength:</b>	Basic exercise equipment such as hand weights, skipping ropes, exercise mat, balls, a Pilate's ball and a <b>whole</b> pomegranate fruit.



Also have a couple of games that have rules on the inside of the lid, a sports rule book, some of the orange renewal day balls, and a bag of marshmallows

## Options to create your service

In these notes we have provided you with a clip of Junior Soldiers quoting the key scripture verse. <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, "The most important command is this: 'Listen, people of Israel! The Lord our God, he is the only Lord. <sup>30</sup> Love the Lord your God. Love him with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' Mark 12:29-30 (International Children's Bible. **(This clip will be available on the SARMY Children's Website by the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of June – in time for the Renewal Day on 18<sup>th</sup> June.)**

We have also provide an interactive message with **four** Activity Stations to assist with the introduction of the theme, a prayer idea, a sermon outline, song suggestions (including a new song called 'Worship You') details for the renewal segment and some '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

- 10,000 Reasons by Matt Redman
- Worship You by David Parker – Music available on the SArmy Children's website.
- Love the Lord Your God by Lincoln Brewster – see link below:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EAbEfsqLdc>
- I love you with all of my heart (All my heart) – by Go Fish

## Introduction to the theme

**For this activity you will need:**

- The Clip from the Salvation Army SArmy – Children's Website called 'Heart • Soul • Mind • Strength'.
- PowerPoint with the key verse – Mark 12:29-30 (ICB)

To introduce the theme of 'Heart • Soul • Mind • Strength' at the beginning of the meeting it is suggested that you play the above mentioned clip.

After this has been played, you may wish to place the scripture verse up on a slide on your screen for everyone to read out.

Ask for four volunteer children to come out the front. Hand one of the children a cardboard heart, one of the children a cross, one of the children a mind puzzle such as a Rubik's cube and the last child a hand weight.

Ask the children to try and guess which part of the theme they are holding - 'Heart • Soul • Mind or Strength'.

<sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, "The most important command is this: 'Listen, people of Israel! The Lord our God, he is the only Lord. <sup>30</sup> Love the Lord your God. Love Him with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' Mark 12:29-30 (International Children's Bible)

**SCRIPT:**

*'Today we are going to explore the section in Junior Soldier promise that states "I will not use anything that may injure my body or my mind" and how if we live by this verse – this one rule from the Bible, Love the Lord your God. Love Him with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength that this part of the promise will come naturally to us. We will not be inclined to use anything that may injure our body or our minds. So let's get started.'*

## Interactive message/Activity Stations

Below is the outline for an interactive message and four activity stations. It is important for the children to stay sitting amongst the congregation so that all are engaging together. You might like to encourage the younger children to sit up on their parent's knee if they cannot see during this time.

**For this activity you will need:**

- A couple of volunteers at each station to help co-ordinate activities.
- A print out of instruction's for each station (see end of document)
- An area for each of the stations – maybe tables at each station.
- Song recording of 10,000 Reasons by Matt Redman

**Station 1 – Heart**

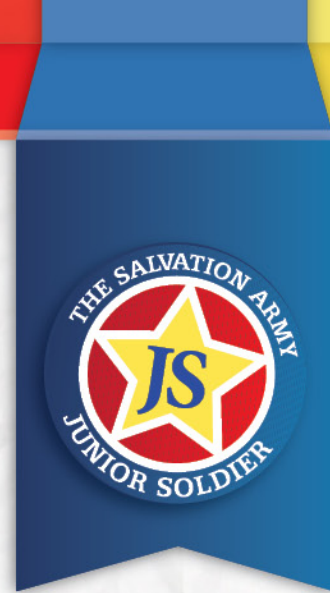
- A large piece of coloured card cut in the shape of a heart with '#10,000reasonsformy♥to find' written on the top. You may need a couple of hearts if you have a larger congregation.
- A table
- Coloured textas
- Bluetak
- Instructions (see end of document)

**Station 2 – Soul**

- A table
- A4 paper
- Textas
- Instructions (see end of document)

**Station 3 – Mind**

- A table
- A variety of mind games such as Rubik's Cubes, Sudoku puzzles, basic crosswords, memory board games – see the back page of any *Kidzone* magazine.
- Pens
- Instructions (see end of document)





#### **Station 4 – Strength**

- A table
- Set up some challenges using skipping ropes, hand weights and bars.
- Arrange a volunteer (a nurse or doctor in the Corps) to take people's pulses after they have been skipping.
- Instructions (see end of document)

Before the service you will need to set up the stations ready for use during the service. Set up the 10,000 reasons wall by placing the hearts up on a wall and gather all equipment needed for each station.



#### **SCRIPT:**

- *I wonder what your thoughts are when you hear this verse from Mark 12:29-30.*

*Jesus answered, "The most important command is this: 'Listen, people of Israel! The Lord our God, he is the only Lord.' <sup>30</sup> Love the Lord your God. Love him with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.'*

*When you think of loving someone with all your heart, do you think of romance, do you think of who you love, do you think of what you love. Love is an emotion and a strong feeling of affection.*

*I wonder when you think of loving someone with all your soul, what you think of. Is it including them in your everyday life? How would you include God in your everyday life? Our soul is the part of us that makes us **US**. So when you do something that you enjoy you could include God. If you are painting, you could appreciate what God has created. Loving the Lord with all your soul is including Him in everything that you do. Acknowledging God in everything you do.*

*What about loving the Lord with all your mind? When we think of our mind we think of our brain, our intelligence, how we think, our understanding, our thoughts, our exploring. We love God with all our mind by learning more about Him, by exploring His love for us and by our thoughts about Him.*

*How about loving the Lord with all your strength? When we run a triathlon or play a sports game, we use all our physical strength to play our best. We will often give 110% of effort and strength to play our best. The verse suggests that when we love the Lord our God with all our strength, that means with all our physical strength as well as our emotional strength. We use all our strength that we can possibly give. We love him with 110%.*

Explain that we have set up four stations around the room where you can experience heart, soul, mind and strength. Encourage the congregation to spend a few moments exploring these stations. If you have a larger congregation you may want to suggest that just the children do these activities with the adults helping.

Play a song recording of 10,000 Reasons by Matt Redman during this time.

Allow about 10 minutes for this segment. When 10 minutes is up, call everyone back to their seats.

#### **Prayer Suggestion**

**For the prayer segment you will need:**

- The music and words to 'Worship You' by David Parker – Music available on the SArmy Children's website.

As a congregation, sing the song 'Worship You' by David Parker (music available on the SArmy Children's Website).

Ask four Junior Soldiers to each say a prayer presenting one of the themes – Heart – Soul – Mind and Strength. You may wish to spend time with the Junior Soldiers beforehand helping them prepare their particular prayer.

## Message/Sermon

### Sermon purpose...

For the congregation to explore and understand that God's law is more than rule-keeping - it's a commitment to a whole-of-life with God, lived in relationship with Jesus.

### For the message you will need:

- Information about the Jewish Tefillin found here  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tefillin>
- List of passages contained inside a typical Tefillin, for people to read:
  - Exodus 13:1-10
  - Deuteronomy 6:4-9
  - Deuteronomy 11:13-21
- Books/instructions you may have than contain rules (from board games, rulebooks etc.)
- Orange Stress ball (renewal item)
- A pomegranate (whole)
- Video clip loaded (if planning to use) from **Mythbusters** episode on "The 5 Second Rule"  
Links here: <http://www.discovery.com/tv-shows/mythbusters/videos/five-second-rule-minimyth/> OR  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FoONY-ip7hQ>

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### SCRIPT:

*'Today we have been looking at what it means to love God with all of ourselves – what it means to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength. We've moved around and done some activities, thought about our brains, our fitness, our mental health and our spiritual health. Even sometimes that seems like a lot to think about.'*

*'For the next few moments we are going to be thinking about rules. We have lots of rules in our life. We have rules for our families, in school, rules on the road, and rules for how we play games or sports. On this table here, I have some things that represent rules (show some of the things)'*

#### **The Five Second Rule**

*'Who here knows about the five-second-rule?' (Wait for responses)*

*'The five second rule is a funny type of rule that gets used at home, at school – even on camp! It goes like this: if I drop food on the floor and pick it up off the floor before 5 seconds has passed, it's still good to eat it. And it doesn't even matter if anyone has seen me do this – if I get it done in less than 5 seconds I'm all good – right?' (Wait for congregation responses)*

*'I don't know who thought up the five second rule, but it's a really helpful one for parents!'*

*'I have some marshmallows here.' (grab one from the bag on the table)*

**Ask one of the Junior Soldiers to come up and help you demonstrate the 5 second rule. Drop the marshmallow on the ground, count aloud to 5 and have the child eat the marshmallow before 5 seconds is up.**

*'See how easy this rule is to follow! Wouldn't it be great if all rule-keeping was this easy?'  
BUT....what if this rule was not true – what if we could BUST this rule.  
Let's take a look at our friends Adam and Jamie from MYTHBUSTERS and see what they think about the 5 second rule...'*

**Show 5 second rule video clip (3 minutes, 20 seconds)**





*'O my goodness – the myth is BUSTED. You know what this means, kids? All that food that we've been picking up off the floor and putting in our mouths has been contaminated **the whole time**. And that marshmallow you just ate (point to child who ate it earlier) – well that goes for you too!'*

*'We have lots of rules in our lives. And like this rule, some deserve to be busted.'*

*'Let's go to the scripture...'* **(Have on screen, or have someone read confidently)**



### **The Most Important Command:**

<sup>28</sup> One of the teachers of the law came to Jesus. He heard Jesus arguing with the Sadducees and the Pharisees. He saw that Jesus gave good answers to their questions. So he asked Jesus, "Which of the commands is most important?"

<sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, "The most important command is this: 'Listen, people of Israel! The Lord our God, he is the only Lord.'

<sup>30</sup> Love the Lord your God. Love him with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.'

<sup>31</sup> The second most important command is this: 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself.' These two commands are the most important commands."

<sup>32</sup> The man answered, "That was a good answer, Teacher. You were right when you said these things. God is the only Lord, and there is no other God besides him.

<sup>33</sup> One must love God with all his heart, all his mind, and all his strength. And one must love his neighbour as he loves himself. These commands are more important than all the animals and sacrifices we offer to God."

<sup>34</sup> Jesus saw that the man answered him wisely. So Jesus said to him, "You are close to the kingdom of God." And after that, no one was brave enough to ask Jesus any more questions.

*'It's really interesting that a teacher-type (who should know **ALL** the answers) asks Jesus in verse 28 WHICH of the laws (rules) was most important. That suggests that there were lots of rules that the Jewish people needed to follow and this man was trying to make Jesus choose **one rule** to be the most important.'*

*'This story in Mark has a HUGE background story - and we find that way back in the Old Testament. It's in Deuteronomy when the Jewish people were being given their laws from God to live by. Even back then, they were dealing with rules. They called them laws.'*

*'The most famous ones are the 10 Commandments in Deuteronomy 5. They are so famous, we still talk about them today, and even people who say they don't believe in God have some concept of these 10 rules. These are the big rules God gave humanity to live by. They are broken down into 2 parts. The first 4 are about how we treat God; the next 6 are about how we treat others.'*

*'But do you think the people could keep these rules?'* **(Wait for responses)**

*'By Deuteronomy 6 (the very next chapter), a very special prayer had been written.'*

### Place on screen:

- 4 Listen, people of Israel! The Lord is our God. He is the only Lord.
- 5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and strength.
- 6 Always remember these commands I give you today.
- 7 Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and walk along the road. Talk about them when you lie down and when you get up.
- 8 Write them down and tie them to your hands as a sign. Tie them on your forehead to remind you.
- 9 Write them on your doors and gates.



*'Do you recognise this? This is the same thing that Jesus spoke to the man about in Mark chapter 12. It was so important to the Jews – and Jesus was a Jew, it was the most important rule, for both these men and now for ALL people.'*

*'The Jews loved this law so much they wrote it down. It's called the SHEMA – a prayer that declares how God's people were to love. The men wore a small black leather box on their head called Tefillin (**show a picture from the Wikipedia page or other source**) that contained some of these verses written in Hebrew. They never wanted God's law to be far from them. They also had small wooden-like boxes that could be stuck to the door frame. A scroll of these verses was placed inside. How much they loved God's laws!'*

**Have the verses from inside the Tefillin to be read out on screen. Read them out, or have Junior Soldiers read them.**

*'I wonder if anyone has their favourite bible verses written down, or in their purse, or up in their homes?'*  
**(Wait for responses)**

### **THE PROBLEM WITH RULES (THE POMEGRANATE)**

*'Rules are great when they are simple; everyone understands them and can be followed. But when we get caught up in them – or someone else does, there is always a mess.'*

*'After the Jews received their 10 rules (commandments), it was followed by ONE rule to love the Lord. Sounds good, right? But it didn't take long for more rules to be added. Some of these were helpful to organise families and food and animals. There were crops to be grown and food to be preserved; people needed to be married and trade needed to happen between communities.'*

*The 10 Commandments and The Shema evolved into 613 rules. These were the laws of the people of Israel. These laws helped but they also hindered. They caused fights amongst tribes; people were excluded because they couldn't follow them all. Tribes began to think God didn't love them anymore. None of these things were true – but often the Jews couldn't always recognise God's love for all of the laws! They needed to keep reminding each other of the simple law of love – their SHEMA.*

### **Take pomegranate from the table**

*'I have this pomegranate. I won't open it because when I do, some of the seeds will fall out and the juice will take start to take colour from my clothes and the carpet. Who wants to guess how many seeds are inside my pomegranate?'* **(Allow for guesses)**



## **'613!'**

*'That's right, 613. There are 613 seeds in a pomegranate. That's one for each Jewish law. I wonder why that is? I'm not sure I can answer that fully – although this fruit is mentioned many times in the Old Testament, but I think this is one of God's creative mysteries. But here is what I do know:*

*'If I try to de-seed this pomegranate, I will make a mess – a huge mess! If I try to pick out each of these 613 seeds one by one, I will end up covered in bright pink pomegranate juice that will ruin my clothes – and by the time I have finished, the flesh of the fruit will be destroyed and so will my shirt/carpet/kitchen bench.'*

*'An easier way to enjoy this fruit is to just cut it open, and eat through it big bites –still a mess, but without trying to dodge the seeds!'*

*'It's a bit like that with trying to keep rules! Have you ever noticed that? The more you try to keep all the rules, the more mess you can get yourself into. Especially if in your life you have set yourself lots of rules. And they may not just be rules from the bible, we have other "rules" we or others have set:*

- Rules about friends
- Rules in our homes
- Rules about "screen time"
- Rules about homework
- Rules about games we make up in the playground
- Rules about who can join our groups at church
- Rules in the Junior Soldier promise

*'What happens to us is that we get caught up in whether other people are keeping the rules. We go to a bad place called "judgement". Can you see what a mess we can get into? **Just like the pomegranate juice takes the colour from our clothes as we try to work through the seeds, rule-keeping takes the colour from our lives as we struggle to keep all the law.**'*

### **THE LAW OF LOVE SETS US FREE**

*'The Jews spent so much time trying to keep the laws. It was exhausting. When one of those people came to Jesus in Mark 12, Jesus reminded him of what God has said right back in Deuteronomy – before 10 rules had turned into 613.'*

*'Jesus made it sound so simple: Love God, Love Others. If you do this, you will keep ALL of the laws.'*

### **'Did you hear that?'**

*'If we just love God and love people, this will take care of all the details of all the other rules! Could it be that simple? It's like the video we watched earlier. Jesus comes and busts the myth that we need to keep all the rules. Jesus is the ultimate MYTHBUSTER.'*

*'And the central message here is LOVE. LOVE the Lord your God with everything you are and LOVE your neighbour as yourself.'*



*'You may be a Junior Soldier here today thinking about the rules in your promise:*

- *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*

*'This is a great promise. But today, if you are feeling weighed down by the rules, God says "don't stress, just love me, I'll take care of the rest".'*

*'Love me, Love people. The law of love sets us free.'*



## **Renewal Segment**

**For this segment you will need:**

- Renewal Day item (stress ball)
- Renewal Day cards for both the Junior Soldier and the Big Bud.
- The Junior Soldier promise on a power point slide.
- Pens

**Response (leading into renewal)**

*'Sometimes thinking about how to keep up with all of God's rules and what we think God wants from us can be a bit stressful – and we need something to relieve the stress of that (get out the stress ball).'*

### **PICK UP THE ORANGE BALL OFF THE TABLE**

**As you squeeze the orange ball in front of the congregation, remind them of the following list of rules again.**

- *10 rules (10 commandments)*
- *1 rule (the Shema)*
- *613 rules (the Jewish laws)*
- *2 rules (love God/love others)*
- *More rules (home and life)*
- *Our rules (Salvation Army rules)*

*'It is time to let go of some of the rules? Today is a good time to hear God say "Stress less, Love more". As we enter into the renewal time for the Junior Soldiers, we all have a chance to re-evaluate our response to rule-keeping. '*

*'The law of love sets us free'.*

**Ask the congregation to repeat with you "the law of love sets us free"**

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 while they are completing this play one of the suggested songs:



- Worship You by David Parker – Music available on the SArmy Children's website.
- Love the Lord Your God by Lincoln Brewster – see link below:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EAbEfsqLdc>
- I love you with all of my heart (All my heart) – by Go Fish

Have the words up on the screen as it is being played and encourage the congregation to sing.

Once the Junior Soldiers and Big Buds have finished signing their cards and have taken their seats pray, as a congregation, for not only the Junior Soldiers but everyone in the congregation to know that they can be freed from the demands of the law and live a life loving God.



## Sending out/Benediction

Sing the song 'Love the Lord Your God' by Lincoln Brewster – link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EAbEfsqLdc>

*May you always love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and enjoy the peace and grace that comes with loving our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

## 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

#### Stress Ball

Get into the daily habit of pumping the stress ball and saying the verse from Mark 12:29-30 until you have memorized it. You may wish to bounce it in time as you read the verse.

*Jesus answered, "The most important command is this: 'Listen, people of Israel! The Lord our God, he is the only Lord.  
<sup>30</sup> Love the Lord your God. Love him with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.'*

#### 10,000 Reasons Board

As a family makes your own 10,000 reasons board at home. Set up an area in your house with a cardboard heart and make a habit of every day/week writing a reason that you want to bless the Lord by saying thank you for something. It won't take long to fill up the heart!

# Love the Lord with all your Heart



Search your heart to find reasons why you are thankful to God and using the textas write them on the cardboard heart.

Doing something this simple is an act of worship.

The Lord blesses us but we can also bless the Lord by saying thank you.

#10,000 reasons for my heart to find.



# Love the Lord with all your Soul



Draw or write an activity that you love  
to do.

As you draw/write, tell God that you  
want Him to be a part of every activity  
in your life.

Ask God to help you to see Him in  
everything that you do.



Love the Lord  
with all your Mind

Play a game or start a puzzle  
that uses your mind.

Thank God for giving you your  
own unique mind.



# Love the Lord with all your Strength



Choose a partner and using the exercise equipment, ask your partner to time you for 30 seconds, e.g. how many skips you can do in 30 seconds, how many push ups you can do in 30 seconds.

Test your pulse afterwards to see how much strength you have used to complete these activities.

**Remember:** God wants us to love Him with all our strength.