

# GOD'S ARMY

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

By completing this badge members will:

- be able to explain the beginnings of The Salvation Army;
- recognise some of the symbols used by The Salvation Army;
- be able to explain the spiritual and social work of The Salvation Army;
- explore the work of The Salvation Army locally and nationally.



## BADGE REQUIREMENTS

1. Know how The Salvation Army began in England and Australia.
2. Recognise some Salvation Army terms and symbols.
3. Explore the spiritual work of The Salvation Army.
4. Explore how The Salvation Army helps those in need.

ADVENTURERS  
SUNBEAMS



CATEGORY

Jesus and Me

TIME FRAME

Three weeks

AIM

To learn about  
the beginnings  
and purposes  
of The  
Salvation Army.





# Teaching ideas



## 1. Know how The salvation Army began in England and Australia.

Consider inviting a guest to tell members how the Army began in England and Australia. The Heritage Centre in your territory may be happy to provide a speaker and/or items for display.

There may also be an Army historian nearer to your corps who would be happy to address your group.

**Leader's Resource 1** includes information about the Army's beginnings in England and Australia. Use this information to prepare a teaching presentation, or display the information around the room for members to read and then complete **Handout 1**.

The group might like to role play some of the events described in **Leader's Resource 1**. This might require writing a script and organising props or it could be ad lib and not requiring a public performance.



## 2. Recognise some salvation Army terms and symbols

Invite the corps officer or local officer to teach this requirement. The two terms are officers and soldiers and the two symbols are the crest and the flag.

Alternatively, cut up **Leader's Resource 2** and display the information around the room for members to read and then complete **Handout 2**.



## 3. Explore the spiritual work of The salvation Army

Take members through the main worship room in the hall. Focus on the following topics and help members to understand that The Salvation Army is, first and foremost, a Christian Church.

**Platform/Pulpit/Lectern** – this is the place where God's Word is usually read and taught to help the congregation understand the Bible and know how God wants them to obey Him.

**Prayer place/Mercy Seat** – sometimes during the meeting people want to talk with God in a meaningful way. The officer leading the meeting may invite the congregation to talk with God at the prayer place. The prayer place can be used at any time and for any reason, though its often where people make important decisions about God.

**Music** – this should include the space and/or instruments used by musicians as well as congregational singing, e.g. songbooks or projectors and screen. Help members to understand how music and singing helps us to worship God. You might like to show them some of the worship songs used at your corps and read one or two of them.

**Bibles** – The Bible is very important to The Salvation Army because it is God's Word. It's important that everyone who loves God brings their own Bible to church but for those who don't own a Bible or forgot to bring it many corps (churches) provide Bibles for people to read when they come to church.

# Teaching ideas



## 4. Explore how The Salvation Army helps those in need.

To complete this requirement members need to have some knowledge about at least one local and one national aspect of The Salvation Army's social work. It is important that members understand that the reason The Salvation Army helps those in need comes from a personal experience of God's love and a desire to share His love with others.

Make use of any or all of The Salvation Army's social services in your community, e.g. emergency services trailer, welfare centre, Salvo/Family store. Make this as 'hands-on' as possible, e.g. invite an SAES worker to demonstrate the emergency services trailer and talk about some of his/her experiences with the trailer; tour the community/welfare centre with the manager or other employee and ask him/her to talk about how he/she assists people. Alternatively invite the corps officer or other guest who has knowledge and/or experience of The Salvation Army's local community work to speak about it.

Choose at least one national need that The Salvation Army addresses (e.g. aged care, homelessness, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, domestic violence, missing persons, unemployment, financial assistance) and provide information for members to research. They need to know how the service helps people.

Create a montage or other presentation depicting The Salvation Army's social work around the country. Contact the divisional or territorial public relations office for information and resources that could be used to create a display. The following websites have useful information that can be downloaded.

<http://salvos.org.au/>

<http://salvos.org.au/about-us/student-centre/>



# TEACHING IDEAS

# Leader's Resource 1

## THE FOUNDERS

### WILLIAM BOOTH



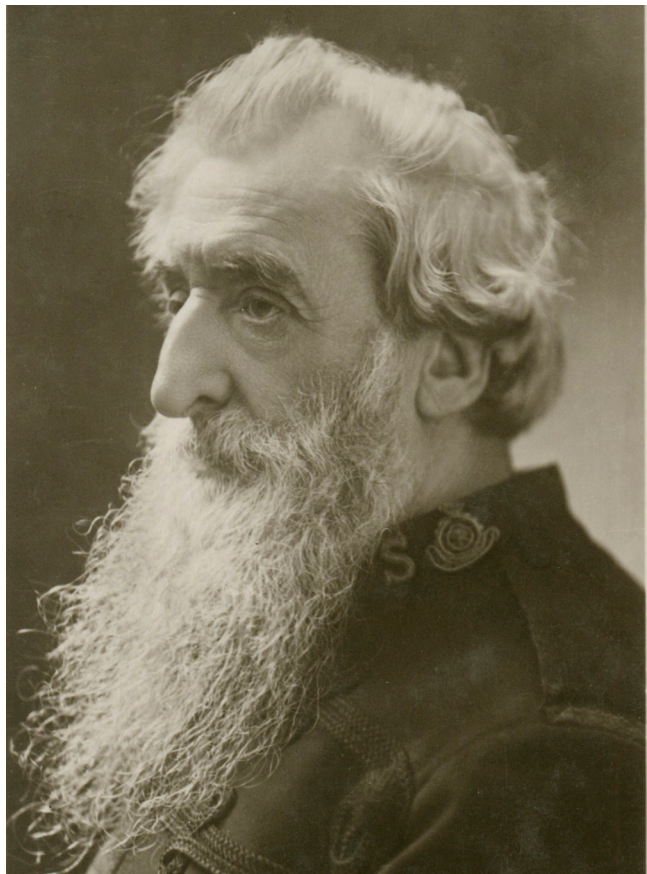
William Booth was born in Nottingham, England, on April 10, 1829. Whilst he was still a small boy William's father died and so, because the family were very poor, William had to leave school to find work. He worked in a pawnbroker's shop where the pawnbroker lent money to the poor in return for a valuable item which they left at the shop. For example, people would leave their best clothes at the pawnbrokers in exchange for a few cents, hoping they would be able to buy back their clothes before the following Sunday. William learned to love these people.

When he was fourteen William became a Christian. He wanted very much to serve God and offered God his whole life.

Encouraged by his friend Will Sansom, William Booth held outdoor church services. He used a chair to stand on so he could be easily seen and heard. They read from the Bible and told people of God's love and how Jesus died for them. Some of the people followed them back to the church but William learned that the church didn't want these poor people.

'We only want people who are clean, tidy and well-dressed,' they said. William was disappointed by this attitude but it made him more determined, with God's help, to take the good news of Jesus to the poor.

William died on August 20, 1912, after seeing The Salvation Army expand into 55 countries.





# Leader's Resource 1 (contd.)

## CATHERINE BOOTH



As a child Catherine had been sick and spent a lot of time in bed. During that time she read her Bible and studied very hard. By the time she was 12 years old she had read the Bible cover to cover eight times.

Catherine Booth became William's wife on June 16, 1855.

Together they accepted the challenge to be used by God before thinking of themselves.

Catherine believed that if men and women worked together under God's guidance they could do great things for Him. Even though Catherine believed that God could use men and women equally, she didn't want a public life.

One Sunday morning as William's church service was concluding, Catherine felt a strong urge to speak.

She walked up the aisle to the front of the church. When William bent to ask her what she wanted she replied, 'I wish to speak'. Catherine told the congregation how she had known for a long time that God wanted her to speak but she had not been

willing to do so. Now she was determined to obey God. People in the congregation were very moved by her words and afterwards William announced that Catherine would preach at the evening service. From then on Catherine preached regularly. Often she spoke to a crowd of wealthy people in one part of the city while William led a service for the poor people in another part.

Catherine encouraged William when he was depressed, when he was busy Catherine visited the people, and when William was tired she gave him ideas for sermons.



# Leader's Resource 1 (contd.)

## EAST LONDON CHRISTIAN MISSION



William wanted to tell the poorest people about God's love. One day William was walking along a street in the poor part of London and saw a crowd of people in the hotels. They were drunk and very poor. He stopped near a hotel called 'The Blind Beggar' (which still exists today). On the land opposite, called Mile End Waste, a group of Christians called the 'Gospel Missioners' were holding a meeting. Their leader asked if any convert listener would like to speak. William Booth responded immediately.

His forceful words and presence grabbed people's attention and soon a crowd had gathered. William spoke about God's love and Jesus' death using simple language the people understood. The group of Christians asked William to become their leader. Though he wanted his people to join their local church many were not wanted by the people there and William realised that he needed them to tell others about Jesus.

So he began the East London Christian Mission. The mission held meetings in all sorts of places like a large tent, a dance hall, a woolshed, the theatre and out in the open. The mission soon spread to Scotland and other places and so became known as the Christian Mission.

## THE SALVATION ARMY

According to tradition, in 1878 William with his son Bramwell (who was second-in-charge) and George Scott Railton (another leading member of William's mission) were discussing the work. William had written an article to encourage the missioners. The heading on the article said that 'The Christian Mission is a volunteer army'. Bramwell wasn't happy with that because a volunteer soldier in the military was an amateur who played at being a soldier. 'I'm a regular or nothing', he said, meaning that he was completely committed. William crossed out the word 'volunteer' and wrote the word 'salvation', and the Christian Mission became known as The Salvation Army.

It wasn't long before Booth's people wore uniforms just like the real army. William became known as 'The General' and others gave themselves ranks like Captain. The Salvation Army was born and would soon spread around the world.





# Leader's Resource 1 (contd.)

## THE ARMY COMES TO AUSTRALIA

The Salvation Army came to Australia in September 1880. Two young men, John Gore and Edward Saunders came to Australia separately and met at a Wesleyan Church. Learning that they had each come to know Jesus through William Booth they decided that Australia needed The Salvation Army.

They held a meeting under a gum tree in one of Adelaide's parks. They used a cart to stand on and had a small folding organ to sing to. During this very first meeting they told the listeners of God's love and showed that they were prepared to do something practical to help the poor. John Gore said, 'If there is a man here who hasn't had a square meal today, let him come home to tea with me.'

Gore and Saunders led many people to Jesus so they wrote to William Booth asking him to send officers to take charge of The Salvation Army in Australia. Captain and Mrs Sutherland were sent along with a Salvation Army flag and some uniforms. Sixty-eight Salvationists marched to meet their boat. The Army grew from two to sixty-eight in a few weeks and quickly spread to other parts of the country.



**John Gore**



**Edward Saunders**



# Leader's Resource 2

Cut up each item and its picture and display the individual pieces around the room.



**Officers** are full time ministers of religion who are trained and commissioned (ordained) by The Salvation Army. Officers may work in local Salvation Army corps (churches), help people in need, work in an office, support people in prison or the military. Officers are moved from one job to another as the Army needs their skills. Officers hold ranks like Captain, Major, and Commissioner. The Army's international leader is the General and there is only ever one active officer with that rank. Officers wear maroon epaulettes.



**Soldiers** are members of The Salvation Army who make a promise to love and serve God. Soldiers include adults (senior soldiers) and young people (junior soldiers or corps cadets). Unlike officers, soldiers remain at a corps where they worship and serve God. Senior soldiers wear blue epaulettes.



**Crest** – the Crest is a symbol of The Salvation Army's beliefs. At the centre of the crest is a cross that represents the sacrifice of Jesus. The swords represent the Army's fight against sin and injustice. The 'S' stands for salvation. The Army's motto is 'Blood and Fire' and refer to Jesus and the Holy Spirit. The dots on the circle (gospel shots) represent the truths of the gospel whilst the sun around the centre represents the light and fire of the Holy Spirit. The crown at the top reminds Salvationists of their reward when they reach Heaven.

**Flag** – the three colours of the flag are reminders of the Army's beliefs. The blue border represents the goodness of God; the red represents the death of Jesus; the yellow star represents the Holy Spirit and His work to make us pure. In the centre of the flag is the Army's motto, 'Blood and Fire'.



# Handout 1 -

## Adventurers/Sunbeams

William and Catherine Booth were the founders of The Salvation Army.

### TRUE OR FALSE

Ways Catherine helped William:

- sell his belongings to a pawnbroker \_\_\_\_\_
- visit the people when he was busy \_\_\_\_\_
- give him sermon ideas \_\_\_\_\_
- read the Bible to him \_\_\_\_\_
- encourage him when he was depressed \_\_\_\_\_



William first heard the Christian Missioners across the road from which hotel?

The \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ e \_\_\_\_\_ r

What was The Salvation Army's first name? (cross out the wrong answers)

- The East London Christian Mission
- The Christian Missionary Society
- Salvation Navy
- Wesley Church

When was the name changed to The Salvation Army? \_\_\_\_\_

### TRUE OR FALSE

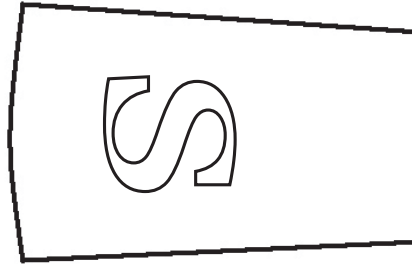
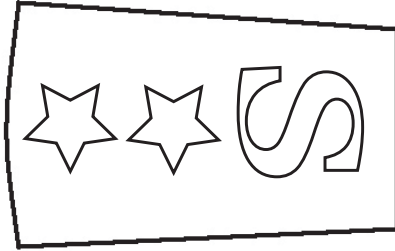
- The Salvation Army began in Sydney \_\_\_\_\_
- William Booth came to Australia to start The Salvation Army \_\_\_\_\_
- The Salvation Army began in Darwin \_\_\_\_\_
- The Salvation Army began in 1978 \_\_\_\_\_
- The Salvation Army began in Adelaide \_\_\_\_\_
- The Salvation Army started in Australia in 1880 \_\_\_\_\_
- John Gore and Edward Saunders began The Salvation Army in Australia \_\_\_\_\_

# HANDOUT 2 -

## Adventurers/sunbeams

### Officers

Colour the epaulettes for a Captain and a Senior Soldier.



### Crest

Draw a line to match the meaning with the correct symbol on the crest.

■ The Army's fight against sin and injustice

■ Jesus' sacrifice

■ The light and fire of the Holy Spirit



■ The reward of Heaven

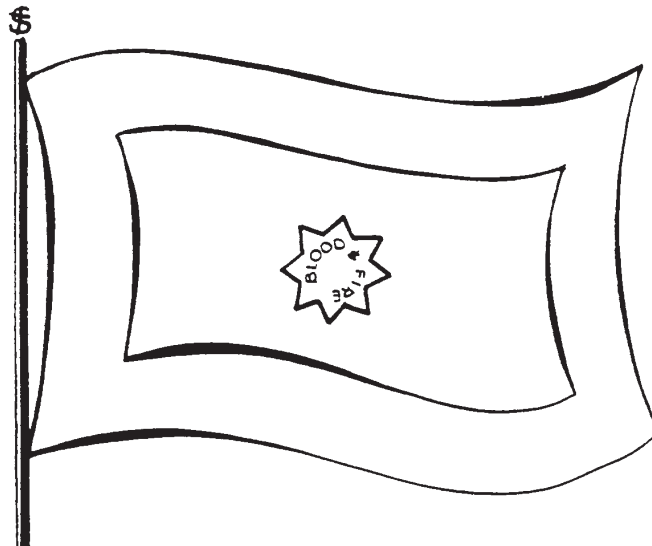
■ The truths of the gospel

■ Salvation from sin

■ The Army's Motto

### Flag

Colour the flag in the correct colours.



# Devotional ideas



**1. Title:** God calls

**Bible:** 1 Samuel 3:1 - 10

**Thought:** God calls people to serve Him

**Supplies:** Bible and visual aids, e.g. flannel graph or a Bible story book

Tell the story of Samuel using flannel graph, a Bible story book or other visual aids.

God calls all sorts of people to serve Him. Samuel was just a boy when God called him; William Booth was also a young man when he said 'yes' to God's call. God used both of these men to do amazing things because they said 'yes' to Him.

We might not do amazing things like William and Samuel, but God is calling all of us to love and serve Him. God wants us to live like Him because we love Him and want to please Him. That will probably mean thinking about how we live and about our words and actions. Would God be happy with our words and actions? We need to think about how we will answer God and be ready to do what He wants us to do.

You might like to invite members to make a response. This could be simply to talk with you, or another adult, about how to respond to God's call.



DEVOTIONAL  
IDEAS





# Devotional ideas



**2. Title:** Where there's a need there's The Salvation Army

**Bible:** Matthew 25:34 - 40

**Thought:** The Salvation Army helps during wars

**Supplies:** Pictures of a Hop-in Centre, Bible

The Red Shield Defense Service started over 100 years ago and has given service in many wars.

During World War 2 it served Australian soldiers cups of tea on the battlefield. The Salvation Army officers used to set up a tent called the "Hop-in centre" and the soldier could have a cup of tea, some quiet, write home to his family, play some games or just sit and talk to the padre as the officers were known.

One very brave officer was known to the soldiers as Padre Mac though his full name was Arthur McIlveen. Arthur sailed with the Australian military forces to the Middle East in 1940 and took with him a 'secret weapon' – an old wind-up gramophone player. The gramophone played large records, which were like CD's and contained music and songs. Padre Mac played the music really loudly. The soldiers loved to sit and listen to the music. One of his records was blown to bits by enemy fire. Padre Mac taped the pieces back together and continued to play it. Padre Mac's gramophone player is on display in the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

Mac had a terrific memory and could recite poems to the men and he would lead them in singing cheerful songs to keep their spirits up when the war was going badly. No matter how worried he might have been he was always bright and cheerful for the men. When he returned to Sydney Padre Mac worked with soldiers who had been wounded during the war; many were in hospitals because of the wounds they had suffered.

Padre Mac was knighted by the Queen for the work he did to encourage and cheer soldiers during and after the war.

Why did Padre Mac work so hard to help soldiers get through their hard times? Padre Mac knew this story that Jesus told. Read Matthew 25:34 – 40. Jesus said that we must help people who need help and that whenever we do something to help others it is really Him that we are helping. If we look around us we can always find someone who needs our help as well.

**Pray** asking God to help us see ways that we, too, can serve others.

# Devotional ideas



**3. Title:** Helping those in need

**Bible:** Matthew 25:34 - 40

**Thought:** God wants us to care for those in need

**Supplies:** Bible

Read Matthew 25:34 - 40. (Do not talk about the separation of the sheep and goats, or discuss what happened to them.)

Ask members to list how those on the right pleased the Lord.

What was the Lord's response to them?

Ask members to list those whom they think would be 'unimportant' or 'least of these' today. The list should include the lonely, poor, or friendless child at school, as well as the homeless, prisoners and the sick.

These verses prompted William Booth to do something to help the poor. One evening he was walking across a bridge in London. Beneath the bridge lived people who had no where else to go. William instructed his son Bramwell to find a place to house these people and food for them to eat. This began The Salvation Army's work to help those in need.

Discuss with members how they could please the Lord by helping someone in need.



DEVOTIONAL  
IDEAS