



CANDIDATES SUNDAY MIDWEEK ACTIVITIES

Scripture Passage:

- Colossians 3:1-2 (*The Message*)

‘So if you’re serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, act like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don’t shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up and be alert to what is going on around Christ - that’s where the action is. See things from his perspective.’

PREPARATION

- A printed copy or PowerPoint version of Appendix A
- Card making supplies
- Local newspapers

INTRODUCTION

The average person is said to spend 24 hours a week online, with one in five adults spending at least 40 hours a week on the internet. We live in a world where phones, tablets and video games have set back the gift of communication. We’re seeing more and more children sat in bedrooms on electronic devices, particularly on social media, while the world passes by, instead of growing up playing with toys or with friends out on the streets kicking a football.

We have become accustomed to seeing the top of people’s heads as they look down on their devices, be that in the street, restaurants, parks or homes. The world is rushing by them and they are unaware of what they are missing. This is an opportunity to make us aware of the need for spiritual leaders within The Salvation Army to acknowledge and thank God for our own leaders and to respond to all that God is saying as we share Scripture from Colossians 3: 1-2 which tells us to ‘Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ’.

OBSERVATION GAME

How alert are you? Use the picture provided in Appendix 1 (either printed or on PowerPoint) and allow people to look at it for 30 seconds. When the time is up, ask the following questions:

1. How many birds are in the cage? (one)
2. What musical instrument is in the bottom left-hand corner? (violin)
3. What mode of transport is on the traffic signal on the wall? (bicycle)
4. What colour is the mobile phone? (blue)
5. Which animal is sitting on the chair? (cat)
6. What colour is the stapler? (purple)
7. Where is the backpack located? (bottom right-hand corner)
8. Is there a toy tortoise in the room? (no)
9. Is the teapot on the top or bottom shelf? (top)
10. What colour is the coat hanger? (green)



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SHARE

Share with each other the things that stop us being alert to what is going on around us. How can we be more alert to what God is doing in and around us?

MAKE A CARD

Spend time thinking about those in your communities. Are there people who seem to struggle or appear lonely? Make a card for them, either just letting them know you are thinking of them or inviting them for coffee in your home or in a café, so that they know you are there for them.

'BE ALERT' WALK

If the group is able, go out for a walk. Encourage people to 'be alert' to what is happening around them and engage by smiling at people, picking up rubbish, talking to God about the needs of the area. Maybe this week instead of driving or taking the bus they can continue the exercise individually.

THOUGHT

To 'be alert' is not only to be watchful and ready to see things from Christ's perspective, but also to respond accordingly. In our humanness this can be hard, but if we continue to read this passage from Colossians we are told that we can play our part in living the life we are called to live by clothing ourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, but most of all, love (Colossians 3:12,14).

When God looks at your life, can he say that you are seeking these things and setting your mind on him?

As we go about our week let's intentionally examine ourselves. Let's be alert and:

- Look up from our phones and share a conversation.
- Look up from our televisions; are we watching appropriate programmes?
- Look up and see our communities; is there someone who is in need?
- Look up - are we sharing healthy conversations?
- Look up - are we reading helpful material?
- Look up and protect our heart.
- Look up and live a heavenly life for earthly good.
- Look up and set our eyes on Christ.

REFLECT

Spend time reading through the local papers and events taking place in your town. Share with each other what speaks to your heart. Pray that God will open your eyes to the things around you where you could make a difference and in which he can use you mightily.



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Next time you meet, share a story about how you have been more 'alert' throughout the week, and if it has made a difference not only to others but also to yourself.

BENEDICTION

*To be like Jesus! This hope possesses me,
In every thought and deed, this is my aim, my creed;
To be like Jesus! This hope possesses me,
His Spirit helping me, like him I'll be.*
(John Gowans)

SUGGESTED SONGS

SASB 328 'To be like Jesus!'
SASB 851 'I want to live right, that God may use me'
SASB 418 'Every day they pass me by (People need the Lord)'
SASB 848 'I shall not fear though darkened clouds may gather round me (I'm in his hands)'



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APPENDIX A

