



empowered

Life with the Holy Spirit

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

**Celebrating YOU today**



**Today we celebrate all the men who are part of our family  
at Ramsgate Salvation Army**

**because:    M  
                  A  
                  R  
                  eally  
                  Special**

**We meet at The Salvation Army Hall Sunday 10.00 am.**

**Also Sunday worship on is on  YouTube**

The easiest way to find the link to the YouTube meeting each Sunday is to find the link on the Corps web page. Type.....

[www.salvationarmy.org.uk/ramsgate](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/ramsgate) and select **Church on YouTube**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8651865167>

**Ramsgate ZOOM 8651865167**

**AND DVDs of the service** are available for those who would like them



## What's happening at Ramsgate Salvation Army?

Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>10.00 am</b>	Prayer at the Hall (Join by <b>ZOOM</b> )
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>10.15 am</b>	<b>WORSHIP at Salvation Army Hall</b>
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>11.30 am</b>	ZOOM fellowship
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	12.00 noon	Sunday School
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	4.30 pm	ZOOM Children's Church Kids Club (up to 11 years)
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	5pm	Youth Fellowship (Church) at HALL
Monday to Friday	(6.30am-9am)	Breakfast Drop-in (street homeless only)
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup>		 Little Fishes Toddler Group 9.30am – 11am
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup>	7.30pm	APEST (final session in series)
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	7.00pm	ZOOM Bible study
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30pm	ZOOM Mid Summer Quiz
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	(10am - 12 noon)	War Cry Ministry Ramsgate
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	(10am - 12 noon)	Food Bank



There is a full day of activities on Fortress Radio. <https://www.fortressradio.online/listen-now.html>

And don't forget Songs of Praise Sunday at 13.15pm

**Maggie** is available with the constant prayer line where you can call or text for prayer. You can contact her on 07840 753 603



Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.



## **Birthdays**

Anne Howard	20-June
Frances Pointer	20-June
Major John Watson	23-June
Roy Wilmot	24-June
Shirley Kendall	27-June
Carol Pratt	27-June

## **Prayers please for**

The family and friends of **Steven** – (grandson of Madeleine and Bernard) who passed away on Monday. For the family and friends of **Frank** who also passed away this week. For **Jean Mayton, Chris**, a friend of Gay, **Sam**, step mum to Hollie, **Grant** and **Al** and **David** and **John** McCairn all waiting for medical treatment. For Tracy. For **Archie**, Lisa and Scott. For **Paul** and **Sue Taylor**. For **Meg** and **Jean S** who both had hospital tests this week and await results. For all those suffering from **Long Covid** – which include some in our church family. For **Steve** as he starts work on Monday.

Please continue to pray for the Coronavirus, health professionals across the world continue to be worried about the spread of the Delta variant which was first identified in India. Outbreaks of the Delta variant have been found in 74 countries and scientists fear it could become the dominant strain worldwide. Please continue to pray for

Governments, Scientist and Health Care professionals who continue work to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus.

That vaccine supplies will be distributed fairly throughout the world, especially in some of the poorest countries.

Those who are ill or in hospital and family members who are worried about loved ones

People will continue to listen to government advice and be understanding to those who are anxious and fearful as restrictions continue to be lifted.

Loving and merciful God we pray for all those who are working to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus, we ask you to give wisdom to those who understand the scientific aspects and who battle to stop the spread of new variants which bring renewed fears and anxiety around the World. We give thanks for the swift roll out of the vaccine within our own country, but are very aware that this is not the same around the world with many poor countries struggling to obtain supplies. Lord be with those who are ill at this moment, we pray for healing and ask you Lord to be with their families as they care for them. We remember those who have lost loved ones and people they care for and pray that they may find comfort and peace in you. In your name we pray. Amen.

A closing reflection

In these days of constant change we need to take time to reflect on the our Saviour and Lord whose love and grace is constant. If like me you are finding the relaxing of restrictions confusing and difficult to understand I invite you to reflect on these words from Psalm 143:8

‘Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for in you I entrust my life.

## Advance Notice



**An Online Women's Event**  
Saturday and Sunday  
**26th - 27th JUNE**

**STOLEN**  
Women and God  
2021

**Guest Speakers:**

**Bekah Legg**  
CEO Retired

**Jenae Main** Colonel  
Territorial Secretary for  
Leader Development

**Lou Fellingham**  
International Worship  
Leader and speaker

**Come and join us in**  
**Worship and the Word**

Register your interest now! This event is free.  
www.salvationarmy.org.uk/Events/Women-and-God-Weekend-2021

To register for this free event

Go to

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/events/women-and-god-weekend->



As we are now all aware, **21<sup>st</sup> June is not the end of COVID restrictions** as we had hoped.

So certain things we planned to be introducing – and being allowed to do, are not now possible next week.

## NO FRIENDSHIP CLUB and LUNCH CLUB

**No singing in church** – or the band and songsters – and we must continue to distance and wear masks.

### No Craft Fayre

### Next steps

The government will make their next announcement on 19<sup>th</sup> July – so we hope that we have better news. This is our new plan:-

Friendship Club and Lunch Club – Start in September

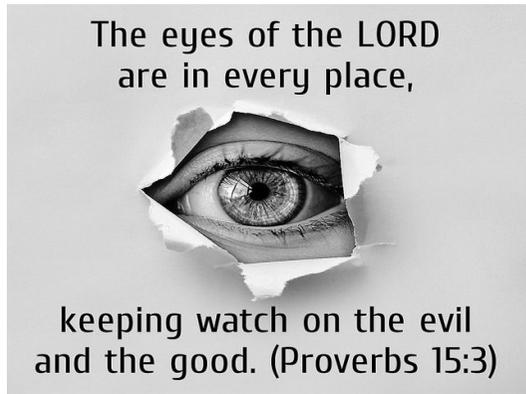
Craft Fayre – September

We are still thinking through what a return to “normal” worship will look like and if we can start on 25<sup>th</sup> July. We are conscious that some people (including ourselves) will take holiday in August. For the meantime we will continue as we are.

We will have **afternoon BBQ, ice cream and strawberries and tea** at the Salvation Army house for a **series** of afternoons in July and August (Covid rules as applicable) so that in small groups **you can all meet up**. Details to follow



4. Proverbs 15:3 (Sheila)



5. Proverbs 16:20 (Sheila)



6. Proverbs 4:23

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

7. Proverbs 30:5

"Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him."

8. Proverbs 9:10

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

9. Proverbs 17:22

A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

10. Proverbs 16:3 (Maggie)



11. Proverbs 16:9

In their hearts human beings plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps. NIV

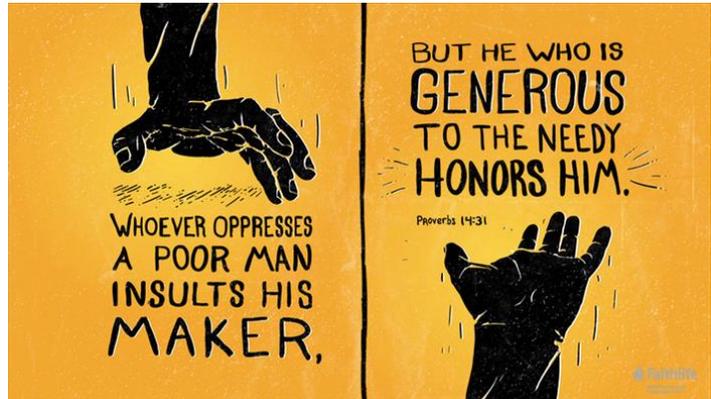
12. Proverbs 16:18

Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall. NIV

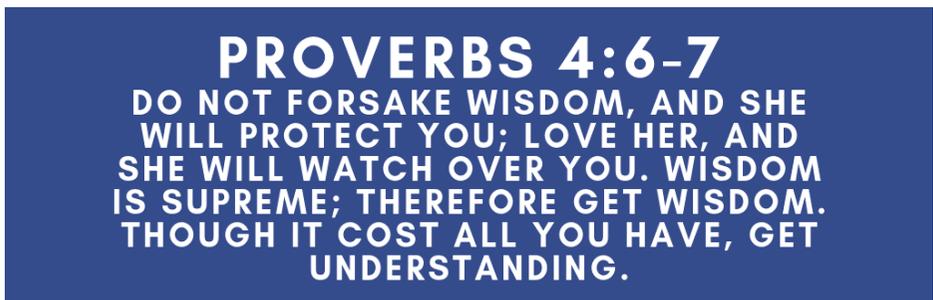
13. Proverbs 15:1 (Carl)



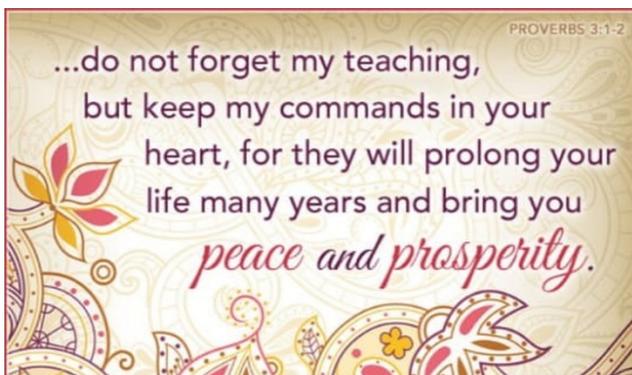
14. Proverbs 14:31 (Sheila)



15. Proverbs 4:6-7 (Jacqueline)



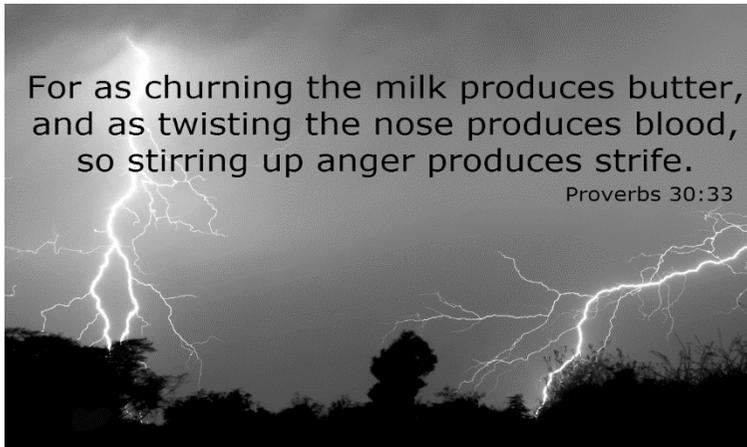
16. Proverbs 3:1-2 (Angela)



17. Proverbs 18:21

The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

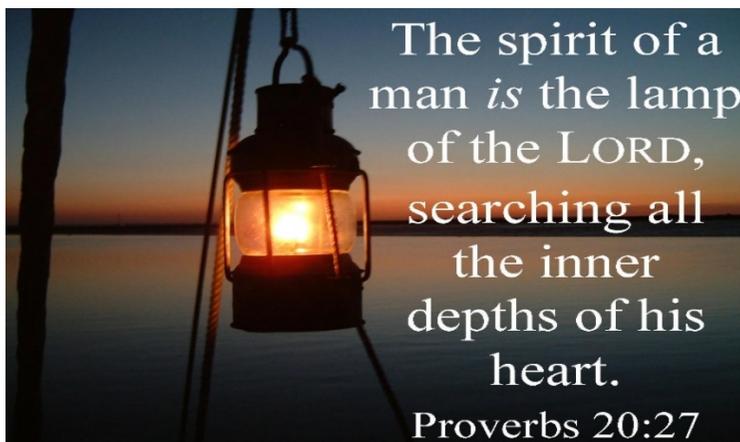
18. Proverbs 30:33 (Eileen)



19. Proverbs 20:1

Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise.

20. Proverbs 20:27 (Maggie)



## **How to apply Proverbs to your daily life.**

### ***Read it! Then live it!***

Proverbs contains some of the most applicable nuggets of truth in all of the Bible. Most of the proverbs are pithy statements brimming over with imagery from the real world. This approach allows us to see very clearly how any particular proverb might be applied to any number of everyday situations we encounter—from getting out of bed in the morning to building a strong foundation in our relationships with others. Proverbs reminds us that God concerns Himself not just with the big, cataclysmic events of life but even those mundane, “invisible” moments in our lives as well.

Are you following God, even in those seemingly “small” circumstances? Allow Proverbs to refocus your attention on all the hidden moments of your life. (from Insight for living)

### **Thoughts from Major John If I can help somebody.**

A line of scripture caught my attention when reading Galatians 5.14. For the whole law is fulfilled in a single saying, in ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself’. (Lev.19.18)

At the Friendship Club I often play older songs and music and one of the songs I have used is from ‘My Fair Lady’.

In the film musical, the character Alfred E Doolittle, played by Stanley Holloway hasn’t quite got the message. In his song ‘With a little bit O’ luck’ he sings...

The Lord above made man to help his neighbour,  
No matter where on home or sea or land.  
The Lord above made man to help his neighbour but,  
With a little bit O’ luck, with a little bit O’ luck  
When he comes around you won’t be home.

A snippet in the newspaper said to be a Yorkshireman’s Motto read...

'Ear all, see all, say nowt;  
Eyt all, sup all, pay nowt;  
And if ivver tha does owt for nowt,  
Allus do it fer thissen.

Very wide of the mark of loving your neighbour, more about looking after number 1. (In reality many Yorkshire people are warm hearted and generous)

Another older song, which this time does gets it right, was sung by Harry Secombe. 'If I can help somebody'.

If I can help somebody as I pass along'  
If I can cheer somebody with a word or song.  
If I can show somebody he is travelling wrong,  
Then my living shall not be in vain.

If I can do my duty as a Christian oft,  
If I can bring back beauty to a world up wrought.  
If I can spread loves message that the master taught.  
Then my living shall not be in vain.

If I can help somebody as I pass along,  
Then my living shall not be in vain.

And to conclude with a verse from Charles Wesley and another verse of scripture...

Help us to help each other, Lord,  
Each other's cross to bear;  
Let each his friendly aid afford  
And feel his brother's care.

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. (Gal 6.10)

## Time to Smile

Teaching is not for sensitive souls. While reviewing future, past, and present tenses with her English class, the teacher posed this question: “‘I am beautiful’ is what tense?” One pupil raised her hand. “Past tense.”

Jill was admiring her aunt’s necklace when she surprised her by announcing, “I’m leaving it to you in my will.” Jill was overjoyed, perhaps too much. “Oh!” she shouted. “I’m looking forward to that!”

A Christian named Bill saw an advert for a Christian horse, so he went to inspect it. The horse’s owner said, “It’s easy to ride him. Just say ‘Praise the Lord!’ to make him go and ‘Amen!’ to make him stop.” Bill got on the horse and said, “Praise the Lord!” Sure enough, the horse started to walk. “Praise the Lord!” he said again, and the horse began to trot. “Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!” he yelled, and the horse broke into a gallop. Bill was enjoying his ride so much that he almost didn’t notice the cliff he and the horse were about to go over. Bill shouted “AMEN!” at the top of his lungs, and the horse stopped right at the edge of the cliff. Relieved, Bill said, “Phew! Praise the Lord!”

‘We did so much sightseeing on holiday that by the end of the first week our eyes were sore!’

‘Then what happened?’

‘Then they showed us the sights for sore eyes!’

## Quiz

- 1.What is the Quorn in Leicestershire?
- 2.What colour are hotels in Monopoly?
- 3.Where is the National Motor Museum?
- 4.In which opera is the song ‘Summertime’?
- 5.What might a numismatist collect along with coins?

## Musical Movies

1. Which 1970s musical film was set in pre-war Berlin?
2. Which musical is the story of a Jewish milkman in pre- revolutionary Russia?
3. Who played the doctor in the film version of 'Doctor Doolittle'?
4. Who danced with Gene Kelly in the Broadway Ballet section of 'Singin in the Rain'?
5. Which star of 'The King and I' was born in Russia?

**Anagrams Shakespeare Plays**

ASSURE RUE FAME MORE, VOLES BLAST UR LOOS, CRAVEN CHIEF NOTE THEM

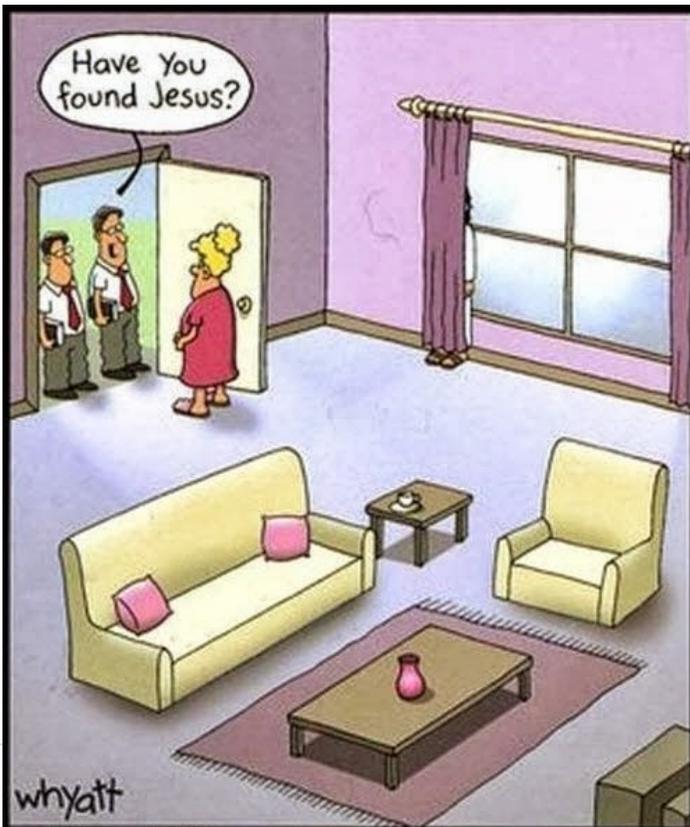
MEASURE FOR MEASURE, LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST, THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

**Shakespeare Anagrams**

1. Cabaret 2. Fiddler on the Roof 3. Rex Harrison 4. Cyd Charisse 5. Yul Brynner

**Musical Movies**

1. Hunt 2. Red 3. Beaulieu 4. Forgy and Bess 5. Medals



## Church at Home – Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June

Celebrating today  
Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2021



Today we celebrate all the men who are part of our family at Ramsgate Salvation Army,

because: **M**en  
**A**re  
**R**eally  
**S**pecial

You are special to us, and even more to God. May you know his love and our love for you today

*But you, Man of God.....pursue righteousness and a Godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. (1 Tim 6:11-12)*

The theme today on what it means to be a hero is based on material produced by Saddleback Church

Today we are going to look at how God wants to use you as a hero in the lives of people around you.

Children of God: welcome!

Welcome to this place of love and grace,

Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.

God invites all of us to be a part of the beloved community,

God invites all of us to share in the good news:

We are welcome, just as we are. We are loved, just as we are.

In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God.

A love that never ceases,

A creativity that designed the universe,

A hope that cannot be quenched,

A pursuit of reconciliation no matter the cost:

These are the things that are of God,

Then let us worship God.

## Song Number 389

Rejoice! Rejoice! Christ is in you,  
The hope of Glory in our hearts.  
He lives! He lives! His breath is in you,  
Arise a mighty army, we arise.

1 Now is the time for us to march upon the land,  
Into our hands he will give the ground we claim.  
He rides in majesty to lead us into victory,  
The world shall see that Christ is Lord!

2 God is at work in us his purpose to perform,  
Building a Kingdom of power not of words,  
Where things impossible, by faith shall be made possible;  
Let's give the glory to him now.

3 Though we are weak, his grace is everything we need;  
We're made of clay but this treasure is within.  
He turns our weaknesses into his opportunities,  
So that the glory goes to him.

*Graham Kendrick*

Now, you probably have never considered yourself a hero, or that God even might want you to be a hero, because your idea of a hero has been skewed by TV and film

You think of superheroes. Dr Who, Batman, and Superman, and the Avengers, or James Bond or Spiderman and Paddington Bear.

But we are going to consider every day heroes.

The heroic acts that you can do every day for the people around you, in your home or with your family, or at work, or school, here in the corps or throughout the community, and actually even all around the world. And we're going to look in this series at such questions as, "What makes a hero a real hero?" And, "Why do we need heroes in our lives anyway?" and, "How do you become a hero?"

And what God wants to do in your life to use you as a hero every single day.

You know, in a recent Gallup poll, 51 percent of children aged 13 to 17 said they could not name a single adult that they would consider a hero. In fact, many of them said, quote, "I don't know any adult that I'd like to model my life after."

That's tragic. Now, the fact is, no matter how old you are, you're always going to need heroes in your life. And you need to be a hero to other people too.

We all need heroes. We need models and mentors in our lives.

Why? Because they shape our lives. They build our character. Heroes inspire us to be more than we are. Heroes challenge us to grow. And that's why, by the way, you need to choose your heroes carefully. You need to be a hero and you need to choose your heroes carefully for your entire life.

Let me read you this verse, Psalm 16:3, "The godly people in the land are my true heroes! ..." "The godly people in the land are the true heroes, and I take pleasure in them."

Tell me who your heroes are, and I'll tell you what you're becoming. I'll also say this, if you don't have any heroes, it means you've never really defined your values. You don't know what's important.

Now today the word hero is overused and misused. We apply it to everything.

Most people who are called heroes today in our society, are not really heroes. They're celebrities. And most people don't know the difference between a hero and a celebrity. Celebrities make a big splash, heroes make a big difference. Celebrities are all about image and fame, heroes are all about character and service. Celebrities are famous for what they sacrifice for themselves, where as heroes are those who sacrifice for others. Celebrities want everybody to serve them, heroes focus on serving others.

## **1. Real heroes stand alone for what's right.**

Real heroes stand alone for what's right. You don't become a hero by doing what everybody else does. You become a hero by not doing what everybody else does. Real heroes go against the crowd. Real heroes butt the majority. Real heroes are willing to swim upstream against the flow. So you're never going to find a real hero doing what everybody else is doing.

Now, in 2 Samuel 23:8-12, it says this, "These are the three most heroic men in David's army." Josheb, Eleazar and Shammah. Once during an attack, when all of Shammah's men deserted him, he stood alone at the center of the field and beat back the Philistines; [all by himself.] And God gave him a great victory."

Now, it's doubtful that you're going to have to fight in a war this week, but you're going to face all kinds of ethical battles, and you're going to face moral battles, and you're certainly going to face personal and emotional battles and relational battles. And you have to be willing to do the right thing, even if it means standing alone. Exodus 23:2 says this, "Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong."

Now every week you get an opportunity to demonstrate character and to be a hero by not following the crowd in doing wrong. When everybody else is doing something at work, maybe they're all stealing from the company, or maybe they're all spending hours doing personal things on their laptops. And you don't do that, that makes you a hero. When everybody at school is doing drugs, or they're getting drunk at parties and bragging about it on Monday morning, or cheating among friends, or for any of us if you're gossiping or making fun of somebody, and you don't do those things, you stand alone. Then you're a hero.

Now, the fact is, when it comes to standing alone, being alone and doing the right thing when nobody else is doing it, we all have that deep desire to fit in. We all want to belong. We all want to be accepted. And so, Satan's favourite tool in your life is peer pressure. We hate the thought of the possibility of being rejected.

Let me ask you, let's be personal. How often have you kept silent at work, or with friends or even here at the corps – even if that is over the phone.... Somebody

starts talking about something that you knew was wrong, or unkind and you clammed out and you said nothing. You know, sometimes silence isn't golden, it's just plain yellow. And if you don't stand for something, you're going to fall for anything.

I subscribe to an organization called "First Man Standing"

Not to be confused with last man standing which I guess is about being tough in the physical fight – all your opponents have been knocked out and you alone stand.

But this is about being first to speak out when you hear or see something wrong. I am going to stand and be counted – and be the first to say – that's not kind, that's not true that's not helpful.

Some of you may have joined the webinar on Wednesday about "welcoming the stranger" – it focused on Salvation Army corps in the UK that are providing homes to refugees who have fled from war zones.

So much to discuss, but one thing that is evident is the bravery of those Salvationist when they're challenged by racist and xenophobic abuse in the communities where the refugees are being welcomed. Being a hero is not being afraid to say – "something needs to be done to help. We cannot close our eyes because these people need help" Sure the ethics of migration are complex – let the politicians agonise over that – we are going to "do something".

Some of you may know of an incident where threats were to me made because of the work we do to support the homeless here at Ramsgate Salvation Army. They disapproved of what we are doing. Will that stop us? No! Any why not? "Because I fear the disapproval of God more than I fear the disapproval of those who don't think we should help those on the streets.

That's what it means to stand alone. And to be a hero often means going against the crowd. Romans 12:2 says this, look on your outline. "Do not model your behaviour on the contemporary world, but let the renewing of your mind transform you, so that you may discern the will of God –what is good and

acceptable and mature." "Don't model your behaviour on the contemporary world."

And here's another verse, Psalm 40:4, "Blessed are you who give yourselves over to God, turn your back on the world's 'sure thing' and you ignore what the world worships." Wow, that's standing alone.

When you think about all the heroes in the Bible, every one of them had to stand alone. Abraham, he had to stand alone against an immoral culture called Sodom. Noah had to stand alone in obedience and is ridiculed for 120 years. Daniel had to stand alone for integrity in the lion's den. Esther had to stand alone to save her people at the risk of her own life. Moses had to stand alone to challenge the most powerful man in the world, Pharaoh.

What about you? It's not the only characteristic, but it's a fundamental characteristic of heroes: you're willing to do what's right even when nobody else agrees with you.

Are you willing to stand alone for what's right in the face of criticism, or ridicule, or rejection? And if you're a parent, are you willing to train your children in how to stand alone, rather than just to go along? God is looking for heroes that he can use.

### **Song Number 521**

Standing by a purpose true,  
Heeding God's command,  
Honour them, the faithful few;  
All hail to Daniel's band!

Dare to be a Daniel,  
Dare to stand alone,  
Dare to have a purpose firm,  
And dare to make it known.

2 Many mighty men are lost,  
Daring not to stand,

Who for God had been a host  
By joining Daniel's band.

3 Many giants, great and tall,  
Stalking through the land,  
Headlong to the earth would fall  
If met by Daniel's band.

4 Hold the gospel banner high;  
On to victory grand;  
Satan and his host defy  
And shout for Daniel's band.

Philip Paul Bliss (1838-1876)

### **Song Number 648**

I would be true, for there are those who trust me;  
I would be pure, for there are those who care;  
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer;  
I would be brave, for there is much to dare.

Jesus will help me, he is my friend;  
He'll lead and I will follow till life's very end.

2 I would be friend of all – the foe, the friendless;  
I would be giving, and forget the gift;  
I would be humble, for I know my weakness;  
I would look up and laugh and love and lift.

*Howard Arnold Walter (1883-1918) (verses), Anon (chorus)*

## **2. Real heroes make sacrifices for others.**

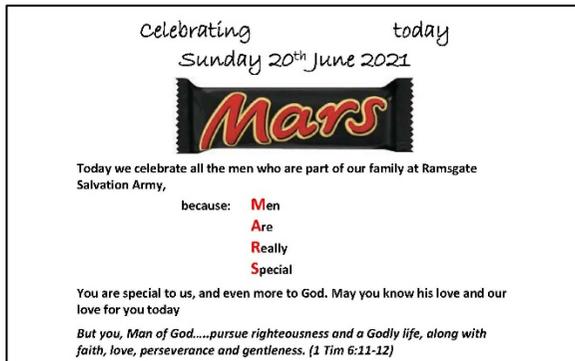
Now notice I say "for others".

Real heroes make sacrifices for others. A lot of people will make sacrifices for themselves.

This is our second plug for men to be heroes –

I've already mentioned first man standing

What makes a MARS men?



Being a man in our Western culture calls for a lot of sacrifice.

You need to make sacrifices to have a body like mine

You need to make sacrifices to be seen wearing the right clothes the right shoes – the right sunglasses– like I do

Sacrifices are needed to be great at sport (keep believing I am the model of someone who makes sacrifices to be this super hero)

In a society that puts so much value on what you own, where you live, what you drive, how you spend your leisure time – it requires a lot of sacrifice to get it.

But it is sacrificing in the wrong place.

Now heroes put the needs of others ahead of their own, in fact, sometimes they put the needs of strangers ahead of their own. But mostly we are called to be heroes to the people closest to us.

Now how do you become truly great as a hero? Jesus said in Matthew 20:26, "Whoever want to be great, must become a servant."

God's values are the exact opposite of this world. There are not many people who actually say, "My goal in life is to see how many people I can serve, rather than how many people I can get to serve me" because today in our society, the more people you have waiting on you, supposedly the more important you are.

Now the world says this, "Think of yourself, because you deserve it. Get others to serve you" but that's not what Jesus said, he said we are to serve others.

I want you to know, to be Christlike doesn't mean you have to do the spectacular. You don't have to do the spectacular to be a hero, you just have to be the servant to be a hero. Jesus said it like this in Matthew 10:42, "Even if you give a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded."

So what is your cup of cold water? In other words small things that make a difference.

I heard a programme this week that was looking at how much time dads spent with their children – the good news is that it has gone up 4 times in the last 20 years. The sad news is that it is still only 30 minutes per dad.

So MARS men what are you doing which means you only have 30 minutes of quality time to spend with the ones you love – and let's be clear it's about making sacrifice.

What do you need to give up or stop doing to allow more time to be with those important in your life?

And MARS men without children – are you making time for other important people in your life?

So what other sacrifices ought you be making? What should you be doing to serve others?

Let me ask you a personal question. Is there any area in your life where you're sacrificing to serve other people on a regular basis? Nobody pays you to do it.

There's not any big reward in it, but you're just doing it out of the goodness of your heart to serve other people in Jesus name.

### **Song Number 497**

I want, dear Lord, a heart that's true and clean,  
A sunlit heart, with not a cloud between;  
A heart like thine, a heart divine,  
A heart as white as snow;  
On me, dear Lord, a heart like this bestow.

2 I want, dear Lord, a love that cares for all,  
A deep, strong love that answers every call;  
A love like thine, a love divine,  
A love to come or go;  
On me, dear Lord, a love like this bestow.

3 I want, dear Lord, a soul on fire for thee,  
A soul baptised with heavenly energy;  
A willing mind, a ready hand  
To do whate'er I know,  
To spread thy light wherever I may go.

*George Galloway Jackson (1866-1893)*

### **Prayers for Father's Day**

Fathers in Our Lives

We give our thanks, Creator God, for the fathers in our lives.

Fatherhood does not come with an instruction manual, and reality teaches us that some fathers excel while others fail.

We ask for Your blessings for them all and forgiveness where it is needed.

This Father's Day we remember the many sacrifices fathers make for their children and families, and the ways--both big and small--they lift children to achieve dreams thought beyond reach.

So too, we remember all those who have helped fill the void when fathers pass early or are absent; grandfathers and uncles, brothers and cousins, teachers, pastors and coaches and the women of our families.

For those who are fathers, we ask for wisdom and humility in the face of the task of parenting. Give them the strength to do well by their children and by You. In Your Holy name, O God, we pray.

Amen.

God took the strength of a mountain,  
The majesty of a tree,  
The warmth of a summer sun,  
The calm of a quiet sea,  
The generous soul of nature,  
The comforting arm of night,  
The wisdom of the ages,  
The power of the eagle's flight,  
The joy of a morning in spring,  
The faith of a mustard seed,  
The patience of eternity,  
The depth of a family need,  
Then God combined these qualities,  
When there was nothing more to add,  
He knew His masterpiece was complete,  
And so, He called it ... Dad

For all You have given, thank You God.  
For all You have withheld, thank You God.  
For all You have withdrawn, thank You God.  
For all You have permitted, thank You God.  
For all You have prevented, thank You God.

For all You have forgiven me, thank You God.

For all You have prepared for me, thank You God.

For the death You have chosen for me, thank you God.

For the place you are keeping for me in heaven, thank You God.

For having created me to love You for eternity, thank You God.

### **3. Real heroes take risks for God.**

Real heroes take risks for God. Do you know that God put in you a natural desire to take risks? That's why people like to gamble. It's why people like to play games of chance. That's why people like sports. It's why people like to do mountain climbing. You were wired to take risks in your life. Now you may have tamped it down out of fear, you may have tamped it down out of anxiety, but by nature you have an ability to take risks. It's part of being a human being.

Real heroes are not afraid to go out on a limb. Real heroes defy the odds. Real heroes risk failure and they even risk rejection, and they even risk criticism in order to go after the dream, in order to serve others, in order to be who God calls them to be.

Now, of course a lot of people take foolish risks for selfish reasons all the time and they may say, "Well, I'm risking for God" when really, they're just risking for their own benefit. Why don't we do this? Why are we afraid to take risks? Well, I think a couple of reasons.

Number one, we want to be comfortable, okay, and it's uncomfortable stretching yourself. Have you ever stretched a muscle? Have you ever worked out and stretched a muscle? It's uncomfortable stretching that muscle. So that's one reason, we just want to be comfortable.

The other reason is, we're just afraid of being hurt. We're afraid of a failing. Let me tell you something. Failure is not fatal. Failure is not final. You're never a failure until you give up. Failure is not as bad as the fear of failure.

The fear of failure is far worse than failure itself, because when you have the fear of failure, you think about it over and over and over and over and over. If you fail you just fail.

Another great verse from proverbs says, "Though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again." (Proverbs 24:16). What I love about that verse is it says even good people mess up, even good people fall. Nobody goes through life with an unbroken string of successes. You risk and sometimes it pays off, and you risk and sometimes it doesn't. But even in the times that it doesn't, God will use that.

Every part of your story can be used for God's glory. Even the parts that you don't want to share or talk about. Every part of your story can be used for God's glory. That is the power of the cross. That is the power, that we're all trophies of God's grace.

So we back away from taking risks. What risks have you known God wanted you to take? Maybe to go to a person you needed to ask forgiveness from, or maybe go to a person you need to offer forgiveness to? Remember a safe life is a wasted life.

In Luke chapter 19:26 in The Message paraphrase, Jesus says this: "Risk your life and you get more than you ever dreamed of. Play it safe and you'll end up holding the bag." I love that. I love that. You just end up ... you're a loser.

The loser is not the person who took the risk and failed; the loser's the person who never took the risk, because if what you're doing is ultimately done in love and done for the glory of God and done in faith, you cannot be considered a failure because the Bible says love never fails.

One of the greatest heroes in the Bible is the apostle Paul, because almost single handedly he spread Christianity across the entire Roman Empire. He took enormous risks, not for his own personal benefit, but for the benefit of other people. He's constantly taking risks to spread the good news and literally nothing could stop him.

Let me read you this verse on the screen from 2 Corinthians 11:23-27. It's Paul's testimony and he says this: "I have worked harder, been put in jail more often, been whipped times without number, and faced death again and again and again. Five times I was given thirty-nine lashes." Can you imagine what his back looked like? All of the scars on his back, five times 39. "Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned with rocks. Three times I was shipwrecked! Once I drifted out in the open sea all night and the whole next day. I've travelled many weary miles and often been in great danger from flooded rivers, from robbers and from my own people, as well as from others. I've faced grave dangers from mobs in cities and from death in the deserts, and in stormy seas and from men who claim to be brothers in Christ but are not. I've lived with weariness and pain and sleepless nights. Often I have been hungry and thirsty and have gone without food; and often I have shivered with cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm."

What? That's an enormous list of risks. He lived multiple lifetimes in one life. What in the world motivated Paul to take all those risks and put up with all that pain? Well, he tells us.

1 Corinthians 15: 30-32, he says this: "And why do you think I keep risking my neck in this dangerous work? I look death in the face practically every day I live. Do you think I'd do this if I wasn't convinced of your resurrection and mine as guaranteed by the resurrected Jesus? Do you think I was just trying to act heroic... Not on your life! It's the resurrection that undergirds what I do and what I say and the way I live."

Here's the secret of being willing to take risks, get your eye off the problem, get your focus on eternity, because I know death is not the end. I know I'm going to be rewarded in heaven, I know that this life is not all there is. This life is preparation for eternity? This life is a test, this life God is testing you to see will you sacrifice for others?

Will you stand up when it's unpopular, when it's the right thing to do?

Will you take risks for God's glory, for your own growth and for the help of other people?

### **Song Number 565**

All I once held dear, built my life upon,  
All this world reveres, and wars to own,  
All I once thought gain I have counted loss;  
Spent and worthless now, compared to this:

Knowing you, Jesus, knowing you,  
There is no greater thing.  
You're my all, you're the best,  
You're my joy, my righteousness,  
And I love you, Lord.

2 Now my heart's desire is to know you more,  
To be found in you and known as yours,  
To possess by faith what I could not earn,  
All-surpassing gift of righteousness.

3 O, to know the power of your risen life,  
And to know you in your sufferings,  
To become like you in your death, my Lord,  
So with you to live and never die.

*Graham Kendrick*

Have you have felt the joy dry up in your Christian life. You're not as close to God as you used to be. When you first came to Christ, you were so filled with enthusiasm, joy and fire and energy and smiles, but today the truth is you're bored with your life. You may be bored with God, you may be bored with the church, you may be bored with your Christian life.

Do you know why? Maybe you're not risking anything. You're just splashing around on in the shallow end, paddling around in the play pool; having a good time. You need to get out in the surf. You need to go for the big waves.

I don't know what you need to do to break out of the boredom in your life, but one of the things that it will definitely involve is taking a risk for the benefit of other people, or the benefit of the glory of Jesus Christ.

The three qualities that we looked at today are qualities of a hero. In the parable of the talents, Jesus tells a story of an owner giving a certain amount of talents to each man. Now the word talent that we get today actually comes from this story, but the word talent actually means an amount of money.

The owner says, "I'm going on a trip, but I'm going to give my three servants ..." He gave 10 talents to one servant, that's a lot of money. He gave five talents to another servant, that's a lot of money, and he gave one talent to a servant, and that's not as much money. While he was away he said, "Go invest this. Take some risks and invest and when I come back, we'll see what you've done with it." When he came back, the man who'd been given 10 talents had doubled his money. The man who had been given five talents, had doubled his money and the third man who only had been given one talent, had done nothing with it. He had no interest, no reward to give to his master for what he had been given.

His master said, "What? How did you miss that?" He said, "Well, I was afraid and so I buried the talent in the ground. I was afraid I'd lose it." He was more afraid of losing what he had, than multiplying what God had given him.

Is that true of your life? Are you more afraid of losing what you've got than multiplying what God has given you? What God has given you is his gift to you, what you do with it is your gift back to God. Here Jesus then says the reward of those who had doubled what they had been given. He said, "Anybody who sacrifices home, family, fields – whatever – because of me will get it all back a hundred times over, not to mention the considerable bonus of eternal life" (Matthew 19:29).

He's talking about in heaven, that you're going to be rewarded in heaven exponentially for standing up for what's right, standing alone, for sacrificing for others, for risking for God's name and for good in the world. He says you're going to be given all of this multiplied over in heaven.

Now my prayer is that you are inspired to a new level of confidence, a new level of courage, and a new level of willingness to break out of the ruts and make a difference with your life.

Father, we've heard from you. I pray today that everyone of us would look at our lives and see where do you need to apply these three truths.

Where have I been silent? Where have I been afraid?

Where have I not stood for Christ? When I've been afraid to stand alone, or to stand against where everybody else was going because it was the right thing to do.

And where Lord, have I needed to sacrifice for others, and do I need to do it now? Who's the person that I could be unselfish with today, tomorrow, this week? Who's the person that I could, like Christ, give myself away for their benefit without the thought of reward here on earth?

And Lord, who's the person that I need to be willing to take a risk, a relational risk, to invite them to church, or a financial risk to help them with a problem financially? Who do I need to forgive? Who do I need to ask forgiveness from? Lord, may we all learn to be true heroes in the true sense of the word, and Lord, help us to not think that we need to be celebrities to be heroes.

Father, you sent your Son Jesus to die for us. He's the ultimate hero, the only perfect hero, the rest of us are flawed, but he gave the maximum to save the maximum number of people. He gave his life. Thank you for that.

### **Song Number 954**

God's soldier marches as to war,

A soldier on an alien shore,  
A soldier true, a soldier who  
Will keep the highest aims in view.  
God's soldier goes where sin is found;  
Where evil reigns, his battleground;  
A cunning foe to overthrow  
And strike for truth a telling blow.

We're going to fill, fill, fill the world with glory;  
We're going to smile, smile, smile and not frown;  
We're going to sing, sing, sing the gospel story;  
We're going to turn the world upside down.

2 God's soldier has to stand alone,  
Accepting burdens not his own;  
A lonely work he cannot shirk,  
Where dark and deadly dangers lurk.  
God's soldier must courageous be,  
And from his duties never flee,  
For millions wait, whose need is great,  
And he must not God's plan frustrate.

*Harry Read*

### **Benediction**

You go nowhere by accident.

Wherever you go, God is sending you.  
Wherever you are, God has put you there.  
God has a purpose in your being right where you are.  
Christ, who indwells you by the power of his Spirit,  
wants to do something in and through you.  
Believe this and go in his grace, his love, his power.  
Be a Hero.....  
In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
Amen

## DISCUSSION

“The godly people in the land are my true heroes! I take pleasure in them!” Psalm 16:3 (NLT)

All people need heroes in their lives: heroes shape our lives and build our character. God wants us all to be heroes, but we need to choose our roles as heroes carefully by knowing what God expects. Many kids can't name any adults in their lives as heroes, and people often think of sports stars or celebrities as “heroes.” Here we'll discuss how real heroes stand alone for what is right, make sacrifices for others, and take risks for God and for others.

“Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong.” Exodus 23:2a (NIV)

1. What are some seemingly innocent things in our culture of entertainment that the world worships but we should avoid as Christians because they are wrong for our hearts and minds? Can you share an experience when you realized that such things took away from being a hero for God?
2. What are some difficult and sensitive topics to stand up for, even when no one else agrees? Whom can you dialogue with in order to role play and rehearse what to say when speaking up about a difficult topic?

“Whoever wants to be great must become a servant.” Matthew 20:26b (Mes)

3. Share your definition of a servant. Why does God want us to sacrifice and serve others? Share a time where someone impacted your life by making a sacrifice for you, or where a sacrifice you made for someone else impacted your life.

“Speak up for people who cannot speak for themselves. Protect the rights of all who are helpless.” Proverbs 31:8-9 (TEV)

4. The sacrifices of real heroes can make big differences in the quality of helpless people's lives. What are some ways we can "speak up for" or support such people? Describe why someone you can think of is a great hero.

“If you try to keep your life for yourself, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will find true life.” Mark 8:35 (NLT)

5. If you focus only on your problems, you might end up as a failure and face even more severe difficulty. Can you share an example of focusing on heaven instead and finding a precious new life?

**Can you send to Carl the name of one hero. This may be from the bible, it may be a Christian in history – or someone alive now – who is – for you – a hero. We will include them in next week’s newsletter.**

Next week we continue to ask what healing in an empowered church looks like.

**Father God thank you for your perfect fathering** – I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; shepherded and nurtured; disciplined and challenged; so I can flourish in your purpose and plan for me and bear my Father’s image more fully still.

Father God thank you for your perfect example – I praise you because you show all fathers how to love; To shepherd and nurture; discipline and challenge; so their sons and daughters can flourish in this world as you have planned, and carry your presence to all they meet.

Father God, bless all fathers today – with wisdom, with patience, with courage – and above all with love for their children.

Father God, bless all children today – with openness to correction, with eagerness to learn – And above all with love for their fathers.

Father God bless all who are fatherless today – surround them with godly men to teach, affirm and guide –

And above all to love with the love of a father – in your strength. Amen

## Some Heroes and Heroines of the Bible

J K G P J O S E P H O F E G Y P T  
 S N E N E L A D G A M Y R A M Y H  
 U J D J I J I H K B A H A R E I T  
 S O A V S A A B R A H A M A S S E  
 E H N M O T C D A E Q T L H H A R  
 J N I O I U E E I N Y N R S A A A  
 R T E R G Z Y P D V O J H I C C Z  
 E H L E F E O H H R A S A L H F A  
 P E H H A D N D A E O D M E U V N  
 E B C T U E H D K I N M O A H Y F  
 T A A S H B A H E N M L O A S N O  
 E P R E S O O A L B U E J N L L H  
 R T D N O R N N V A A I H O H E P  
 F I A E J A S N P Z L A Y E V U E  
 B S H E V H M A G E L R R D N M S  
 R T S U L O I H O V H P A I D A O  
 O Z S Q S E S O M X B O M G D S J

Abednego

Abraham

Daniel

David

Deborah

Elijah

Elisha

Gideon

Hannah

Isaac

Jesus

John the Baptist

Joseph of Egypt

Joseph of Nazareth

Joshua

Mary

Mary Magdalene

Meshach

Mordecai

Moses

Nehemiah

Noah

Paul

Peter

Queen Esther

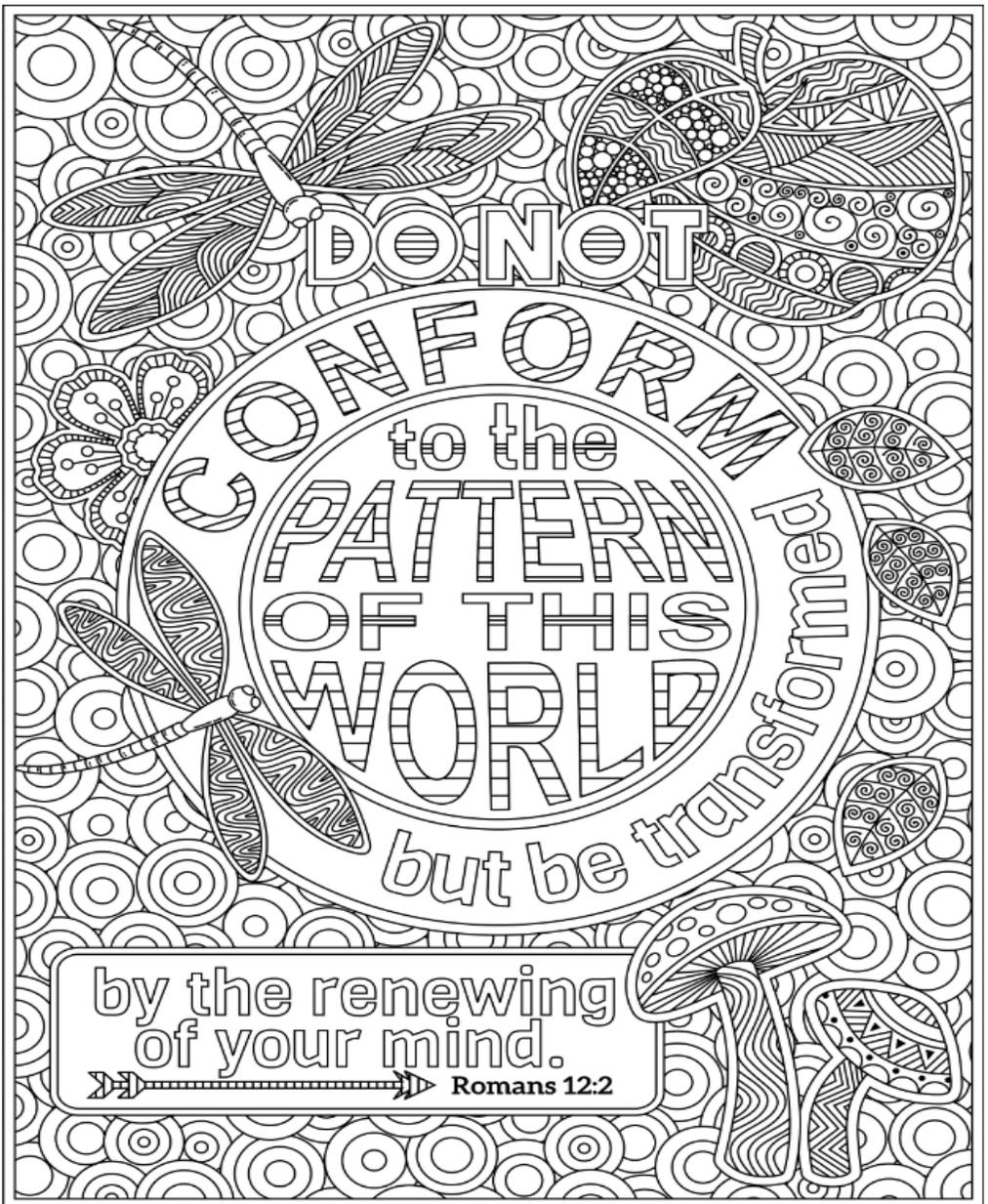
Rahab

Samson

Samuel

Shadrach

Stephen



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