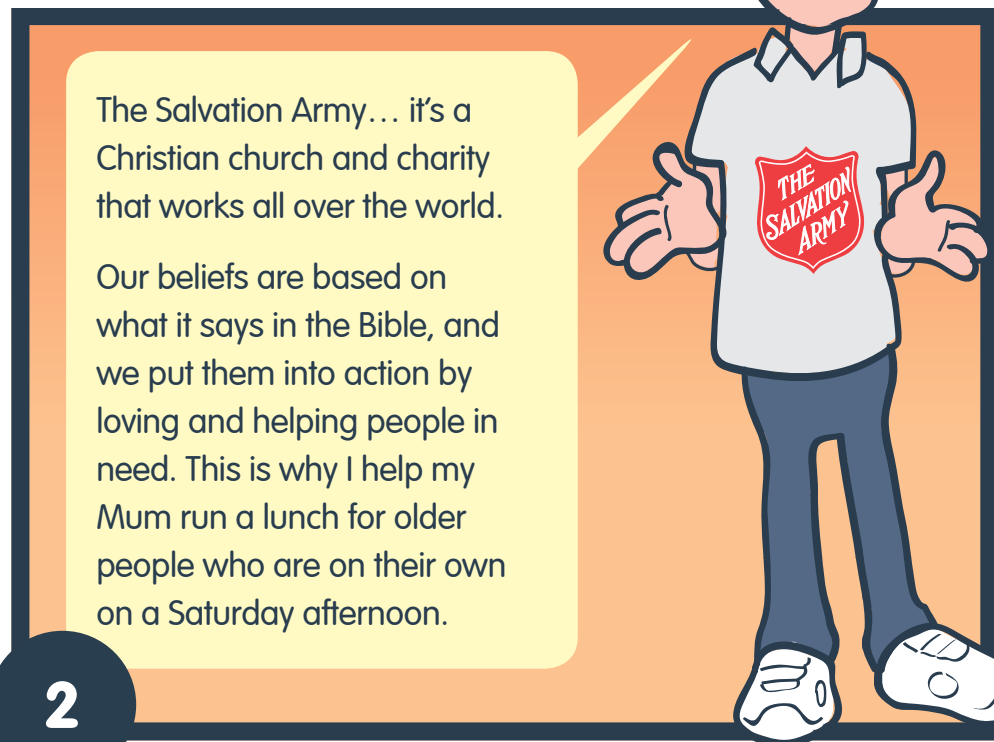


What is The
Salvation Army?

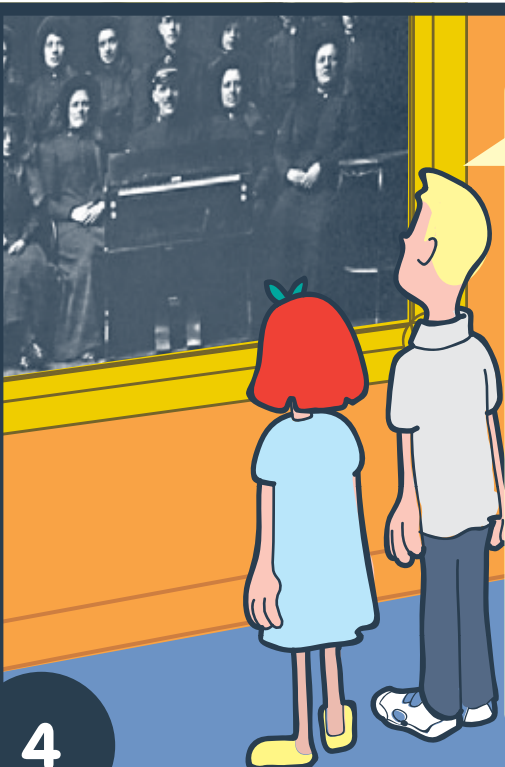




But why is it called an Army, then?



Good question! The Salvation Army isn't the kind of army that fights in wars, so you might think it's a bit of a weird name for a church!



But there is a reason we are called an Army.... When it first started in 1865 it was originally called 'The Christian Mission'. It was just a small group of people telling people about Jesus and caring for the poor in the East End of London. Then in 1878 the Founder, William Booth, changed its name to 'The Salvation Army'.

4

Why did he do that?

He wanted to show people that they were really serious about what they wanted to do, which was to show God's love. So this Army fights against the things in the world that aren't fair and aren't right – things like people not having enough food to eat or a home to live in.

The Army set up soup kitchens, organised cheap breakfasts for children and shelters for the homeless.

At my corps today, we have a place where homeless people can get food and advice. We then try and find them a place to stay at one of our centres.



5

You talked about Jesus – what's he got to do with it?

Everything we do is inspired by the life and teachings of Jesus. Jesus taught us to love God and also to love our neighbours. He helped and made friends with people that no one else cared about. Members of The Salvation Army try to act like Jesus wherever they are.

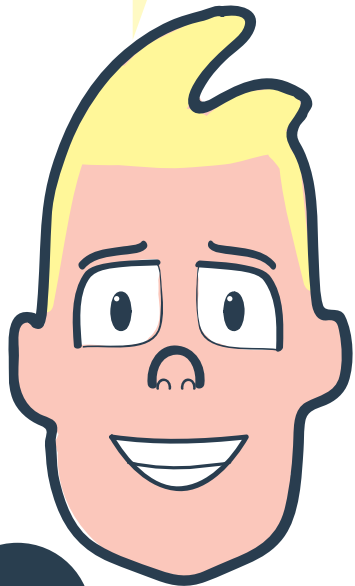


Someone once asked Jesus what was the most important thing we can do. He answered: 'Love God with all your heart, soul and mind; and love your neighbour as yourself' (Luke 10:27).

This is what Salvation Army members like me try to do every day!

What do members of The Salvation Army believe about the Bible?

The Bible is really important to me. It's where I can learn more about Jesus and about God's love for the world. We have a youth group where we look at the Bible and learn about who God is and how to live in a way that is more like Jesus



We believe that the Bible is inspired by God. Although it was written by ordinary people (around 40 different people, in fact!) the teaching and stories were given to them by God. So it tells us about who he is and how we can live in a way that shows we love him. We also enjoy worshipping him.





Well, Salvation Army members use lots of ways to show God how much we love him, and this is called 'worship'. Worship can take place in people's homes, in churches – anywhere!

There are lots of different types of worship in my corps on a Sunday. There is a Bible reading and a talk explaining it; there's music, and sometimes we have drama and art in the service.

Music has always been an important part of Salvation Army worship. Brass bands were used to grab people's attention when they held street meetings and to lead the singing indoors.

We still have brass bands today, but we also have choirs and modern music with guitars, keyboards and drums.



But how do you show God's love outside of your church buildings and homes?

The Salvation Army has always believed in putting faith into action. Ever since we started, we have tried to follow Jesus' teaching to feed the hungry, give shelter to homeless people, visit those who are sick or in prison, as well as help those who are being treated unfairly.

There are lots of ways we do this:

We support homeless people through Lifehouse centres (they're like hostels). These give homeless people a place to stay, but more importantly provide help and support for them to get back on their feet.

We also care for older people by providing meals, organising clubs, visiting them in their own homes.

We also have care homes for older people who can no longer manage in their own homes.



Another thing we do is to support people without jobs and help them find work. And the Army can help reunite families who have lost contact with each other through our Family Tracing Service

But that's not all! There are parent-and-toddler groups, nurseries, kids' clubs, school clubs and youth groups. I love going to my youth group because I get to learn some more about what it means to be a Christian, as well as doing loads of fun stuff and making new friends.



So all this happens
in the UK then?



Yes – but not just the UK. At the moment the Army is working in more than 120 countries too! You'll find us in places like America, Canada and Australia – but some of the biggest Army groups are in Africa.

And another thing: when there are natural disasters like earthquakes and floods The Salvation Army provides love and support to those in need.

The Salvation Army works in many poorer countries too. We help people grow their own food and get access to clean water. We run schemes to help them become self-sufficient. We also provide clinics, schools and even hospitals. We support people because we want to help them to build a better life and future.

Facts about The Salvation Army

There are approximately:

1,150,000 Salvation Army members

16,000 Salvation Army churches

1,250 Salvation Army primary schools

430 centres for homeless people

150 homes for older people

250 Salvation Army hospitals and clinics

20 homes for street children

To find out more about the history, work and beliefs of The Salvation Army, check out www.salvationarmy.org.uki/schools_students

For more information or resources please contact:

Schools and Colleges Unit
The Salvation Army
101 Newington Causeway
London SE1 6BN

020 7367 4706

schools@salvationarmy.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 214779, and in Scotland SC009359
Republic of Ireland: Registered Charity No: CHY6399

