

Living with Promises

KS2



Lesson Objectives

- To learn about Salvation Army ceremonies
- To reflect on the promises that members of The Salvation Army make

Curriculum Links

England - may differ to local SACRE

- To explore beliefs and commitment and consider the ways in which members of faith communities demonstrate this.

Scotland

- Through investigating and reflecting upon the lives and teachings of Jesus and key Christian figures, and drawing upon moral values as expressed in Christianity, I am beginning to understand how these have influenced Christian morality.

Wales

- Explore and make links between religious beliefs, teachings and practices

Northern Ireland

- To consider how Christian behaviour is based on beliefs about God and on the teaching of Jesus

Resources

PowerPoint presentation

Resource Sheet A - Promises

Resource Sheet B- Faith in Action images

Resource Sheet C- Bookmarks

Baby doll

Salvation Army flag

Junior soldier certificates and badge

Articles of War

A3 sheets of paper - one for each pair

Pens/pencils.

Glue may be required for younger pupils.

Starter

Slide 1 Make a promise to the class and break it. *At the end of this lesson I promise you will all get a copy of this fun magazine Kids Alive! (Pause) Oh, I'm sorry, I forgot them. I can't.*

Discuss with the class the previous statement. *Have you ever had someone say they would do something and didn't do it? Did someone make a promise and didn't follow it through? How did it make you feel?*

Slide 2 What is a promise? Ask pupils to suggest possible ways to finish the sentence - 'A promise is...'

Slide 3 Share the lesson objectives with the class.

To learn about Salvation Army ceremonies

To reflect on the choices and promises that members of The Salvation Army make



Living with Promises

KS2



First Activity

Slide 4 Introduce The Salvation Army: It is a Christian church and everyone is welcome. Its members believe in God and worship him, and follow the teachings of Jesus and the Bible. It is called an Army because its members fight against what isn't fair, and to show God's love. The Salvation Army church welcomes everyone.

Slide 5 Explain that the Bible teaches Christians that God has made promises. Use the slide to see if pupils can predict each word before it is revealed. These promises are love, safety, comfort, help, guidance and faithfulness.

Slide 6 In return, members of The Salvation Army make promises back to God. Take a few suggestions from the class as to what these promises might be.

Slides 7 Here is a simplified version of the promises: to be the best version of themselves and to be an example to others. To use the teachings of Jesus: to love God and to love one another.

The Salvation Army conducts ceremonies when members feel they want to make a promise to God. Not everyone who attends a Salvation Army church will want to do this and that is OK. Point out that the ceremonies are short and simple - this reflects that The Salvation Army believes faith is an inward change (ie, not dependent on outward symbols).

Slides 8–10 Explain each ceremony to the class; suggested explanations are below.

Dedication ceremony: Wrap the baby doll in the flag. When a baby is born the parents wish to thank God for the gift of a child. This is a dedication ceremony. The parents make promises about looking after their child, to teach him/her about God and to be a good example of a Christian. Sometimes the baby is wrapped in the Salvation Army flag.

Junior Soldier: Pass round examples of the Junior Soldier certificate and badge. Between the ages of 7 and 14, some children know that they wish to live for God. They make promises to God: to love and to follow him. They become a junior soldier and sign a certificate.

Soldier: Pass round examples of the Articles of War. Adults wishing to make a promise to God have a ceremony where they become a soldier. They sign the 'Soldier's Covenant', also known as the 'Articles of War'. This is a longer promise.

Slide 11 Ask if anyone can remember the four promises mentioned earlier. Display and discuss what each promise means. Use resource sheet A In talk partners discuss the promises. *Which one do you like the most? Which one is the most important?*

Slide 12 Ask each pair to choose one promise card, and to discuss times it might be harder or easier to do this. Quickly go over each promise, asking for a few suggestions as to when it might be easy or hard to keep that promise.

Slide 13 Remind pupils of how they felt when a promise to them was broken. Should a promise be kept or broken? Remind pupils that the church welcomes everyone, and so not everyone who goes to a Salvation Army church feels they can commit to these promises, but they may still want to be a part of the church and to explore their faith. Instead of a baby dedication ceremony there is an alternative thanksgiving service, where no promises are made but thanks are given for the gift



Schools and
Colleges
Unit

Living with Promises

KS2



of the child. There is also an alternative welcome ceremony for new additions to the church and a certificate of membership is given. These members are called adherent members, not soldiers.

Review Progress

Slide 14 Ask pupils to share their understanding of each learning objective by: touching their head if they have made good progress, their shoulders if they have made some progress, and their knees if they have made little progress. Ask a few pupils to explain why they made those choices.

Second Activity

Slide 15 Explain that the teachings of Jesus - to love God and love one another - are the basis of one of The Salvation Army's mottos: 'Heart to God, hand to man'.

Slide 16 Explain that The Salvation Army is a Christian church, but it is also a registered charity. Mention some of the actions that members might do; some suggested points to note are listed below.

Wearing a uniform or a red shield: not compulsory

Music: playing music helps to share the joy members feel while worshipping God

Community projects

Listening to others: being there to listen and support others

Food bank: some corps (local church centres) run food banks, soup kitchens and lunch clubs

Slide 17

Selling a magazine: a way of being out in the community, meeting people and sharing the Christian message

Help the homeless

Supporting people to find work

Supporting the elderly

Supporting during an emergency: emergency response vehicles support emergency responders and people who have been affected

International aid work: support for developing communities and during emergencies

Slide 18 Use **resource sheet B** and A3 sheets of paper. In pairs, ask pupils to select either *Love God* or *Love one another* and place in the centre of the paper. Pupils to decide which Faith in Action cards reflect this promise.

- If pupils feel an action is very close to keeping the promise, place it closer to the promise in the centre.
- If pupils feel the action is linked to the promise, but loosely, place it further away.
- If pupils feel the action is not linked to the promise, remove the card from the paper.



Living with Promises

KS2



Older pupils - When the cards have been sorted, record where each Faith in Action was on the sheet.

Younger or less able pupils - When the cards have been sorted, stick the cards on to the A3 sheet.

Ask pupils to write reasons for their decisions on the paper.

Optional extension; after the pairs have decided on their answers, double up with another pair who chose the same card to compare answers and discuss.

Slide 19 Discuss with the class: Why do members of The Salvation Army do these actions? As part of keeping a promise to God, Salvation Army members - soldiers - try to show God's love to others by helping. What do you think is the most important promise?

Plenary

Slide 20 Display the learning objectives. Read out each statement, and for each one ask pupils to show their understanding by: touching their head if they have made good progress, their shoulders if they have made some progress, and their knees if they have made little progress. Ask a few pupils to explain why they made those choices.

Slide 21 Explain that during this lesson, pupils have been learning about the promises made by members of The Salvation Army. Challenge pupils to take a moment to think of a promise they would like to make, for themselves, to themselves. 'A promise from you to you.' Use **resource sheet D**. On one half of the bookmark pupils write a personal promise. On the other half they draw an image to represent the promise.

Finally - refer back to the promise made at the beginning of the lesson. Promises mean nothing unless they are kept! Hand out copies of *Kids Alive!*



Schools and
Colleges
Unit