

# ISSUES

Exploring where **The Salvation Army** stands on moral and social issues

# ALCOHOL

A lesson for 14- to 16-year-olds

This lesson gives pupils an opportunity to reflect on and express their own opinions about alcohol as well as understand the consequences of alcohol consumption. Students will be able to explain The Salvation Army's standpoint on alcohol and understand what The Salvation Army does to help those suffering with alcohol addictions.

## Resources

- PowerPoint presentation
- Video clip ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMgPj3CmwNI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMgPj3CmwNI))
- Plenary word cards

## Lesson Outcomes

- To understand some of the consequences of alcohol consumption
- To investigate The Salvation Army's standpoint on alcohol
- To reflect on how The Salvation Army supports those suffering with alcohol addictions and to express your own opinion on alcohol

## Starter

Show the pupils the question - 'What if alcohol was free?'

Explain that this is a 'think, pair, share' activity. Ask pupils to take a minute to reflect on the statement, then discuss with their partner. Finally ask a few pairs to feed back their thoughts.

Tell the class that today's lesson is about alcohol and The Salvation Army, and go over the lesson outcomes with the class.

## Phase 1

Put the pupils in six groups of around five people each. Give each group a sheet of A3 paper showing one of the following questions:

Why do people want to drink alcohol?

What are some of the possible consequences of drinking alcohol?

Why would someone want to abstain from drinking altogether?

Give the groups three minutes to write down any ideas they have on the sheet of paper. When the three-minute period is up, ask the pupils to pass their paper on to a group that had a different question and give pupils another three minutes to add to the other group's ideas. Finally swap again so that each group has had the three different questions. After the final three minutes ask for some feedback on each question.

Now explain that we are going to focus on what one particular Christian denomination believes about alcohol - The Salvation Army. Give the pupils a copy of the Positional Statement and read through the statement as a class. Give the pupils a few minutes to reflect on the following two questions:

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What does The Salvation Army believe about alcohol?  
Why do their members believe this?

After a few minutes lead a discussion on both of these questions ensuring that pupils have understood The Salvation Army's stance.

## Review Progress

Now give each student the lesson outcomes sheet, ask the pupils to circle the outcome/s they think they have met and then to explain to their partner which one/s they have circled and why.

## Phase 2

Explain that we are now going to watch a short video clip that will give us an idea of some of the ways that The Salvation Army supports those suffering with alcohol addictions. Ask the students to be thinking of the different ways The Salvation Army helps and the impact this has on individuals.

Show the slide with the Bible teachings - ask the pupils to discuss with the person next to them which teachings they think would support The Salvation Army's standpoint. After a few minutes ask a few students to share their thoughts.

Finally, show the following statement:

'Christians should never drink alcohol'

Ask pupils to stand on one side of the room if they agree, the other side of the room if they disagree, and in the middle if they are unsure. Pick a few pupils to explain why they are standing where they are.

## Plenary

Give one pupil from each pair a set of the plenary word cards. Explain that the students with the cards have to explain the word without actually saying the word, and the other student has to guess what the word from today's lesson is.

Finally, ask the students to look at their lesson outcomes again and to circle in a different colour any outcomes they believe they have met. Again ask them to explain to their partner why they have circled the ones they have.