

SALVATION ARMY SOLDIERSHIP



Age;
14-16

Themes:

Christian practices: living the
Christian life
Beliefs in action
Beliefs and teachings

Resources:

PowerPoint presentation
Photo collection
Card sort
Soldier's covenant sheet
Soldier case studies
Video clip (www.youtube.com/watch?v=HR-2A6PI6lc)

Starter

Put the photo collection images on the desks so that every pupil can see at least one. Ask them to think about the following questions:

What is the picture of?
What is the person doing?
Who are they?

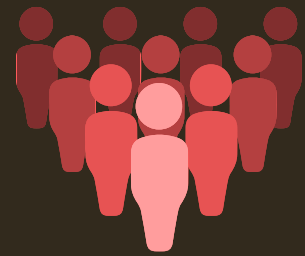
Ask the pupils for some feedback, and explain that The Salvation Army is a Christian denomination and that all of the photos they have seen show something in the day-to-day life of a member of The Salvation Army or someone who is involved in its work. Their members are called soldiers. Explain that we are going to find out more about what that means and what it involves today. You can then go over the aims of the lesson with the class.

Main Activities

Explain that one of the more obvious differences between The Salvation Army and other Christian denominations is that The Salvation Army does not practise sacraments (mainly communion and baptism). The Salvation Army sees these sacraments as an outward sign of an inward experience, and Salvationists believe that the inward experience is the most important thing. The way that their members commit their lives to God is by becoming soldiers. Today we're going to look at what that means.



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We are now going to watch a short video clip about The Salvation Army, and you need to be thinking about what being a Salvation Army soldier might involve. Ask for some feedback using the questions on the presentation before moving on to exploring what soldiership is.

Explain that when people become Salvation Army soldiers they will be enrolled in a special ceremony in their Salvation Army church (known as a corps). It is a special occasion where they make a public confession of faith (this involves reading out 11 statements which they believe) and a covenantal commitment (this involves reading out eight more statements that describe what they will do because of their beliefs). You can see these in the soldier's covenant that they sign (you could give each pupil a copy).

We are now going to do an activity to find out more about the 11 beliefs they read out at the ceremony. You need to match up the things soldiers believe with the Bible verse that supports it. (You can explain that the cards summarise the 11 beliefs, but that they can also refer to the soldier's covenant sheet to read what is actually said.)

When students are finished, ask for some feedback and go through the answers as shown on the presentation.

Now, in their groups of four, give each person two (of the eight) commitment cards. They have to read these, reflect on them, and then tell the rest of the group what they think they mean in their own words. Then ask the groups to put the commitments in order of importance. Ask for some feedback. Was this hard to decide? Why? Are any more important than others? Why?

Each pupil is now given a case study to read through. In each group of four people, they share in their own words one reason why the person in their case study became a soldier and one way it has impacted their lives. As a group they write down what are the key reasons that people become soldiers, and how being a soldier impacts their lives. Ask for some feedback.

Explain that we can see that soldiership is not simply about stating what you believe. For Salvation Army soldiers it's about living a life for God that puts those beliefs into action.

Plenary

Explain that when someone becomes a soldier, a lifetime of obedient faith in Christ should follow (this may need further explanation). Ask them to consider if there was anything they could commit to doing / being part of for the rest of their lives. Why? Why not? Ask for feedback.

