

Lesson Objectives

- To learn how The Salvation Army helped people during the First World War.
- To think about why The Salvation Army helped people.

Resources

PowerPoint presentation

Resource sheets 1A, 1B and 1C

Optional resource sheets 1D, 1E, 1F, or 1G. Hut chant from website.

Pair of boots - preferably walking/military style

A teacup and saucer, a doughnut, a pillow, a musical instrument, a Bible, and a small chocolate bar

Seven headbands made with strips of cardboard - each with a different character on them from resource sheet 1B. (You may wish to make more headbands for more soldiers)

Introduction

Introduce yourself and explain that you are a part of The Salvation Army. What am I wearing that gives you a clue that I am a member of The Salvation Army? Tell the children that The Salvation Army is a Christian church and a charity. It is an army that fights without weapons because it fights to show God's love by helping others.

Explain the purpose of your visit - to tell the children how The Salvation Army helped soldiers during WW1. WW1 was a big war and lots of men went to become soldiers. It was a long time ago. It happened before you were born, before... your parents, teacher, me, was born, or even the Queen.

Explain that you are going to start the lesson with a story - a true story that happened a long time ago. Use Resource Sheet 1A for support. How did The Salvation Army help the soldier? It wasn't just about sore feet; they helped the soldier feel better too.

Introduce the learning objectives to the class.

Main Activity

Explain that you have brought some objects to represent some of the activities The Salvation Army did to help people. *I wonder what these objects could represent*. Bring out each of the objects silently, showing them clearly to the children. You may wish to be playful - frowning, holding them oddly - to reinforce the wondering.

How could these objects help soldiers? Take a variety of answers.

Introduce the Salvation Army characters one at a time, and ask a child to wear the corresponding headband. For each character read an 'I am' statement (see Resource Sheet 1C) and then ask the children to select which object would help that character. The child then sits at the front holding the selected object. Reinforce who each character is and that, 'I am here to help.' Children may wish to repeat the phrase with you. You may wish to explain more about the duties of each character, depending on the ability of the class.





Put a soldier headband on a child. Read out a soldier question and challenge the pupils to work out which Salvationist would be helping them. I am wounded in hospital and I want to write home to tell my family I'm going to be OK but I can't write. Who will help me? Encourage the correctly identified character (there may be more than one) to reply with - 'I am here to help.'

I have an hour before I go on duty. Where can I go for a bit of a rest, a read and maybe something nice to eat? Who will help me?

I am going to be fighting soon and I'm really scared. Who will help me?

I've been wounded. I'm getting better but I'm feeling a bit sad. I need cheering up. Who will help me?

I've missed my train and I'm stuck. I don't know where to stay tonight. Who will help me?

I'm near the fighting and everywhere is mud. I just want something to remind me of home. Who will help me?

You may wish to end up having six soldiers, each sitting beside a Salvationist with an object, so you can ask them both, and the class, 'How were you helped?'

But why did The Salvation Army help people? Ask for a variety of answers. Explain that members of The Salvation Army follow the teachings of Jesus and believe they should help people in any way they can.

Follow-up Activities

Choose from the selection below - depending on time and ability.

Matching pairs

Use Resource Sheet 1D. Individually, pupils can match the Salvationist to the object, stick them together on a piece of paper and write about it. Or, in pairs, play a game of Find the Matching Pairs.

How do I help?

Use Resource Sheet 1E. Choose a character sheet and draw or write how they helped soldiers.

Colouring in

Use Resource Sheet 1F. Choose a character and colour them in.

Draw an object/character.

Use Resource Sheet 1G. Choose an object or a character and draw them. Write a question or a statement about it.





Plenary

Look at the six Salvationist characters and objects again - this time without anyone wearing the headbands. You may wish to use the PowerPoint presentation slide 14. Ask the following questions - I wonder which help you would enjoy the most? I wonder which help you think is the most important? I wonder which help the soldiers could have done without and still have everything they needed? Cover up the object and character or move to take it away, to illustrate the point.

Remind pupils about the learning objectives and ask them to show their progress by showing their thumbs: thumbs down for little progress, thumbs in the middle for some progress and thumbs up for objective achieved. Ask a few children to give reasons for their choice.

You may wish to finish with the hut chant - see resource sheet on the website.

