



SMALL GROUP OUTLINES



TRANSFORMATIONAL MISSION

These Small Group Outlines are produced by the Youth and Children's Ministry Unit in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaview). They are available every month from our website.

For more information and other resources, visit salvationist.org.uk/resources/youth-ministry-resources

SESSION ONE:

SALT AND LIGHT

In today's session we will explore what it means for Christians to be salt and light in the world. We will consider the work of The Salvation Army in the United Kingdom and see how God is calling us to be salt and light in our church and community.

SESSION TWO:

MISSION IN ACTION

In today's session there will be an opportunity to consider the difference we can all make in the world. The bulk of the session should be given to the Witness section, where the group will have an opportunity to discuss and plan a mission activity in their local community.

SESSION THREE:

MISSION IN WORDS

When we have experienced something amazing, we are often enthusiastic to tell other people about it. But are we the same when it comes to telling people about Jesus? In today's session we're going to spend time thinking about how we can live out God's mission in the words that we share with others.

SESSION FOUR:

MISSION IN COMMUNITY

The focus of today's session is to make the final arrangements for the group's mission activity. Time is given for prayer and reflection and to ensure that everything is in place for the event to run smoothly.

Any text in italics represents notes for the leader. It gives more context around the Scripture/activity. You may choose to share verbatim, summarise or not share at all.

SALT AND LIGHT

In today's session we will explore what it means for Christians to be salt and light in the world. We will consider the work of The Salvation Army in the United Kingdom and see how God is calling us to be salt and light in our church and community.

WELCOME

The aim of this game is to create a story using an opening line of a well-known children's book. Choose an opening line from the suggestions below and then move around the group adding to the story. The aim is to transform the story as much as possible from its starting point. Encourage the group to use their imagination. For example, the first opening line talks about a mole spring cleaning his home ... but what if this was the kind of mole who is spying on his work colleagues? How would that change the story?

Opening Lines from Children's Books

1. The mole had been working very hard all morning, spring-cleaning his little home. – *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame
2. In the light of the moon, a little egg lay on a leaf. – *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle
3. Where's Papa going with that axe? – *Charlotte's Web* by EB White
4. There is no lake at Camp Green Lake. – *Hole* by Louise Sachar
5. Mr and Mrs Dursley, of number four Privet Drive, were proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much. – *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* by JK Rowling
6. If you are interested in stories with happy endings, you would be better off reading some other book. – *A Series of Unfortunate Events: the Bad Beginning* by Lemony Snicket
7. The sun did not shine. It was too wet to play. So we sat in the house. All that cold, cold, wet day. – *The Cat in the Hat* by Dr Seuss
8. Once there were four children whose names were Peter, Susan, Edmond, and Lucy. – *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by CS Lewis
9. A mouse took a stroll in the deep dark wood. – *The Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson
10. It's a funny thing about mothers and fathers. – *Matilda* by Roald Dahl

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

There won't be enough time to use all of the story openers. As an additional activity, see if the group can guess the children's book from its opening line. They may need some extra clues and could have a bonus point if they know the author.

WORD

One Sunday evening, William Booth was walking in London with his son, Bramwell, who was then 12 or 13 years old. The father surprised the son by taking him to a bar. The place was crowded with men and women, many of them bearing on their faces the marks of vice and crime; some were drunk. The fumes of alcohol and tobacco were poisonous. 'Bramwell,' Booth said to his son, 'these are our people; these are the people I want you to live for and bring to Christ.' Years later, Bramwell Booth wrote, 'The impression never left me.'

Throughout this month we will be exploring the theme of transformational mission. In the story we just heard, William Booth clearly articulated the mission of The Salvation Army.

 How would you describe our mission in a modern-day Christian context?

Later in the session, we will look at The Salvation Army's mission priorities, but it is hoped that this question has started you thinking about what transformational mission might look like.

There are numerous places in Scripture where our mission as Christians is illustrated.

Read the following verses together.

‘You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.’

— (MATTHEW 5:13-16)

- 🗨️ How are Christians described in this passage?
- 🗨️ What do you think it means when we are described as salt and light in the world?

Read *The Message* translation of these verses.

‘Let me tell you why you are here. You’re here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavours of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You’ve lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage. Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand – shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you’ll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

— (MATTHEW 5:13-16 MSG)

- 🗨️ How does this translation add to your understanding of Christians living as salt and light in the world?

📺 **Watch: What does it mean that believers are to be salt and light? (4:01)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQIPxR-rYPI>

DISCUSS:

- 🗨️ What two roles did salt have in the Middle East in the first century?
- 🗨️ How are Christians to be preservers in this world?
- 🗨️ How are Christians called to add flavour to the world around us?
- 🗨️ What sorts of things can hinder or prevent a Christian from fulfilling his or her role as salt and light in the world?
- 🗨️ How do our choices impact our ability to be salt and light in the world?
- 🗨️ Can you think of any examples of where you are salt or where you are light, bringing out the God-flavours and God-colours of the world? Share them with the group.
- 🗨️ In what areas of need in your community or in the world do you have a strong passion to be salt or light?

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

- 🗨️ What is your response to the following quote?

“‘We are indeed the light of the world – but only if our switch is turned on.’

— JOHN HAGEE

WITNESS

Share the Mission and Vision Statement of The Salvation Army and the five Mission Priorities with the group as this will help to inform this section.

VISION STATEMENT

Fullness of life for all with Jesus

MISSION PRIORITIES

- * Share the good news
- * Serve others without discrimination
- * Nurture disciples of Jesus
- * Care for creation
- * Seek justice and reconciliation

Sometimes it's good to take a step back and look at the amazing work The Salvation Army does in the UK. Let's watch the clip together and consider the mission of The Salvation Army.

 **Watch: Faith into Action – An introduction to The Salvation Army (4:37)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HR-2A6PI6lc&t=116s>

It might be useful to prepare for this activity in advance. You will need two large sheets of paper and felt-tip markers so that the group can add their ideas. In the centre of each sheet write 'Love God and Love Others'. Extending the mind map, branch out and add the five mission priorities.

- * Share the good news
- * Serve others without discrimination
- * Nurture disciples of Jesus
- * Care for creation
- * Seek justice and reconciliation

On the first sheet, encourage the group to note all the ways that The Salvation Army fulfils its mission priorities in the United Kingdom. Branch off from each mission priority adding notes and drawings to create a wider picture of how The Salvation Army lives out its calling to be salt and light in the world.

Ask the group to complete the same activity on the second sheet for their own church/corps. How is their church/corps being salt and light in the world? Where is there opportunity for growth? Are there any areas that the group feel called to address?

In his book *Faith in a Changing Culture* John Drane writes:

“The Bible unhesitatingly affirms that God is constantly at work in the world in many ways, times, and places. Effective evangelism must start with recognising where God is already at work, and getting alongside God in what is going on there. God's story, not ours, is the authentic starting point.”

 In what areas in your church or local community do you see God at work?

 How could you join in with what God is doing?

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Spend some time as a group discovering the work The Salvation Army does in a specific area of need in the UK. Go to The Salvation Army's UK YouTube page and select a video to share together.

<https://www.youtube.com/@salvationarmyvideo>

 How does the clip reflect God's call for us to be salt and light in the world?

WORSHIP

Lay the sheets of paper from the Witness activity in front of the group. Give each person a sheet of paper and ask them to divide it into two sections. As they listen to 'Salt and Light' by Lauren Daigle, ask the group to reflect on the work their corps and the wider Salvation Army is doing in the community. On one side of the sheet, ask them to write down everything they are thankful for, and on the other ask them to jot down prayer requests for the people and projects they see before them. They may want to pray for specific leaders or ask God for guidance about where they could get involved. When the music finishes, share your prayers together as a group.

 **Lauren Daigle – Salt and Light (Audio)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZNx5S5zuqs>

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

 **Read Matthew 5:13-16 to bring the session to a close.**

'You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.'

— (MATTHEW 5:13-16 NIV)

MISSION IN ACTION

In today's session there will be an opportunity to consider the difference we can all make in the world. The bulk of the session should be given to the Witness section, where the group will have an opportunity to discuss and plan a mission activity in their local community.

WELCOME

Transformation can come in many different shapes and sizes. There are many people in the history of Christianity who have made a significant difference in the world. God may have called us to a life of big transformations impacting huge numbers of people, but he is also interested in the difference we can make in the lives of individuals.

Watch the clip together, which tells the familiar Starfish Story.

 **The Starfish Story – 2D Animated Short Film 2022 (3:29)**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCi5YetnOvw>

 What does this clip teach us about the difference we can make in the world?

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Use the 'Christian Heroes: Stories of Faith in Action' quiz attached below. Read out each bio to the group and ask if they can guess which great 'hero of faith' the story is referring to.

 Which of these people would they like to discover more about?

WORD

The focus of today's session is to plan an activity that will show God's love to other people. Before we start planning, let's turn to Scripture and see what the Bible has to say about our call as Christians to make a difference in the world.

Share out the following Scripture references among the group. The full Scripture is shown below from the New Living Translation. Give them time to look up the verses, maybe in different translations, and summarise the main message of each verse. Write down the key message from these Scriptures on a sheet of paper and display them as a reminder of the calling God gives each one of us.

¹³ **'You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavour? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.**

¹⁴ **'You are the light of the world – like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.'**

— MATTHEW 5:13-16

¹⁵ **And then he told them, 'Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.'**

— MARK 16:15

⁸ **God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. ¹⁰ For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.**

— EPHESIANS 2:8-10

³³ ‘Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven! And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes. Your treasure will be safe; no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it. ³⁴ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.’

— LUKE 12:33-34

²² Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.

— 2 TIMOTHY 2:22

² Don’t copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

— ROMANS 12:2

¹⁸ Jesus came and told his disciples, ‘I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.

¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’

— MATTHEW 28:18-20

²² And you must show mercy to those whose faith is wavering.

— JUDE 1:22

⁵ Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.

— COLOSSIANS 4:5-6

¹ Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? ² Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.

— PHILIPPIANS 2:1-2

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

 Out of all the Scripture verses you’ve heard today, which one speaks to you the most? Explain why.

WITNESS

In this session we are going to look at practical ways that we can get involved in showing the love of Jesus to the world around us.

 What is your response to the following quote?

“‘The task of the church is simply to reflect God and in doing so demonstrate a faith that works. I believe that it is through our actions that our faith speaks and we reflect God faithfully. Rather than primarily talking about God we, the church, should be demonstrating God ... When we love people we (as God’s representatives) are showing them that God loves them, and in faithfully fulfilling our role we are showing God that we love him.’

— STEVE CHALKE, *100 PROVEN WAYS TO TRANSFORM YOUR COMMUNITY*

We're going to spend the bulk of today's session creating and planning a way to demonstrate our faith in the local community.

Guide your group through a discussion where they generate ideas for possible ways to serve their community. Use the prompts below and see how they may be applicable to your setting. You may also like to refer to the Witness section of Session One, where you considered how your corps was addressing the five mission priorities. Is there an area where your group could step in?

IDEAS

- * Free car wash
- * Return trolleys to where they belong
- * Give out free hot drinks to members of the public who pass your hall
- * Offer to help at a local food bank
- * Visit a local residential home
- * Collect donations of sleeping bags / warm clothing etc to give to those that work with people experiencing homelessness to distribute
- * Go on a litter pick
- * Make cakes for people and attach a Bible verse or note explaining why they've been given it, and hand them out to people in your community

Once the group have decided on an activity, discuss the importance of planning. As a group, spend time discussing the answers to the following questions and make a plan to move forward.

-  Where is the need?
-  What service can you provide?
-  What resources do you have/need?
-  What is the budget for your event?
-  When will you make an impact? For instance – if you plan to give something out for free at a transport hub, when will be the busiest/best time?
-  Do you have the necessary permission to do the event from the local council, local shopping owners, corps officers, etc?
-  What are the risks? What can you do to minimise the risks? (Check if you need a risk assessment.)
-  Who is responsible for each part of your activity – for gaining permission, co-ordinating times, buying supplies etc?
-  When you have participated in events, what has frustrated you about the way they were organised? What do you need to do to avoid making the same mistakes?

There will be opportunity in Session Four to follow up on the planning for the activity and spend time making the final arrangements. Keep hold of the notes from today's session. The group may want to allocate tasks to be completed by Session Four.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

As a group, spend time praying for the different aspects of the activity. Ask God to use this activity to make a difference in the lives of the people you meet. Identify five people within the rest of your corps/church who you can ask to pray for your activity.

WORSHIP

 **Josh Wilson – 'Dream Small' (Lyric Video) (5:16)**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dOBaLrItEyc>

 What is the main message of the song 'Dream Small'?

Our small actions every day can make a huge difference in the lives of others.

Give each member of the group a 'Dream Small' handout. Encourage the group to spend time thinking through their week and identifying one way they can dream small. They can write their ideas on the handout's weekly planner. Throughout the week, they can jot down how dreaming small made a difference to the people around them.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Watch the clip where Josh Wilson shares the story of one of the people who inspired him to write the song 'Dream Small'.

 **'Dream Small' Inspired by Jay (5:16)**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wOS4nsYqb3U>

 How does this story inspire you to dream small in your everyday life?

 How does God value every person he created and the contribution they can make in his world?

CHRISTIAN HEROES: STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION

She was born in Holland in 1892, and when the Germans invaded in 1940 she joined the underground movement in an attempt to hide Jews from the Germans and to smuggle them to safety.

She and her family were eventually betrayed and imprisoned. With her sister this woman was shipped to various concentration camps where she continued to teach fellow prisoners about Jesus Christ. Her sister died whilst they were imprisoned. Following the war this woman helped in rehabilitation camps and she travelled all over the world telling people of her experiences and of how faithful and loving God is.

ANSWER: CORRIE TEN BOOM

This man became an English MP at the age of only 25, in 1784, and is most famous for his work towards the abolition of slavery. He set up a Committee for the Abolition of the Slave Trade in 1787, and he repeatedly exposed the horrors of slavery to his fellow Members of Parliament. He achieved his first success in 1807, when a Bill to abolish the slave trade became law. In 1833 he achieved his final goal with the passing of the Slavery Abolition Act (an act which gave all slaves in the British Empire their freedom). He died only one month later.

ANSWER: WILLIAM WILBERFORCE

This English woman was born in Italy in 1820. At 17 years of age she believed she was called into service by God 'to do something toward lifting the load of suffering from the helpless and miserable'. She trained to become a nurse and became most famous for her work with wounded soldiers of the Crimean War. The soldiers, who were both moved and comforted by her endless supply of compassion, took to calling her 'the Lady with the Lamp'. Others simply called her 'the Angel of the Crimea'. Her work reduced the hospital's death rate by two-thirds. Today she is often acknowledged and revered as the pioneer of modern nursing.

ANSWER: FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

This man was born in 1902 to Scottish missionaries with the London Missionary Society who were serving in northern China. At the age of six he was sent to boarding school in England where he developed a love of sport. He became an outstanding sportsman, and became well known for being the fastest runner in Scotland. In 1924 he competed in the Paris Olympics, but as a committed Christian he refused to run on Sunday, with the consequence that he was forced to withdraw from the 100 metres race, his best event. Instead he entered the 400 metres, won the race, and broke the existing world record! He gave the secret of his success as 'I run the first 200 metres as fast as I can. Then, with God's help, I run harder.' After his Olympic success, with fame and fortune within his grasp, he gave up sport and returned to China as a missionary, where he served God in very dangerous situations, including as a prisoner of war, for the rest of his life.

ANSWER: ERIC LIDDELL

This woman was born in North Ireland in 1867. When she was 18 her father died and the family went to Belfast where she became involved with mission work in Belfast itself. Her heart for missionary work increased and she found her lifelong vocation in India in 1895. The main focus of her work was rescuing 'temple children', young girls dedicated to the gods and forced into prostitution to earn money for the priests' work. Over the years, this woman rescued many children, often at the cost of extreme exhaustion and personal danger. She set up homes for these needy children. Later she built a house for boys and a community hospital.

She ran these homes for 55 years until her death in 1951. During this time she wrote many books about the missionary work.

ANSWER: AMY CARMICHAEL

Find little ways where only you can help
With his great love
A tiny rock can make a giant fall
Dream small

— JOSH WILSON

DREAM SMALL

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MISSION IN WORDS

When we have experienced something amazing, we are often enthusiastic to tell other people about it. But are we the same when it comes to telling people about Jesus? In today's session we're going to spend time thinking about how we can live out God's mission in the words that we share with others.

WELCOME

Divide the group into pairs. Ask them to find a space and take it in turns to share the story of the most amazing thing that has ever happened to them. Once they have had time to share their story, bring the group back together. Ask for volunteers willing to summarise their partner's amazing story. Let's see how well they've listened to each other.

When we have experienced something amazing, we are often enthusiastic to tell other people about it.

 Are we the same when it comes to telling people about Jesus? If not, why not?

In today's session we're going to spend time thinking about how we can live out God's mission in the words that we share with others.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Watch the clip of Bob Mortimer telling his amazing story on the TV programme 'Would I Lie to You'. Pause the clip at 2:51 and ask the group to predict whether Bob is telling the truth.

 **Watch: Did Bob Mortimer pluck a seagull out of the sky with his bare hands? – Would I Lie to You? (2:53)**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JnEb3lt1Vbs>

WORD

This session is all about preparing your group members for the times when they have the opportunity to share their faith with others. Encourage each member of the group to articulate an answer to the following question.

 Why do you believe in Jesus?

As Christians, it is important that we have an answer to this question. If following Jesus is important to us, then we will be able to explain why and share his story with others.

 **Watch: Easy as Apple Pie – 1 Peter 3:15-16/Our Daily Bread Devotional (2:49)**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z4sMhSMoRas>

DISCUSS:

 What is your favourite dessert? Have you ever convinced someone else to try it? Did they enjoy it?

 Do you think comparing sharing your favourite dessert with someone is comparable to telling them about Jesus? If not, why not? In what ways is it more challenging?

 What do you think it looks like to honour Christ in our hearts?

 Have you ever been asked a question about your faith? How did you respond?

 **Read 1 Peter 3:15-16 from the Contemporary English Version:**

'Honour Christ and let him be the Lord of your life. Always be ready to give an answer when someone asks you about your hope. Give a kind and respectful answer and keep your conscience clear. This way you will make people ashamed for saying bad things about your good conduct as a follower of Christ.'

- 💬 What practical advice do these verses give regarding sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with the people around you?
- 💬 Where do Christians often go wrong when sharing their faith with others?
- 💬 What practical steps could you take to 'always be ready to give an answer when someone asks you about your hope'?

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

- * What are apologetics?

There is a whole field of theology that deals with the 'defence of our faith' mentioned in 1 Peter 3:15-16. We may hear the term and wonder what we're apologising for, but that is not the purpose of apologetics.

- ▶ **Watch: What are Apologetics – Professor Alister McGrath (1:25)**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mhmYOkbXao0>

- 💬 How do you think exploring the world of apologetics might help you to better share your faith?

WITNESS

Earlier in the session we considered the question 'Why do you believe in Jesus?' Whether we have been Christians for years or are new to the faith, 1 Peter 3:15-16 reminds us of the importance of having an answer to this question. Today we are going to take the opportunity to articulate clearly why we believe in Jesus.

How you complete this activity will depend on your group, but the aim is for the young people to have an opportunity to write down or share why they believe in Jesus.

If your group needs support clarifying their thoughts, then the following clip may be useful.

- ▶ **What does it mean to believe in Jesus? | GotQuestions.org - YouTube (4:00)**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yc9qPOQxoWM>

If they would like support on how to share their faith, then the following article, included as a handout, will give them guidance.

- ▶ **The Principles of Christian Youth Evangelism (learnreligions.com)**
<https://www.learnreligions.com/principles-of-evangelism-for-christian-teens-712514>

Give the group time to write or share a clear answer to the question 'Why do you believe in Jesus?' Discuss your answers together.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Sometimes we can feel anxious that, while we are sharing our faith, we may be unable to answer challenging questions. First, it's perfectly OK not to have all the answers. Second, there are plenty of resources available that can help you to think through some of those challenging issues.

As a group look at the '90 Seconds' Series section of the Premier on Demand YouTube page. Look through the titles available and watch one together. There are many in-depth interviews and debates both on the website and YouTube page that the young people might find useful.

- ▶ **90 Second Series - https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLS5E_VeVNzAtJvBnLSESBEKsJG6flx_7G**
- ▶ **Premier Podcasts - <https://www.premier.org.uk/christian-podcasts>**

- 💬 How has this clip helped you to clarify your understanding of the chosen topic?

WORSHIP

On a large sheet of paper ask group members to write down the names of any individual people that they feel they would like to share Jesus with. Pray for each other for courage and boldness to share your stories and pray for the names on the paper too!

The following track can be used during your time of reflection.

▶ **Mix – Danny Gokey – ‘Tell Somebody’ (Audio) ft. Mandisa (4:17)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vt-z1SeFdsw>

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Reflect on these selected lyrics from ‘Tell Somebody’ by Danny Gokey.

💬 How do these words encourage you to tell others about Jesus?

Dear church, did you see me?
I was the sinner that you walked by on the street.
Dear church, remember me?
'Cause you have something so beautiful
Something that I need
You have something so beautiful
I wish you would have told me.

So come on and
Tell somebody about Jesus
And all the great things he has done
Where would I be if he had not rescued me?
Come on and tell somebody.

If I was dying, and you had a cure
Brother, would you help me?
Sister, would you help me?
Well, the world is dying, and there is a cure
There's a hope that's deep within us.
One thing I know for sure
There's a hope that's deep within us
And this I know for sure
That we got to
Tell somebody about Jesus
And all the great things he has done
Where would I be if he had not rescued me?
Come on and tell somebody.

— SONGWRITERS: ED CASH / DANNY GOKEY

FIVE PRINCIPLES OF EVANGELISM FOR CHRISTIAN TEENS

Many Christians feel a passion to share their faith with others, but many are fearful of how their friends, family, and even strangers will react if they try to share their Christian beliefs. Sometimes even the term 'witnessing' brings up anxiety or visions of people shouting Christian tenets on street corners. While there is no one right way to spread the gospel, there are five principles of witnessing that can help you share your faith in ways that will ease your anxiety and plant seeds of faith in others.

1. Understand Your Own Faith

Understanding the basics of your Christian faith can go a long way in easing your fears of sharing the gospel. Christians that have a clear vision of what they believe find it easier to share their faith with the people around them. Before you start witnessing to others, be sure you know what you believe and why you believe it. Sometimes even writing it down can make it all clearer.

2. Other Religions Aren't All Wrong

Some Christian teens think that witnessing is about disproving other people's faiths and religions. However, that isn't necessarily true. There are inherent truths in other religions that are also present in the Christian faith. For instance, doing good things for the poor is a part of many religions around the world. Don't be so focused on proving their beliefs wrong. Instead, focus on showing how Christianity is right. Show what your faith does for you and talk about why you believe it is the truth. This way you'll keep people from getting defensive and allow them to actually hear what you have to say.

3. Know Why You're Sharing the Gospel

Why do you want to evangelise to others? Often Christians witness to others because they sometimes have an internal counter of how many people they 'convert'. Others feel they are above non-Christians and witness from a point of arrogance. If your motivations are not coming from a place of love and patience, you could end up relying on manipulation to 'get a result'. Try to know why you are sharing the gospel and don't feel pressured to get a decision. Just plant a seed.

4. Set Limits

Again, planting a seed is an important part of witnessing. Avoid being a Christian that has to see a result, because you could become one of those argumentative witnesses who think they can 'debate' someone into the Kingdom. Instead set goals and limits for your discussion. It helps to know your audience or practise conversations. This way you will know how to answer tough questions and be prepared to walk away from a discussion before it becomes a shouting match. You will be amazed at how many of those seeds you plant flourish over time.

5. Be Prepared for What You May Face

Many non-Christians have a vision of witnessing and evangelism that involves Christians 'in your face' about faith. Some will avoid any discussion of religion, because they have had some very bad experiences with 'forceful' Christians. Others will have misconceptions about God's nature. By practising your evangelistic techniques, you will find that talking to others about the gospel will come easier over time.

<http://christianteens.about.com/od/christianliving/tp/WitnessPrincipl.htm>

MISSION IN COMMUNITY

The focus of today's session is to make the final arrangements for the group's mission activity. Time is given for prayer and reflection and to ensure that everything is in place for the event to run smoothly.

WELCOME

Write a short quiz about your local community to play with your group. If the group don't live in the same place, then focus on the area around your church building.

Here are some question ideas to get you started:

- * How many charity shops are there?
- * Who are the local councillors/MP?
- * What are the local primary and secondary schools?
- * What are the famous landmarks?
- * How many people live in the area?

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Ask the group to share any interesting facts that they know about their local area.

WORD

In Session Two we started to plan a mission event in our local area. Today we will continue planning and spend time praying for the activity and all those involved.

In the Gospel of Matthew, we are reminded of the task God calls us to.

'This is a large work I've called you into, but don't be overwhelmed by it. It's best to start small. Give a cool cup of water to someone who is thirsty, for instance. The smallest act of giving or receiving makes you a true apprentice. You won't lose out on a thing.'

— (MATTHEW 10:42 MSG)

It is hoped you still have the notes gathered by the group in Session Two. These should outline the main details of the mission activity you are planning, and you may have even allocated some tasks to group members. Before the group launches into the details, we are going to take a step back and consider the purpose of the activity. Recap the main decisions made about the event and discuss the following questions.

DISCUSS:

- 🗨️ How would you describe the purpose of this activity in one sentence?
- 🗨️ Which Salvation Army mission priority does it address? (There may be more than one.)
- 🗨️ Matthew 10:42 says that 'the smallest act of giving or receiving makes you a true apprentice'. How will you be God's apprentice during this mission activity?
- 🗨️ What would be the perfect Scripture for this event? Share together several translations and discuss how it could be used.
- 🗨️ What guidance and wisdom do you need as a group to carry out this task for him?

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Discuss your response to the following quote.

“ ‘Community is a way of relating to other persons as brothers and sisters who share a common origin, a common dignity, and a common destiny. Community involves learning to live in terms of an interconnected “we” more than an isolated “I”. It involves making choices which reinforce the experience of relatedness and foster the sense of belonging and interdependence. Community begins, but does not end, in our face-to-face relationships with the persons who are closest to us.’

— MAKING LIFE CHOICES BY MARGARET BETZ

WITNESS

Use this section of today's session to make final arrangements for the mission activity. Guide the young people to use planning strategies that will keep everyone informed and give a clear understanding of who is responsible for each part of the activity. You may have event planning sheets that you use, or could guide the young people to online productivity apps / shared diaries to ensure that the event runs smoothly.

WORSHIP

Gather the group together around a large sheet of paper. As a group, write down all the people and communities that will be impacted by the mission activity.

Spend time together praying for each person mentioned on the list. To bring the time of prayer to a close, read the Scripture you have chosen for your mission activity.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

As we work for God in our local community, there will be many facing difficult circumstances. Now that we have prayed about the mission activity, let's focus on the lives of the people we will meet. As you listen to the lyrics of Katy Nichole's 'In Jesus' Name', spend time in prayer.

 **Katy Nichole – 'In Jesus' Name (God of Possible)' (Piano Version) – Official Lyric Video (3:51)**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4VukxLI6HLE>