



International Women's Day



## International Women's Day 2014 Inspiring Change

### Aim

To understand how Salvation Army women have inspired change in the past and to reflect on how you could inspire change today.

### Resources

- PowerPoint presentation
- 'Plant the seed' video clip ([www.wingclips.com/search?q=&x=3&y=8](http://www.wingclips.com/search?q=&x=3&y=8))

### Introduction

Introduce yourself to the pupils and welcome them to their International Women's Day assembly.

### Activity

Tell the pupils that we're going to start by watching a short video clip from The Lorax. Explain that this story is about the walled city of Thneedville, where everything is artificial. In the clip a boy called Ted is instructed to do something very important.

Let's watch the clip. ([www.wingclips.com/search?q=&x=3&y=8](http://www.wingclips.com/search?q=&x=3&y=8))

In the clip Ted is told not only to plant the final tree seed, but also to use it to inspire the idea of change.

Ask the students the following question - if you could change one thing, what would it be? You may want to express one thing you'd like to change and explain why. Ask a few students to feed back their ideas.

Explain that the theme for this year's International Women's Day is inspiring change. Sometimes we want to change things that can't be changed, such as adding another day to the weekend or not having school work to do at home! However, today is about celebrating changes that women have inspired and made possible in the past. It's also an opportunity for us to think about what changes we want to see now and how we can play a part in making them happen.

### Story

To start with we're going to look at a few inspiring women who were members of The Salvation Army and were committed to seeing change.

Go over the slides about Catherine Booth, Catherine Hine and Florence Booth.



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## Challenge

These women were ordinary women who saw something that they thought was unjust, and rather than hoping someone else would do something about it they decided to be part of the solution.

The message of today's assembly is that you can play a part in making change happen. You don't have to reach a certain age or certain grades - you just need to be willing to raise your voice on the issues you care about.

As a Christian church The Salvation Army believes that everyone in our community should be valued and have the help they need to reach their potential. This is why, amongst other things, we are committed to helping people find ways out of poverty, fighting against human trafficking and caring for older people.

Jesus said: 'I have come so they (everyone) can have life. I want them to have it in the fullest possible way' (John 10:10 New International Reader's Version).

We believe that God wants all of us to have life in the fullest possible way, but he also wants us to help others have life in all its fullness.

## Reflection

Is there something you believe needs to change to ensure people in your school, town, country or in other countries are valued and have the opportunities they need?

Let's take some time to think of the bravery of the women we have looked at and to reflect on where you might need to be brave and ask for change in some area of life today.

In the silence, take a minute to think about something you want to change and what small step you can take to seeing the change happen. That might be simply telling a friend you care about an issue, writing to your MP, doing or even deciding to run a fundraising event to support those who are fighting for change in this area. Try to think of one thing, no matter how small.

## Prayer (Optional)

Dear Lord,

Thank you that you love everyone equally and you want to see us treat each other in a way that expresses your love for us. Help us to care about justice and equality in the same way that you do. Guide us when we need to act to see a change that enables others to be valued in a way that they are not at the moment. Lord, we don't want to sit by as people suffer, but we want to live life in the fullest way possible through you and to serve others. Help us to do that this week and in the months to come.

In Jesus' name,

Amen