

homelessness zone - key stage 1

Welcome pupils to the zone and remind them of your name.

Aims

In this zone we're going to:

- think about what it is like to be homeless
- discover how The Salvation Army helps people who are homeless

What makes a home? (5 minutes)

Our first activity is called 'What makes a home?'. *Place the outline of the house in the middle of the group and scatter the cards around it.* Here are some different things which you might have in a home. As a group, I want you to choose just six cards to place in the house to make it into a home. *Discuss each card in turn and encourage the children to explain their choices.*

Home can mean different things to different people. For some people it might just be where their family is and where they feel safe and loved. For others it may be important to have their own space and their own belongings. Sadly, many people in this country don't have a home.

What is it like to be homeless? (5 minutes)

People can be homeless in different ways. A family who has had to move into a bed-and-breakfast or a hostel might be homeless, even though they have a shelter. A person who has had to leave their own country where they grew up, because of danger or war, might be homeless. All kinds of people can become homeless. In this zone we're going to think especially about people who are homeless and live on the street.

Show pupils the picture card showing a person who is homeless and sleeping on the street. Depending on where you live, pupils may or may not have encountered people who are homeless. Have you ever seen people living on the street? How do you feel about them? Encourage the children to share any experiences they have had.

Build a shelter (8 minutes)

To help us think more about what it is like to be homeless, we're going to build our own living space or shelter. I want you to imagine that all you have is a pavement or a shop doorway. Here are some things you have found on the street to help you make your own place to live.

In two groups, you will have three minutes to use the items you have to create the warmest, most comfortable and safe place you can, which you will use to live and

sleep in. *Divide the group into two smaller groups. Give out a selection of items (boxes, newspapers etc) to each group to help them make their shelter. At the end of three minutes ask each group some or all of the following questions:*

- Is your living space comfortable?
- How will you keep warm? What have you used to keep the rain out?
- How will you clean yourself each day?
- Where will you get your next meal?
- What will you do if you get sick?
- Who do you have to talk to?
- How do you feel living on the streets?

These questions should promote some discussion about how it may feel to be homeless and some of the difficulties people who are homeless face.

How does The Salvation Army help people who are homeless? (5 minutes)

I wonder what else a person who is homeless would need to make their shelter more comfortable. In this box I have some objects to help us understand the different ways The Salvation Army tries to help people living on the streets. *Take items out of the box one at a time and ask pupils what they think each one shows or represents. Add the following explanations:*

- Cup – in some cities there are soup runs which go out late at night giving out hot drinks and food.
- Plate – breakfast or lunch is served to people who are homeless in many community centres and drop-in centres.
- Sleeping bag, toiletries, torch – there are lots of drop-in centres which give out things which are useful to people who live on the streets.
- Shower gel, clean clothes/socks etc – some drop-in centres have showers where people can get clean, and they give out fresh clothes and shoes.
- Ear – people who are homeless need someone to listen to them, be friends with them and to show they care. This is just as important as all the practical things like food and clothes.
- Picture of a home – the most important way The Salvation Army helps people who are homeless is by helping them to get off the streets and eventually into a proper home. A Lifehouse is a safe place where they can stay, to rebuild their lives through training and support. There are more than 80 Salvation Army Lifehouses in the UK and Ireland.

Summing up (2 minutes)

I am now going to count down until the end of the session and I need you to help me. Hold up each number card as you count down.

- Tell me 3 different ways The Salvation Army helps people who are homeless and live on the street.
- Tell me 2 different ways people might treat a person who is homeless.
- Tell me 1 feeling a person who is homeless might have.

extra activities

Pupil book (5+ minutes)

There are activities relating to this zone on pages 5 and 6 of the pupil book.

