



cell outlines
SEPTEMBER 2020

These Cell Outlines are written by Youth and Children's Ministries. They are available every month from our web site. For more information and other Cell resources, visit [salvationarmy.org.uk/children-and-youth-resources](https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/children-and-youth-resources)

OVERVIEW

PRAYING WHILE SERVING

Introduction

This year, we've been considering how as disciples of Jesus we are called to serve – whether that's through a regular volunteering opportunity, as we're out and about, or just helping out at home.

In those moments when you serve, you may see prayer as something passive, something that's a distraction from the important act of serving. So this month we look at why it's important to incorporate prayer as a vital part of our service.

The reality is that prayer can feel like hard work. But the truth is that when we pray, things happen. God reveals himself to us. We are transformed. We are empowered to serve more effectively by his Holy Spirit.

This month we're switching the usual order of the sessions so 'Good works' features on International Day of Prayer for Anti-Trafficking. There's an opportunity in this session to pray but also for your group to commit to getting copies of the 'True Story' resource in time for Anti-Slavery day in October.

To reinforce the theme, instead of the usual headings (Welcome/Word/Worship/Witness) we'll use four different ones, adapted from Pete Greig's book *How to Pray: A Simple Guide for Normal People*.¹ These are:

- * **Pause:** an opportunity to shift your focus and connect with the theme and the Holy Spirit through an icebreaker and opening prayer
- * **Read:** a chance to look at what the Bible says about prayer and discuss what you think
- * **Ask:** a time to actually get on with the business of praying together!
- * **Yield:** a moment to consider what you will do to let the Holy Spirit use your prayers in the coming week as you serve others.

¹ In Greig's acronym, R stands for Rejoice.

SERVE. PRAY. LOVE.

“ ‘We are qualified for Christian service by our praying not our preaching, by our desire to worship him and not our workload on his behalf, by knowing Jesus personally and not just by knowing a lot of interesting things about him. If you lose God’s presence you lose everything, but if you know his presence you already have everything you will ever need.’

— Pete Greig, *Dirty Glory: Go Where Your Best Prayers Take You*

PAUSE

(choose from the following activities)

1. Ask your group what the most powerful thing on Earth is and allow them to discuss their responses. It could be a type of energy (nuclear bomb), a force (gravity), a position of power (US President), a concept (education, art). Encourage those who make suggestions to justify their reasoning. Vote on what you think is the most powerful thing that’s been suggested.
2. Tell your group that a popular children’s TV programme in the early nineties was Captain Planet and the Planetears, in which five human characters were given special powers: Fire, Water, Wind, Earth, and Heart. Ask them to discuss which of these would be the most powerful, and why.

As a group welcome the Holy Spirit and ask him to inspire, encourage and challenge you as you consider how prayer might help you to serve well in Jesus’ name.

READ

Say: We might see prayer as some passive thing we do before we get on with the real business of serving. But the Bible reminds us that powerful things can happen when we pray.

Ask four different people to look up one of the verses below and read it out:

- 📖 **Ephesians 3:20:** ‘Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us...’
- 📖 **James 5:16:** ‘The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.’
- 📖 **Acts 28:8:** ‘His father was ill in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him.’
- 📖 **Acts 4:31-34a:** ‘After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly... All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there was no needy person among them.’

Discuss the following questions:

- 🗣️ What do the passages have in common?
- 🗣️ Is it your experience that prayer is powerful? If not, why do you think that’s the case?

Read the following passage together

I became a **servant** of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all the Lord’s people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities

in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with **power** *through his Spirit* in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being **rooted and established in love**, may **have power**, together with all the Lord's holy people, **to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ**, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:7-21

Summarise the passage by saying:

Paul recognises himself as a servant of the gospel (good news, v7) and then unpacks what he means by that in the next few verses. With this service to the church at Ephesus fresh in his mind, Paul prays for them (v14). For Paul, serving and prayer are intricately linked.

What does Paul pray? – That the Father may strengthen them with power: 'the power... to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ...' (v18).

Discuss the following questions:

- 🗨️ Paul wanted the Ephesians to be servants of the good news. What kind of power would you have expected him to pray for the Father to give them?
- 🗨️ Why do you think he prayed for them to have the power to understand Christ's love instead of the power to do all kinds of miraculous things?

Say: When we serve others we need God's power, so that we're not just serving in our own strength but with his anointing. As we pray about those we serve, we ask for God to do more than we can ever imagine. We believe for powerful answers to prayer like miracles, words of knowledge, and healing.

But even though we may be able to have a faith that moves mountains, if we don't have love we gain nothing (1 Corinthians 13). So we recognise that while the more miraculous answers to prayer might seem more impressive to those whom we serve, what is actually more powerful is for them to experience God's love.

ASK

Ask the group to close their eyes and picture people that they will (or might) serve over the next month – their family, neighbours, peers at school, teachers, each other. Invite them to ask the Holy Spirit to bring to mind specific people that he wants them to serve.

Then explain you'll read out several different words from 1 Corinthians 13 that describe what love is. Ask the group to continue to picture the people they will serve, but imagine how they might serve those people in ways that reveal those characteristics. After each phrase leave 5–10 seconds to give the group time to picture each scenario and ask Jesus to help them grow those characteristics as they serve.

- * Love is patient and kind.
- * Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude.
- * Love does not demand its own way.
- * Love is not irritable and keeps no record of being wronged.

- * Love does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.
- * Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful.
- * Love endures through every circumstance.

YIELD

(In this section we commit to a simple action that we will practise in the coming week, something that makes prayer become a part of our habit of serving others. It's called Yield because when push comes to shove we might not want to do it, but we submit our own desires to Jesus because we are choosing to serve.)

Ask everyone to pick a simple trigger which when seen or heard (or smelt?) will prompt them to pray a simple prayer: 'Lord help me to serve you now with power and in love.'

The trigger could be the colour purple, the word 'serve', a particular person, a piece of music, or anything they like. They should, however, try to pick a trigger that will happen often enough to be prompted a few times each day but not so frequently that it becomes a chore to pray!

Perhaps text out the prayer to remind the group, or have them write it in their phone, school planner, etc: 'Lord, help me to serve you now with power and in love.'

GOOD LIVING

PAUSE

Ask everyone to pick a 'loved one', someone they love or respect and like spending time with – for example, a best friend, parent or grandparent. Explain that you'll read out three scenarios – everyone should imagine their chosen loved one in each scenario. Then discuss which scenario you would find most weird or challenging.

- 1. Suck up:** From now on, whenever you want to talk to your loved one you must first tell them how awesome they are, and then apologise, before they'll listen to you.
- 2. One way:** From now on, whenever you ask them a question they'll ignore you, and when they speak, they'll whisper so quietly you won't hear what they're saying.
- 3. Restricted access:** From now on, you're not allowed to message them by phone – the only way you'll be able to communicate is on Thursdays, at a special location.

Say: While we would find all three scenarios quite odd and difficult to cope with, if we are honest we can sometimes treat prayer in a similar way to these scenarios.

- * we think we have to appease God before he'll listen, rather than just approach him freely;
- * we make prayer a one-way conversation, either never listening for God's voice or losing patience when we don't think he's listening;
- * or we only remember to pray on special days or in religious venues, rather than all the time.

All of these problems come from viewing God as some distant, inaccessible and somewhat irritable deity, rather than as our Heavenly Daddy who wants nothing more than for us to know him and his inexhaustible love for us.

In Pete Greig's book *Red Moon Rising* it says, 'Everyone prays. Even non-Christians pray. The difference when Christians do it is that they are climbing into the lap of their heavenly Father.'²

Then as a group welcome the Holy Spirit and ask him to show you how to pray as his beloved children as you serve others in his name.

READ

Read the following passage aloud a couple of times. Ask the group to notice any words or phrases that either jump out at them or confuse them.

'Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. This is my command: Love each other.'

John 15:5-17 NLT

² Source unknown but Pete Greig quotes this in his book, *Red Moon Rising: Rediscover the Power of Prayer*

Discuss the following questions:

- 🗨 Which words or phrases jumped out at you? Why?
- 🗨 Were there any parts that didn't make sense to you? Which were they?
- 🗨 Jesus says: 'If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted.' Some people have interpreted this to mean that Christians can ask God to give them a new car, plane, job or whatever, and he will do it. Do you agree with this interpretation? What do you think the verse means?
- 🗨 A butler is a paid servant who performs many household tasks for his master. How is this kind of servanthood different from the kind of servants we are called to be for Jesus?
- 🗨 Why do you think Jesus emphasises the importance of his disciples loving one another?

ASK

Before the session, ask everyone to find a tree and cut off a small branch (with permission!) that has several twigs/leaves attached and bring it to the session.

Look at your branch and consider the passage as it is read a third time:

'Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.' (vv5-8)

Think about parts of your life which you feel aren't bearing much fruit. Find a twig that looks weaker, in bad health or going off in an odd direction, and cut or snap it off to symbolise how you want God to prune you so the other, stronger twigs can bear more fruit. Ask God to take away any anxiety or negative feelings that you might have been carrying with you.

'I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. This is my command: Love each other.' (vv9-17)

Look at the remaining twigs and leaves. Think about the things you are good at – the strengths that God has put within you. Commit to remaining in his love. Commit to bearing much fruit. Commit to loving one another. Commit to praying in line with his heart.

YIELD

Being a follower of Jesus is about trying to live right – to love him and love others. As you return to school, college or university, or as you start a new season at work – potentially after a long break and to a very different format – how can prayer help you to serve in those spaces?

We know that prayer makes a difference. But it's hard to do, particularly if we're not in the habit of praying.

Research shows that our brains don't like change very much. This makes forming new habits difficult, because we often visualise the end goal and try to dive straight into it. The secret to success, however, is to start ridiculously small, to trick our brains into doing it without much of a fight.

WEEK
TWO

For example, if you want to form a new habit of praying for 30 minutes every day. You are unlikely to succeed by giving yourself the goal of praying for 30 minutes, because your brain isn't used to it and will resist this new regime with everything it has got. But if you made the goal ridiculously small – for example, 'I will pray for five seconds' – your brain won't put up that much resistance because it is so easy to accomplish. And by the time you've prayed for five seconds it will probably think, 'I'm already praying now, so I might as well carry on for a bit longer.'

Another important part is to try and link the tiny action to a specific trigger. For example, 'As soon as I press the button on the kettle to make my morning cup of coffee, I will shut my eyes and pray for five seconds.'

As a group discuss what prayer habits you'd each like to achieve, then help each other to break them down into ridiculously small, easy-to-accomplish goals with a clear trigger that will remind you to do it straight away.

GOOD NEWS

PAUSE

When Christ calls us to serve, he doesn't give us the luxury of picking the people we will serve. It's likely that some of the people God calls us to serve will be those we don't like or have much in common with. We may even find that despite the time and effort we've invested in serving someone, they're not even grateful – they just throw it back in our faces.

It's in those moments that we have the wonderful opportunity to show forgiveness, for – if we do – they can experience the freedom that only Christ can give.

Watch the following clip on YouTube. It's from an American speaker and author talking in a school about bullying. The video demonstrates an important point about responding with kindness. (You could also send everyone the link to watch it before the session.)

▶ www.youtube.com/watch?v=rBWL8il6KbI (3mins 30secs) you can also find the video by typing 'Bullying expert gets bullied' into YouTube and selecting Brooks Gibbs video.

Discuss the following questions:

- 🗨️ What's different about these two role-played scenarios about bullying?
- 🗨️ Why do you think the second approach disarmed the 'bully'?

READ

The Bible gives some advice on prayer that is quite challenging to practise.

Read each passage and discuss the questions that follow.

'You have heard the law that says, "Love your neighbour" and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.'

Matthew 5:43-48 NLT

Discuss the following questions:

- 🗨️ 'If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else?' Can you come up with a list of ways Christians differ from others that doesn't include 'loving your enemies'? Reflect on this list
- 🗨️ Why does God 'give sunlight to both the evil and the good' and send rain 'on the just and the unjust alike'? Why doesn't he withhold his blessings from anyone who's not his true child?
- 🗨️ Some people welcome conflict and would get angry at their enemies. Others run from conflict, burying their hurt feelings. Which approach do you tend to use? What do you think are the positives and negatives of each approach? What wisdom is there in Jesus' command to 'love your enemies'?

'On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

'Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

John 20:19-23 NIV

Discuss the following questions:

- 🗨️ In these verses, John describes his version of Jesus sending out the disciples. ‘Forgive sins’. What do you think of this calling to serve people simply by forgiving them?
- 🗨️ Which passage we’ve looked at do you find it more difficult to practise? – to pray for your enemies (people who have gone out of their way to hurt you) or to forgive people who’ve done wrong, whether or not you were the object of their wrongdoing? Why?

— Pete Greig, *How to Pray: A Simple Guide for Normal People*

ASK

Say: several years after the war, Corrie ten Boom was speaking about her experiences in Munich, when one of her former SS guards approached her at the end of the church service. She writes:

“How grateful I am for your message, Fraulein,” he said. “To think that, as you say, He has washed my sins away!” His hand was thrust out to shake mine. And I, who had preached so often the need to forgive, kept my hand at my side.

‘Even as the angry, vengeful thoughts boiled through me, I saw the sin of them. Jesus Christ had died for this man; was I going to ask for more? “Lord Jesus,” I prayed, “forgive me and help me to forgive him.” I tried to smile, I struggled to raise my hand. I could not. I felt nothing, not the slightest spark of warmth or charity. And so again I breathed a silent prayer. “Jesus,” I prayed, “I cannot forgive him. Give me Your forgiveness.” As I took his hand the most incredible thing happened. From my shoulder along my arm and through my hand a current seemed to pass from me to him, while into my heart sprang a love for this stranger that almost overwhelmed me. And so I discovered that it is not on our forgiveness any more than on our goodness that the world’s healing hinges, but on His. When He tells us to love our enemies, He gives, along with the command, the love itself.’

Ask everyone to grab a piece of A4 paper and draw round their hand. They could also write on their actual hand.

On each of the five digits, write the name of someone who fits the description. (If one name appears on more than one digit, that’s fine.)

- * On the thumb – the strongest digit – write the name of someone in a position of power over you. They might make decisions that you feel impact your life negatively, eg a headteacher, local MP, student landlord.
- * On the index finger – the finger we use to point – write the name of someone who you feel accuses, nags or judges you or your peers unfairly, eg a politician, a teacher, an irritable neighbour.
- * On the middle finger – the biggest finger – write the name of someone who intimidates you or somehow makes you feel small, eg someone older than you or a peer at school.
- * On the ring finger – the finger of commitment – write the name of someone you’re committed to even though you might feel let down by them sometimes, eg a family member, friend or church member.
- * On the little finger, write the name of someone who annoys you a bit, a minor irritation.

Play some background music and then read each of the five instructions, allowing 30 seconds or so for everyone to think of a name, write it down, and say a quick (silent) prayer for the Holy Spirit to help them love that person.

Finish off with this prayer:

‘Lord, give us the courage to take the hand of our enemies in love, believing that as we do we will discover, like Corrie ten Boom, that it is not on our forgiveness or goodness that the world’s healing hinges, but on yours. When you tell us to love our enemies, help us to remember that you not only give us this command, but you also give us the love we need to follow it. Amen.’

YIELD

Challenge the group to put their hand outline somewhere in their bedroom where they will see it, and to ask the Holy Spirit to highlight ONE of those people to them each morning in the coming week, and to:

- * remind them to pray for that person throughout the day
- * help them to love and serve that person, through kind words or actions.

If you have some time left you could discuss different ways to pray creatively and show practical service to those people.

GOOD WORKS

PAUSE

Ask everyone to name something that makes them really angry. Not pet peeves or trivial annoyances, but big situations or problems in the world that make us cross (eg war, famine, terrorism, etc).

Discuss the following questions:

- What is it about that thing that causes you to get so angry? Try and be as specific as you can. Is your anger justified?
- How do you respond when you see/hear this thing in the world (on the news, or perhaps in person)? Have you found any effective strategies for dealing with your anger?
- Sometimes things make us so angry that it feels the only thing we can do is to avoid those things altogether. What would you say is positive and negative about this strategy?

As a group welcome the Holy Spirit and ask him to show you in this session how to get appropriately angry at injustices that exist in our world and communities.

READ

Isaiah 1:15-17 NIV

When you spread out your hands in prayer,
I hide my eyes from you;
even when you offer many prayers,
I am not listening.

Your hands are full of blood!

Wash and make yourselves clean.
Take your evil deeds out of my sight;
stop doing wrong.

Learn to do right; seek justice.
Defend the oppressed.[a]
Take up the cause of the fatherless;
plead the case of the widow.

Say: these verses are found right at the beginning of the book of Isaiah. The prophet Isaiah sees a vision concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In the first five chapters of the book, God sets out his complaint against Judah and warns what will happen if the nation remains unfaithful, as well as giving cause for hope if they repent.

Discuss the following questions:

- v15: Do you think that these four lines are supposed to be taken literally? Does God actually hide his eyes from us or stop listening?
- v16: How do you think God feels in this passage, having invested so much into Judah and loved her like a husband, only to find that the nation chooses to do evil?
- At school did any of your teachers make the whole class stay behind, even though it hadn't been the whole class who had been misbehaving? How did it feel? What do you think about God's warning that the whole nation of Judah might receive punishment?

Say:

It's interesting to note that when God explains (v17) what Judah needed to do to set themselves back on the right path, he doesn't just tell them to stop doing a bunch of bad things; he tells them to start doing a bunch of good things.

- * What does this tell you about what God sees as evil?
- * Going back to the illustration of a whole class being kept behind for a few individuals doing the wrong thing, do you think this makes more sense if it's true that God is more interested in us actively pursuing justice than he is avoiding doing bad things?

ASK

The Salvation Army is deeply committed to fighting and responding to modern slavery and human trafficking. We have a theological and historical mandate. We believe prayer is foundational and an essential, powerful tool to fight for freedom and work towards a world free from exploitation.

*We invite you to join Salvationists around the world on **27 September 2020**, to corporately cry out for justice and freedom. We want to activate our collective voice to say that we believe a world without modern slavery and human trafficking is possible.*

We hope you will join us to pray specifically for the survivors, the perpetrators and those on the frontline.

Praying in response to a true story

The following story features in the Youth and Children's Ministries True Story resource, which you will have chance to order in the next session in time for Anti-Slavery Day in a few weeks' time.

Part 1: pray for victims

Things have been tough for ages. Dad died when I was really young. Me, my mum and my sisters never had enough money. I had to work in the market instead of going to school but that wasn't enough. When Mum got ill and had to stay in hospital I felt hopeless.

A man said he could get me well-paid work in Dubai looking after two children. It meant leaving my sisters behind in Uganda, but I was excited that I'd finally be able to provide for them.

When I arrived, it was not what I expected at all. I'd been tricked.

I had five children to look after and was expected to do all the housework, even though I was still a child myself. Hungry and exhausted after my 12-hour days, I'd eat the family's leftovers and fall asleep on the floor of the playroom.

Pray:

- * for those across the world who are in desperate situations and therefore vulnerable to exploitation from traffickers.
- * for people who are vulnerable in our own community to know that they can find practical help and emotional support through local Salvation Army corps, churches, food banks, debt counselling services and other charities.
- * that we would be people who radiate compassion and a sense of safety to those facing difficult times.

Part 2: pray for survivors

I worked hard today and I'm tired. But now things are different. Today I made something beautiful.

Things in Dubai were so bad I believed I'd never escape. The family had taken my passport and told me I owed money to the man from Uganda. They threatened to beat me if I didn't work hard. I was so scared.

But I made a friend while out with the children and she restored my hope. She explained that the man was a trafficker and that he was the one in the wrong – not me.

That night, I escaped and went to the embassy. The Salvation Army collected me and took care of me. They gave me a home and taught me how to make jewellery. They looked after me until I knew I could look after myself.

Now I'm home again and have been helped to set up my own business making beautiful bags and jewellery. Everything's different now.

Pray:

- * for all those who have escaped a life of slavery to be able to recover physically, emotionally and spiritually from the evil impact of slavery.
- * that The Salvation Army would continue to be able to help survivors of trafficking, giving them the support they need to thrive as free people.
- * that we might be the kind of people who might befriend someone trapped in slavery and challenge the lies they have been told about their situation, giving them hope for their freedom.

Part 3: pray against trafficking

Finally pray for those who (thankfully) do not have a story of human trafficking. Pray that these horrific stories of human exploitation will one day end.

Pray:

- * for charities and groups who campaign against human trafficking.
- * that governments would be stronger at clamping down on trafficking.
- * that 'normal' people would be better at spotting the signs of trafficking (for more information go to www.salvationarmy.org.uk/modern-slavery/spot-signs).
- * for the Holy Spirit to transform the consciences of those involved in exploiting people.

YIELD

The Youth and Children's Ministries team recently developed a resource called True Story, which helps young people take practical action against human trafficking. There are two versions for young people aged 7-12 and 13-18 and we would love to send you enough copies for your group to use on Anti-Human Trafficking Day on 18 October.

If you get in touch with the team on youthchildren@salvationarmy.org.uk by the end of September, we will ensure you have the resource by Anti-Human Trafficking Day. All we need to know is your name, postal address and how many copies you would like. We will assume you require the version for 13- 18-year-olds unless you specify otherwise.

You may want to do something more active as a symbolic act of yielding to God's will to bring justice to our world when fighting human trafficking.

If so, why not suggest getting together to go for a longer walk around your community or town. Walk the streets together, asking the Holy Spirit to help you notice and pray prophetically against signs of injustice in your neighbourhood.

You might want to read the article to Spot the Signs of modern slavery (www.salvationarmy.org.uk/modern-slavery/spot-signs), but please do not approach anyone you suspect may have been trafficked – instead follow the advice on the page and ring the confidential referral helpline on 0800 808 3733.