



CELL

OUTLINES

SERVE OTHERS
WITHOUT
DISCRIMINATION

These Cell Outlines are written by Youth and Children's Ministries. They are available every month from our website. For more information and other Cell resources, visit salvationarmy.org.uk/children-and-youth-resources

OVERVIEW

This month we are exploring the second mission priority for The Salvation Army in the UK and Ireland.

SERVE OTHERS WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION

The Salvation Army responds to people without discrimination. God calls us to be with the people we serve. In 'being with' people – as against 'doing for' people – together we find solutions and make progress because we are all made in the image of God. We are called to share love in a too often loveless world. 'Love God, Love Others' inspires every aspect of our work.

SESSION ONE: JESUS' EXAMPLE OF SERVICE

In Session One we will discover how Jesus served the disciples by washing their feet. We'll explore what it means to serve others without discrimination and explore this mission priority in more detail. Within the Worship section, we'll spend time praying for those within our denomination who support victims of human trafficking.

SESSION TWO: A SERVICE MANIFESTO

In Session Two Jesus returned to his hometown and shared his Service Manifesto. After challenging the status quo, Jesus was chased from the village and continued his ministry elsewhere. They didn't want to hear his message of hope for the poor, the oppressed and the imprisoned. Within the Worship section, we'll spend time praying for those within our denomination who support the elderly.

SESSION THREE: JESUS' SERVICE MANIFESTO IN ACTION

In Session Three we'll find out more about a woman shunned by society and excluded from life in her village. We'll see how Jesus treated the poor and oppressed and explore how to follow his example. Within the Worship section, we'll spend time praying for those within our denomination who support the homeless.

SESSION FOUR: BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

In Session Four we'll spend time with the Samaritan woman by the well. We'll see how Jesus treated those considered to be racial enemies and explore how we can tackle discrimination within our own communities. Within the Worship section, we'll spend time praying for those within our denomination who support people with learning disabilities.

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.

If you decide to run a physical (socially distanced) meeting, you will need to complete a risk assessment form in accordance with current Covid guidelines. We also recommend you read the guidance document provided by Safe Mission. Please consult your corps officer or DHQ for further info.

JESUS' EXAMPLE OF SERVICE

In Session One we will discover how Jesus served the disciples by washing their feet. We'll explore what it means to serve others without discrimination and explore this mission priority in more detail. Within the Worship section, we'll spend time praying for those within our denomination who support victims of human trafficking.

WELCOME

Watch the clip and discuss the questions.

 **Waitress – Two Soups (3 min 8 secs)**
<https://vimeo.com/144208621>

- * On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate the service of the waitress in this clip? Explain your reasons.
- * Have you ever experienced poor service in a restaurant? Explain what happened.
- * What was frustrating about it and how did you react?

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

- * What's the best service you've ever experienced in a restaurant, shop, online etc?
- * What made it so special?





WORD

People in the service industry may enjoy serving others but it's also a requirement of their employment. They are contracted to serve others in a certain way, often in line with company policy, ensuring that they portray the right company image.



Share some examples of restaurants or fast food chains that have a certain way of serving – for examples, Starbucks writes your name on your cup.

 How is serving others as an occupation different from serving others as followers of Jesus?

 **Read John 13:1-17.**

-  What act of service did Jesus perform for the rest of the disciples?
-  Why do you think Simon Peter struggled with it? What changed his mind?
-  If you had been in Jesus' position, which disciples would you have been tempted to miss out? Explain why.
-  What message does Jesus share with his disciples in John 13:12-17?


 **One Army: In Service – Serving Others (4 min 12 sec)**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HabjrHJZ-Us>

-  What is your response to this section of the video clip?
-  Do you think we are living up to Jesus' example of service? How could we improve?

“When we think of servanthood, and think of Jesus, we usually think of him washing his disciples' feet. He did it, he said, as an example of how we should serve one another – all of us. The message of the two S's (in English) on the uniform indicates with simple emphasis

that Salvationists are 'Saved to Serve'. Salvationists are not saved to arrange their life and local corps to suit their own needs, they're saved to share the grace of God with others, to serve them with every good means at their disposal.'

— ONE ARMY: IN SERVICE → SERVING OTHERS (1 MIN 20 SEC TO 1 MIN 58 SEC)

 Our denomination does an amazing job supporting people across the UK, but we are also called individually to serve others without discrimination. What does serving Jesus in this way look like for you?

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

What do the words of Mother Teresa teach us about the attitude of our heart when we serve others?

“There is always the danger that we may just do the work for the sake of the work. This is where the respect and the love and the devotion come in – that we do it to God, to Christ, and that’s why we try to do it as beautifully as possible.”

— MOTHER TERESA

WORSHIP

In 1 John 5:14 we read these words:

‘We live in the bold confidence that God hears our voices when we ask for things that fit His plan.’

— 1 JOHN 5:14 (VOICE)

Part of our service to others is to spend time praying for them. Throughout these sessions we are going to spend time praying for those in need and those who provide support, and ask God to provide opportunities for us to serve.

During each session we will watch a short clip representing an area of The Salvation Army’s work. Using the ‘Serving Through Prayer’ handout, write down prayer points as you watch the clip.

SERVING VICTIMS OF MODERN SLAVERY

Two options are provided for each focus area. There may be topics of a sensitive nature for members of your group, so choose the clip based on your group’s age and personal experiences.

 **Dan’s Story – Survivor of Modern Slavery (4 min 58 sec)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OJOPadRC7Sc>


 **Malaiika’s Story – Modern Slavery (2 min 47 sec)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VLrok3S70Ww>

Discuss the prayer points raised by the group and then spend time in prayer together.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Encourage the group to switch their mobile phones on to Airplane mode so that there are no distractions. Using the prayer points as a guide, ask the group to set prayer reminders on their calendars to notify them throughout the week. You can use the following song for reflection.

 **‘God of Mercy (Prayer Song)’ – Lou Fellingham (3 min 52 sec)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NAMtul4f7bY>

WITNESS

Over the next four sessions we are exploring the second Mission Priority for the United Kingdom Territory. It's important to spend time thinking through what is meant by this Mission Priority and what it means for us as servants of Jesus.

This activity can be done in a number of ways depending on whether you are meeting in person or online. Either way, each member of the group will need a copy of the Mission Priority.

Read through the statement a couple of times.

SERVE OTHERS WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION

The Salvation Army responds to people without discrimination. God calls us to be with the people we serve. In 'being with' people – as against 'doing for' people – together we find solutions and make progress because we are all made in the image of God. We are called to share love in a too often loveless world. 'Love God, Love Others' inspires every aspect of our work.

Generate questions around this statement and highlight words that require clarification. At the end of the four sessions, these questions will be revisited for further discussion.

Example questions:

- 🗨️ What do we mean by discrimination?
- 🗨️ What does it mean to 'be with' people?
- 🗨️ What is the difference between 'being with' and 'doing for'?
- 🗨️ Does 'Love God, Love Others' inspire every aspect of our work? If not, why not?

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

We are all part of The Salvation Army and this Mission Priority relates to us as well.

- 🗨️ What does it look like to serve others without discrimination in our everyday lives?

SERVING THROUGH PRAYER

SERVING VICTIMS OF MODERN SLAVERY

‘We live in the bold confidence that God hears our voices when we ask for things that fit His plan.’

— **1 JOHN 5:14 (VOICE)**

SERVING THE ELDERLY

Now as I grow old and my hair turns grey,

I ask that You not abandon me, O God.

Allow me to share with the generation to come

about Your power;

Let me speak about Your strength and wonders

to all those yet to be born.

— **PSALM 71:18 (VOICE)**

SERVING THE HOMELESS

“Then those “sheep” are going to say, “Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?” Then the King will say, “I’m telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me – you did it to me.”

— **MATTHEW 25:37-40 (MSG)**

SERVING THOSE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

your works are wonderful, I know that full well.





— **PSALM 139:14 (NIV)**

A SERVICE MANIFESTO

In Session Two Jesus returned to his hometown and shared his Service Manifesto. After challenging the status quo, Jesus was chased from the village and continued his ministry elsewhere. They didn't want to hear his message: hope for the poor, the oppressed and the imprisoned. Within the Worship section, we'll spend time praying for those within our denomination who support the elderly.


WELCOME

One of the first songs released by Adele was called 'Hometown Glory' and described her love for her hometown.

-  Where is your hometown?
-  What do you like/dislike about it?
-  Does your hometown inspire you to write a song? If so, what genre would you choose?
-  If you had to write a song about your hometown, what details would you include? Which ones would you leave out?

In today's Scripture reading Jesus returns to his hometown. Initially he gets a great reception, but things turn sour when he challenges the status quo.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

-  If the whole group is from the same hometown, then you could have a go at writing a chorus based on your discussions!

WORD

In today's session we join Jesus at the beginning of his ministry. Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist and then was tested by the devil in the wilderness. In our Scripture today, Luke 4:14-30, Jesus returns to his hometown of Nazareth and shares his Service Manifesto.

Watch the clip.



-  **Lumo – Gospel of Luke Chapter 4:14-30 (2 min 53 sec)**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2ojxNR8ECU&t=2s>

Ask the group to turn to Luke 4:14-30 and discuss the Scripture and questions below.

-  **Read Luke 4:14-15.**

'Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.'

— LUKE 4:14-15 (NIV)

-  As Jesus started his ministry he was 'filled with the Holy Spirit's power' (Luke 4:14 NLT). Why is it important that we don't try and serve in our own strength?
-  What did the people think of Jesus when he started to teach in the synagogues?

 **Read Luke 4:16-19.**

‘He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

**“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”**

— LUKE 4:16-19 (NIV)

Jesus outlined who he had come to serve in his Service Manifesto.

- * What was Jesus’ five-fold mission? What had God anointed him to do?

The following translations may add to the discussion and understanding of this passage.

**‘God’s Spirit is on me;
he’s chosen me to preach the Message of good news to the poor,
Sent me to announce pardon to prisoners and
recovery of sight to the blind,
To set the burdened and battered free,
to announce, “This is God’s time to shine!”**

— LUKE 4:18-19 (THE MESSAGE PARAPHRASE)

**‘The Spirit of the Lord the Eternal One is on Me.
Why? Because the Eternal designated Me
to be His representative to the poor, to preach good news to them.
He sent Me to tell those who are held captive that they can now be set free,
and to tell the blind that they can now see.
He sent Me to liberate those held down by oppression.
In short, the Spirit is upon Me to proclaim that now is the time;
this is the jubilee season of the Eternal One’s grace.**


— LUKE 4:18-19 (VOICE)

 **Read Luke 4:20-21.**

‘Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

— LUKE 4:16-21 (NIV)

The words Jesus shared in the synagogue were taken from Isaiah 61:1-2. They spoke of a future Messiah who would come and deliver God’s people and free them from the power and guilt of sin.

-  When Jesus said, ‘The Scripture you’ve just heard has been fulfilled this very day’ (Luke 4:21 NLT), how would the Jewish crowd have interpreted this? What was Jesus saying about himself?

 **Read Luke 4:22-24.**

‘All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” they asked.

Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to me: ‘Physician, heal yourself!’ And you will tell me, ‘Do here in your home town what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.’

“‘Truly I tell you,’ he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his home town.”

— LUKE 4:22-24 (NIV)





Jesus knew that the crowd wanted him to perform signs and wonders as he had done in the neighbouring villages. Instead he had a different message for the people, and at that point their attitude toward him changed.

 **Read Luke 4:25-30.**



“Certainly there were many needy widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the heavens were closed for three and a half years, and a severe famine devastated the land. Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them. He was sent instead to a foreigner – a widow of Zarephath in the land of Sidon. And many in Israel had leprosy in the time of the prophet Elisha, but the only one healed was Naaman, a Syrian.”

When they heard this, the people in the synagogue were furious. Jumping up, they mobbed him and forced him to the edge of the hill on which the town was built. They intended to push him over the cliff, but he passed right through the crowd and went on his way.’

— LUKE 4:25-30 (NLT)

-  How was the woman from Zarephath described?
-  What health condition was Naaman the Syrian suffering from?
-  Both the widow of Zarephath and the leper from Syria were Gentiles. Why was this significant to Jesus’ Jewish audience?
-  How were widows, lepers and Gentiles valued in Jewish society at that time?

Now that you know the background of the people involved, read verses 25-27 again.

-  What was Jesus saying to the people at the synagogue? God sent Elijah to minister to those who are not deemed worthy by society. God values the widow, the leper and the Gentile.
-  How did their mood change once Jesus said this, and why do you think they were so angry?

Jesus shared his Service Manifesto with the people. He had come to preach the good news to the poor, proclaim freedom for the prisoners, recover sight for the blind, release the oppressed and proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour. This message wasn’t just for the Jewish people – it was for everyone, including those who were discriminated against at the time. They didn’t want to listen.

How does the following quote from St Augustine explain the response of the people?

 **“They love truth when it enlightens them, but hate it when it accuses them.”**

— ST AUGUSTINE

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Within our Scripture reading for today, Jesus refers to three of the Old Testament prophets. The role of a prophet is often misunderstood.


Watch the clip and discuss what you discover about the Old Testament prophets.


 **The Prophets – Bible Project (5 min 17 secs)**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=edcqUu_BtN0&t=7s

WITNESS

Ask the group to watch the following clip and makes notes. Once you have watched the clip, discuss the question posed by the clip title:

 How can we serve like Jesus as disciples?

 **'How can we serve like Jesus as disciples?' Premier on Demand (7 min 55 sec)**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j6VYzh18ytc>

Revisit *The Message* paraphrase of Luke 4:18-19.

**'God's Spirit is on me;
 he's chosen me to preach the Message of good news to the poor,
 Sent me to announce pardon to prisoners and
 recovery of sight to the blind,
 To set the burdened and battered free,
 to announce, "This is God's time to shine!"'**


— LUKE 4:18-19 (*THE MESSAGE PARAPHRASE*)

Using these words as a framework, think of practical ways that you can live out this service manifesto in your own context.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Revisit the words of Isaiah 61:1-4 as you watch the clip.

 **Isaiah 61:1-4 – New City Kids (1 min 47 secs)**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LYA6fVWJ6R0>

 How do these words inspire you to serve others without discrimination?

WORSHIP

As we mentioned in the previous session, part of our service to others is to spend time praying for them. Throughout these sessions we are going to spend time praying for those in need and those who provide support, and ask God to provide opportunities for us to serve.

During each session we will watch a short clip representing an area of The Salvation Army's work.

 **Read Psalm 71:18.**

**'Now as I grow old and my hair turns grey,
 I ask that You not abandon me, O God.
 Allow me to share with the generation to come
 about Your power;
 Let me speak about Your strength and wonders
 to all those yet to be born.'**

— PSALM 71:18 (*VOICE*)

This week we are going to be praying for our elderly population who are often overlooked and dismissed by society. The Salvation Army works with the elderly to provide care and support.

Using the 'Serving Through Prayer' handout, listen to Eileen's experience and jot down ways to support her, and others like her, in prayer.

SERVING THE ELDERLY

▶ **Elderly Care – The Salvation Army (4 min 5 secs)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ChKscRo4nw>

Discuss the prayer points raised by the group and then spend time in prayer together.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Encourage the group to switch their mobile phones on to Airplane mode to avoid distractions. Using the prayer points as a guide, ask the group to set prayer reminders on their calendars to notify them throughout the week. You can use the following song for reflection.

▶ **'Cares Chorus' – sung by Steffany Gretzinger (2 min 12 secs)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gWcE2QNQE9s>

JESUS' SERVICE MANIFESTO IN ACTION

In Session Three we'll find out more about a woman shunned by society and excluded from life in her village. We'll see how Jesus treated the poor and oppressed and explore how to follow his example. Within the Worship section, we'll spend time praying for those within our denomination who support the homeless.

WELCOME

Today we'll be continuing to look at the Service Manifesto Jesus set out in Luke 4:18-19.

When political parties are running in a general election, they set out a party manifesto containing the main actions they promise to take to improve the country.

In each general election, the Official Monster Raving Loony Party put forward candidates across the country. As of October 2019, some of their manifesto promises included:

- * To get more children reading, fish and chips will once again be wrapped in newspaper.
- * Once in Government we will introduce the Ministry of Clarity. The role of this Ministry will ensure that only the clearest clarity is made clear and the unclear clarity is cleared out. We hope that our position on this is now clear to all.
- * The MOT is an annual test to ensure that your car is roadworthy. We will introduce a ROT, an annual test to make sure all roads are car worthy.

<https://www.loonyparty.com/about/policy-proposals/>

Imagine you are in charge of a political party and give it a name. As we have already seen, it doesn't necessarily have to be a sensible political party!

Create three manifesto promises and share them with the rest of the group.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Once you have listened to all the manifesto promises, take a vote to see which newly created political party is the most popular.

WORD

In the last session we looked at Jesus' Service Manifesto.

**'The Spirit of the Lord the Eternal One is on Me.
Why? Because the Eternal designated Me
to be His representative to the poor, to preach good news to them.
He sent Me to tell those who are held captive that they can now be set free,
and to tell the blind that they can now see.
He sent Me to liberate those held down by oppression.
In short, the Spirit is upon Me to proclaim that now is the time;
this is the jubilee season of the Eternal One's grace.'**

— LUKE 4:18-19 (VOICE)

Today we are going to look at how Jesus treated two groups of people that were, and still are, often discriminated against: women and those living in poverty.

- What do you think life was like for the poor and oppressed in biblical times?
- How are things different now?

In biblical times, women were treated very differently from how they are today. At the time, women were considered unclean while they were having their monthly period and were excluded from the religious and social lives of their people.

Our first Scripture is found in Luke 8:42b-48 and tells the story of a woman who was excluded from society for 12 years.

There may be some of you who feel a little uncomfortable discussing a Bible story about a woman in this position, but that's why it's been chosen. Sometimes people are discriminated against because their condition makes us feel uncomfortable. We don't always know how to respond or react to their everyday reality.

Before you read her story, consider the strict cleanliness rules of the day and how they impacted this woman's life.

- What do you think everyday life was like for this woman?
- In what ways do you think she was discriminated against?

Read Luke 8:42b-48 (NIV) and discuss the questions:

As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years but no one could heal her. She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped.

'Who touched me?' Jesus asked.

When they all denied it, Peter said, 'Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you.'

But Jesus said, 'Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me.'

Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed.

Then he said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.'

— LUKE 8:42B-48 (NIV)

- Do you think it was brave for the woman to join the crowds on that day? Explain your answer.

The woman had suffered with this condition for 12 years and no one had been able to help. Everyone in the village knew about her.

- How do you think the people in the crowd viewed her?
- Why do you think the woman touched the edge of Jesus' cloak rather than calling out to him?
- When Jesus noticed her, the woman came trembling and fell at his feet. Why do you think she was so afraid? Do you think it had anything to do with the way she had been treated before? If so, how?
- What does this story teach us about the way Jesus wants us to serve others without discrimination?


In Jesus' Service Manifesto we also discover that he is a representative for the poor.

Read Matthew 25:31-40.

- What do you think is the main message from these verses?

We sometimes have preconceived ideas about people who are living in poverty. The following clip is challenging to watch, but as you do so, picture each person as if they are Jesus.


Reflect on the following question and share your thoughts when the clip is over.

 How would Jesus want us to respond to the people in this clip?

 **'This is poverty' – Joseph Rowntree Foundation (5 min 39 sec)**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0RO67LjN_ks


Leader's notes: Please be sensitive to the fact that there may be people in their group who are living in poverty or experiencing financial difficulty.


WITNESS


 Do you ever feel overwhelmed when you see the amount of need there is in the world? If so, how does it impact you?

When we look at the amount of people who are in need, we may feel like there's no possible way that we can 'be Jesus' to everyone. Jesus' Service Manifesto is all well and good, but how can we possibly help all of the people that need to experience the love of Jesus?


Watch the clip based on Matthew 25:31-40.


 **'Listen to God: Hear the poor' – Paula Gooder on how and why we help people (3 min 24 sec)**
<https://youtu.be/ssDgwWFeBBY>

 What did you discover about serving others without discrimination from this clip?

 How can you put some of these ideas into practice over the coming weeks?

Many people in the UK are facing poverty, using food banks and struggling to pay their energy bills.

 What message do you think Jesus has for them today?

 How can we share that message with others who are struggling financially, or take it on board ourselves if we are in that position?

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Olivier De Schutter is a United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights. He has spent years researching human rights and finding new ways to support those living in poverty.

In this clip, we are encouraged to look at poverty in a different way. Watch what Olivier De Schutter has to say and then discuss what you have discovered.

 **'Speaking of poverty, differently': Olivier De Schutter (2 min 32 sec)**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31xY6rYiu2E>

WORSHIP

As in previous sessions, part of our service to others is to spend time praying for them. Throughout these sessions we are going to spend time praying for those in need and those who provide them support, and asking God to provide opportunities for us to serve.

During each session we will watch a short clip representing an area of The Salvation Army's work.

 **Read Matthew 25:35-40.**

"Then the King will say to those on his right, "Enter, you who are blessed by my Father! Take what's coming to you in this kingdom. It's been ready for you since the world's foundation. And here's why: I was hungry and you fed me,

I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,
I was homeless and you gave me a room,
I was shivering and you gave me clothes,
I was sick and you stopped to visit,
I was in prison and you came to me.”

Then those ‘sheep’ are going to say, “Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?” Then the King will say, “I’m telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me – you did it to me.”

— MATTHEW 25:35-40 (THE MESSAGE PARAPHRASE)

This week we are going to be praying for those who are homeless and struggling to find a safe place to sleep. Using the ‘Serving Through Prayer’ handout, listen to Stephen’s or Mary’s experience and jot down ways to support them, and others like them, in prayer.

SERVING THE HOMELESS

Two video options are provided.

▶ **Stephen’s Story - Malachi Place: The Salvation Army (1 min 14 secs)**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lGlzPnjKudg&t=3s>

▶ **Mary’s Story - The Salvation Army (4 min 52 secs)**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yoyPbkLKnP4&>

Discuss the prayer points raised by the group and then spend time in prayer together.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Encourage the group to switch their mobile phones to Airplane mode to avoid distractions. Using the prayer points as a guide, ask the group to set prayer reminders on their calendars to notify them throughout the week. You can use the following song for reflection.

▶ **‘Way Maker’ (Lyric Video) - Leeland (3 min 23 secs)**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29lxnsqOkmQ>

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

In Session Four we'll spend time with the Samaritan woman by the well. We'll see how Jesus treated those considered to be racial enemies and explore how we can tackle discrimination in our own communities. Within the Worship section, we'll spend time praying for those within our denomination who support people with learning disabilities.

WELCOME

One of the ways God has broken down barriers is by choosing unexpected people and using them for his glory. Have a go at the emoji quiz and see how many Bible characters you can name.


BLISS QUIZZES

 **Emoji Bible Quiz (3 min 37 secs)**

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

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 1. Noah | 5. Eve | 9. Jesus |
| 2. David | 6. Daniel | 10. Moses |
| 3. Mary | 7. Hannah | 11. Samuel |
| 4. Samson | 8. Saul | |

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

 If you could choose three of these Bible characters to join your church, which three would you choose and why?


WORD

Today we are going to continue looking at the way Jesus served others and broke down the barriers of discrimination.

Watch the extract from *The Chosen* that tells the story of the Samaritan woman found in John 4:1-30.


 **'The Chosen Jesus and the Samaritan' – *The Chosen* (8 min 5 secs)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=el7dzoNV3IY>

 How does Jesus break down the barriers of discrimination in his encounter with the Samaritan woman?

The second Salvation Army mission priority says:


'God calls us to be with the people we serve. In 'being with' people – as against 'doing for' people – together we find solutions and make progress because we are all made in the image of God.'

 How does Jesus model the idea of 'being with' rather than 'doing for' in the story of the Samaritan woman? How do you think other religious leaders would have responded to her?

We already know that the way Jesus treated women was countercultural; but this wasn't just a woman – she was also a Samaritan. The hatred between Samaritans and Jews went back generations, and Jesus' encounter would have been shocking for anyone who witnessed it or heard what happened.

 **Why is the woman at the well so important? (*The Chosen* in Israel) (6 min 24 sec)**

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

 What is your response to these words from the video clip?

“ He (Jesus) came to proclaim the good news of God’s Kingdom, and here’s the good news. In the Kingdom there is no racism, there is no division, there is no gender divide, there is no racial or ethnic divisions. He came that we might become one new man, Jew and Gentile, man and woman in the Messiah. If there is none of those things in Heaven and we’re called to proclaim the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in Heaven, those things can’t exist in our hearts, they can’t exist in our homes and they can’t exist in our communities of faith.’

— (3:45–4:21)

- 🗣️ What are the modern-day equivalents for the story of the Samaritan woman?
- 🗣️ Who would replace the woman in the story if it took place in your local community?
- 🗣️ How can we follow the example of Jesus and break down the barriers of discrimination within our society?

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

If your group would like to explore today’s theme in more detail, then watch and discuss this teaching from the well-respected theologian NT Wright.

- ▶️ **Professor NT Wright on Racism, Reconciliation, and the Church (5 min 27 secs)**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BBSzheTy_Xg

WORSHIP

As in previous sessions, part of our service to others is to spend time praying for them. Throughout these sessions we are going to spend time praying for those in need and those who provide support, and asking God to provide opportunities for us to serve.

During each session we will watch a short clip representing an area of The Salvation Army’s work.

- 📖 **Read Psalm 139:14.**

**‘I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
 your works are wonderful,
 I know that full well.’**

— PSALM 139:14 (NIV)

This week we are going to be praying for those with learning difficulties. Using the ‘Serving Through Prayer’ handout, watch the experiences of the people in the clip and jot down ways to support them, and others like them, in prayer.

SERVING THOSE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

Two video options are provided.

- ▶️ **Learning Disabilities – The Salvation Army (3 min 01 secs)**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lGlzPnjKudg&t=3s>
- ▶️ **The Music Man Project – The Salvation Army (3 min 03 secs)**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OSp--z-pdk8>

Discuss the prayer points raised by the group and then spend time in prayer together.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Encourage the group to switch their mobile phones to Airplane mode to avoid distractions. Using the prayer points as a guide, ask the group to set prayer reminders on their calendars to notify them throughout the week.

You can use the following song for reflection.

 **Maverick City Music – 'Have My Heart' (6 min 29 secs)**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5qXXlr8NY>

WITNESS

Over the last four sessions we have explored the second Mission Priority for the United Kingdom and Ireland. We have looked at what is meant by this mission priority and what it means for us as servants of Jesus.


Read The Salvation Army's statement to 'serve others without discrimination'.

SERVE OTHERS WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION

The Salvation Army responds to people without discrimination. God calls us to be with the people we serve. In 'being with' people – as against 'doing for' people – together we find solutions and make progress because we are all made in the image of God. We are called to share love in a too often loveless world. 'Love God, Love Others' inspires every aspect of our work.


Revisit the original questions you generated in Session One. Work through each one and discuss it in the light of all you have discovered in the past four sessions.

We are all part of The Salvation Army and play an important role living out the Service Manifesto of Jesus. It's often easy to point out how our church or our denomination falls short, but the success of the mission of Jesus starts with us.

 What are the practical steps you, your youth group or your church could take to serve other without discrimination?

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Throughout the Worship sections of these sessions we have explored different ways The Salvation Army supports people in society.

 Do these clips inspire you to serve in any of these areas? If so, what might be the next step?