

A heart like thine

*Spread thy light
wherever I may go*

Leader's guide

Another new contributor to this book, Colin Fisher, has provided a joyful setting of some older words by George Galloway Jackson. Good communication is vital when singing, so try to encourage the singers to engage with the individual meaning of each phrase and portray that in the way they sing.

Warm-up

It will be worth spending time making sure that individual words or phrases in this song are fully understood by members of the group. Go through each line and have a dictionary on hand (or get them to use their phones) for them to look up anything they are unsure of.

Prayer

Father,
Thank you for loving me.
Forgive me for the times
when I get distracted and do
not focus enough on my
relationship with you. Please
help me to learn to be more
like you and shine your light
in this world so that others
may be drawn into a
relationship with you. Amen.

Bible verse

'Finally, brothers and sisters,
whatever is true, whatever is
noble, whatever is right,
whatever is pure, whatever is
lovely, whatever is admirable – if
anything is excellent or
praiseworthy – think about such
things.'

Philippians 4:8

Activity

Words of kindness

Equipment: paper and pens

Give each member of the group an A4 sheet of paper. Say, at the bottom of the sheet of paper, write your name. Then pass your piece of paper to the person on your left. Starting at the top of the page, this person writes something positive about the named child (eg You are a great singer, a loving person etc). Once they have finished the encouragement, fold it over and pass it to the next person on your left. Continue until you get your original page back.

God wants us to be kind to one another, and this starts with our group.

Thought

When we look at the world around us, we can see it is full of darkness and fear. We believe God created the world, and he made it perfect. But humans have caused the world to feel like a dark place where the goodness of God is hidden. However, when you turn on a light, the darkness fades away, making everything feel easier.

God wants us to spread his light wherever we go. The more we listen, talk to God and read the Bible, the more we learn to reflect God's goodness. Spreading God's love brightens up the dark world we live in.

Personal challenge

Take a moment. Think and pray ...

Pray for yourself. Open up to God and ask him to show you how to be more like him.

Pray for the leaders and other members of your church. Ask God to encourage them to continue their work in being the light of God in your local community.

Pray for the wider mission of The Salvation Army and other Christians. Pray that we will remain focused on spreading God's love and light.

Group challenge

How can we spread God's light to the people around us?

Equipment: sticky notes

Give every person a sticky note. Take time to think of the people you know who are struggling. Write a message of encouragement or prayer to someone who needs to know about God at this time. At your next practice, discuss any positive feedback you have had from spreading God's light.

