

The Trials of Jesus And Stephen

LESSON 1: The Trial of Jesus

This lesson will help junior soldiers understand the events that led up to Jesus' crucifixion. They'll understand that Jesus suffered and died on the cross to save all people from their sins.

LESSON 2: Eyewitness At Jesus' Trial

This lesson will help junior soldiers understand the roles of the witnesses at Jesus' trial. They'll learn that God forgives our sins, but we must ask Him for forgiveness.

LESSON 3: The Trial of Stephen

This lesson will help junior soldiers understand how Stephen became a leader in the early Church. They'll realize that Stephen died because of his strong faith in Jesus. Because of his death, many people became Christians, including Saul (who was later called Paul).

LESSON 4: Paul As An Eyewitness

This lesson will help junior soldiers understand the story of Stephen's death through the eyes of Saul before his conversion. They'll learn how the events of Stephen's death led to the growth of the Church, and to the conversion of Saul (who was later called Paul).

UNIT BIBLE TRUTH SCRIPTURE:

God can use bad circumstances to create positive results.

UNIT BIBLE TRUTH SCRIPTURE:

"Let us keep looking to Jesus. He is the author of faith. He also makes it perfect. He paid no attention to the shame of the cross. He suffered there because of the joy he was looking forward to. Then he sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. He put up with attacks from sinners. So think about him. Then you won't get tired. You won't lose hope." Hebrews 12:2-3 (NirV)

UNIT 1



UNIT AIM:

This unit will help junior soldiers understand that the trial and death of Jesus was a part of God's plan. The events that followed the resurrection of Jesus, and the events that transpired before and after Stephen's trial created the climate necessary for the spread of Christianity throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria.

UNIT DOCTRINE EMPHASIS:

Doctrine Six

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has by His suffering and death made an atonement for the whole world so that whosoever will may be saved.

Doctrine Seven

We believe that repentance towards God, faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and regeneration by the Holy Spirit, are necessary to salvation.

SEPTEMBER
(YEAR TWO)

SALVATION ARMY CONNECTION

Lessons one and two of this unit deal with salvation through the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. These two lessons are naturals to refer to Doctrines six and seven.

Lesson one—Doctrine six —“We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has by His suffering and death made an atonement for the whole world so that whosoever will may be saved.”

Help your junior soldiers understand that this was part of God’s plan. To show how much He loved us, He sent His Son to die on the cross for us. If we believe in Him, we’ll be saved.

Lesson two—Doctrine seven —“We believe that repentance towards God, faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and regeneration by the Holy Spirit, are necessary to salvation.”

Repentance is often misunderstood by children. Help them understand that when they ask God to forgive them for their sin, they must be truly repentant, or sorry, for their sins. When they are, God promises to forgive them.

[LEADER’S PAGE | UNIT 1]

[UNIT CONNECTION]

Junior soldiers will gain important understanding about God’s master plan, and the birth of the Church, through the study of the trials and deaths of Jesus and Stephen. Jesus died on the cross as God’s plan for salvation. Out of a tragic event, the death of Stephen, the Church grew into a powerful tool to spread God’s Word.

Lessons one and two focus on the trial of Jesus, and the lives of those involved in His trial. In lesson one junior soldiers learn that Jesus had to die on the cross so that all who confess their sin can be saved from sin. Lesson two teaches the importance of asking for forgiveness. Junior soldiers look at the lives of several key players in the trial and death of Jesus.

Lessons three and four cover the stoning of Stephen and the conversion of Saul following Stephen’s death. Junior soldiers learn that it’s okay to stand up for what they believe in. Stephen stood up for his faith even though he was arrested and eventually killed for his faith. Lesson four teaches junior soldiers that God can use bad situations to help people grow in faith. Through the story of Saul’s conversion after which he became known as Paul, junior soldiers will understand that God has a way to use each and every human being in His plan. Even Saul, a man who led a great persecution against Christians, played a vital role in the formation of the early Church.

God has a plan for each of His children. Junior soldiers need to understand that they are a part of God’s plan. Use this unit to help each junior soldier realize that God has a plan for their future. He has a place for them in His master plan.

[TEACHING TIPS]

THE HOSTILE CHILD

Remain calm and polite when dealing with a hostile child. As difficult as it may be, keep your temper in check. Fear is often the motivation behind hostility.

Respond to the fear, not the hostile behavior.



CONTINUING EDUCATION CONNECTION

DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS IN CHILDREN

We'll continue to explore briefly the needs of junior soldier age children using information from the Search Institute® Developmental Assets® that identify building blocks necessary for successful development. These Assets identify positive qualities that influence development, and help youth become caring, responsible, and productive adults.

EXTERNAL ASSETS—EMPOWERMENT

Grades 1-4

Children are included in community life, they contribute to family decisions and have the opportunity to participate in positive community events. The children have opportunities to serve in the community with the support and approval of parents and adults. Parents and other adults keep the children safe while being aware of their growing independence. These descriptions are the Community Values Children, Children As Resources, Service to Others and Safety Assets.

Grades 5 and 6

Community Values Youth, Children as Resources, Service to Others and Safety Assets provide the building blocks needed for healthy development. Development continues in this age group as children feel valued and appreciated by adults in the community, as they are included in decisions at home and in the community, as they have opportunities to help others, and as they feel safe at home, school and neighborhood.

TEACHER CONNECTION

What can you do with your junior soldiers to provide opportunities for further growth and development in the category of Empowerment as described above?

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