

Making Good Choices

LESSON 1: You Don't Have To Be Weird

This lesson will help junior soldiers understand that sometimes following God isn't the popular choice. By studying the example of Daniel they'll learn that it's okay to stand up for their faith in God.

LESSON 2: You Can Make A Difference

This lesson will help junior soldiers understand that as Christians they're different from the world, and they should make a difference in the world. This lesson will help junior soldiers strengthen their identities as Christians.

LESSON 3: You Are Not Alone

This lesson will help junior soldiers understand that God is always with them. Junior soldiers will develop confidence in God's power and presence in times of triumph and trouble.

LESSON 4: You Have A Right To Say "No"

This lesson will help junior soldiers strengthen their identities as Christians and stand firm for their beliefs. They'll understand that it's okay to say "no" to things they know aren't God's will.

UNIT BIBLE TRUTH:

God expects Christians to be different from the world and to show His light to others by their actions.

UNIT BIBLE TRUTH SCRIPTURE:

"Don't live any longer the way this world lives. Let your way of thinking be completely changed. Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what he wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect" (Romans 12:2 NIV).

UNIT 3



UNIT AIM:

This unit will help junior soldiers develop a sense of empowerment through the Holy Spirit to stand firm in their beliefs, regardless of others' opinions. They'll develop stronger identities as Christians.

UNIT DOCTRINE EMPHASIS:

Doctrine Two

We believe that there is only one God, who is infinitely perfect, the Creator, Preserver, and Governor of all things, and who is the only proper object of religious worship.

Doctrine Eleven

We believe in the immortality of the soul; in the resurrection of the body; in the general judgment at the end of the world; in the eternal happiness of the righteous; and in the endless punishment of the wicked.

NOVEMBER
(YEAR TWO)

SALVATION ARMY CONNECTION

Think back to your childhood growing up in The Salvation Army. What response did you get when you told your friends that you attended church at The Salvation Army? Did they laugh at you, look at you like you were an alien, or say that The Salvation Army isn't a church?

Even if you didn't grow up in The Salvation Army you may have had a similar experience the first time you told your friends that you were a Christian. As Christians and Salvationists we stand out in this world. God commands us to be in the world but not of this world. That's not always easy to do.

In The Salvation Army we provide valuable teaching tools and encouragement to help our young people make good choices that please God. Each program at the corps should offer opportunities for children to learn and understand what God expects from them so that they can remain faithful to Him when they're questioned about their beliefs.

[LEADER'S PAGE | UNIT 3]

[UNIT CONNECTION]

Daniel is the focus of this unit. Over the four lessons of this unit the junior soldiers will learn by Daniel's example what it means to make good choices that honor and please God.

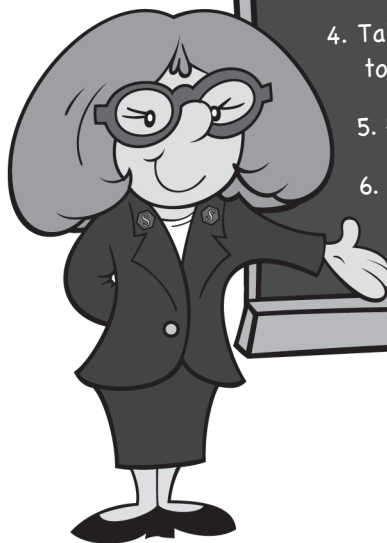
The first lesson helps junior soldiers understand that they aren't "weird" because they're Christians, but that they're "different." They'll learn about Daniel and his friends being taken into captivity in a strange land. They'll learn how Daniel and his friends remained faithful to God in a land that didn't honor Him. The second lesson talks about God's faithfulness to Daniel and his friends because they honored Him. When King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream that no one could interpret, he ordered all the wise men be killed. Daniel and his friends prayed and asked God for wisdom to save the lives of the wise men. God honored Daniel's request.

The third lesson of this unit is the well-known story of Daniel in the lions' den. Most of your junior soldiers know the basics of this story. Use this opportunity to help them understand that God offered protection to Daniel because Daniel was faithful to Him. The final lesson of this unit reiterates the idea that God wants His children to make good choices. When faced with the option of bowing down to a golden idol and living, or not bowing and being punished in the fiery furnace, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego decided to face punishment rather than to deny their God. God protected them in the fire because they made the right choice to follow Him.

[TEACHING TIPS]

WHEN JR. SOLDIERS AREN'T PAYING ATTENTION

1. Stand near to them.
2. Grab their attention using a video clip.
3. Get them up and moving.
4. Take a break and give them a problem to solve.
5. Play a game.
6. Create an incentive for them to pay attention.



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.

INTERNAL ASSETS—POSITIVE VALUES (continued)

Grades 1-4

Self-Regulation grows as the children learn to control their emotions and behaviors. Understanding the importance of healthy habits and choices is included in this growth. Equality and Social Justice develop as parents encourage and teach their children about rules and being fair to everyone. Children develop Responsibility as they learn to accept and take responsibility for their actions at school and home. In each of these areas, the parent teaching and giving encouragement is crucial to the growth process.

Grades 5 and 6

Parental influence becomes stronger as parents teach the importance of good health habits and an understanding of healthy sexuality, developing the Healthy Lifestyle Asset. Equality and Social Justice deepen as parents teach their children the importance of speaking up for the rights of others. Parents reinforce the importance of personal responsibility for behavior, thus developing the asset of Responsibility.

TEACHER CONNECTION

Brainstorm ways you can help your junior soldiers practice Equality and Social Justice in relating to each other.

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