











LESSON 4 AT A GLANCE

God's Army: I'll Do My Part

ACTIVITY	MINUTES	GRADE LEVEL	FOCUS	PITstops	*OTHER SUPPLIES
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPENING ACTIVITY Dodge Ball	6	1-6			sponges/NERF® balls
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LESSON God's Army: I'll Do My Part	9	1-6	 	 A-B	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MEMORY VERSE	5	1-6			clear contact paper/laminating machine
REINFORCEMENT ACTIVITY (Choose One Option)					
<input type="checkbox"/> OPTION 1 With Your Entire Mind	8	1-6	 		newspapers, magazines
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPTION 2 Ways To Witness	5	1-6			jar/bag/basket/hat
<input type="checkbox"/> WORSHIP PROGRAM Salt And Light	10	1-6	 		coarse sea salt, flashlight
<input type="checkbox"/> LET'S DO IT! (LDI)					
Strong And Brave	5	1-2			
On Your Guard	5	3-4			
Be Courageous	5	5-6			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DIALOGUE FOLDER					
iSPEAK	5	1-2			
iSPEAK	5	3-4			
iSPEAK	5	5-6			

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOME

This lesson will help junior soldiers understand their part in sharing Jesus with others through their actions and prayer support.

YOU ARE HERE!



Place the timeline marker on **1999** on the **Salvation Army** timeline.

*In addition to materials listed in this chart, you need Basic Classroom Supplies.

God's Army: I'll Do My Part

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR THE LEADER

UNIT AIM:

This unit will explore the faith and faithfulness of believers who have paved the way for The Salvation Army of today. Junior soldiers will learn how early Salvationists remained faithful even in the face of opposition and persecution. They'll find strength and encouragement to remain faithful witnesses for Jesus.

THE CHILDREN OF GOD have known persecution since the beginning of humanity. Satan, always careful to hide his true identity, met Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. He challenged their belief and trust in God. From that time until now Satan has used every means possible to challenge and destroy not only our faith but humanity itself. Satan is the enemy of God. He strikes at us, the children of God, knowing that when we hurt, God hurts.

Over the course of this unit, we've examined The Salvation Army and its work in times of opposition, persecution, and difficulty. The Salvation Army, with the guidance and strength of the Holy Spirit, has continued to serve God by serving others in times of opposition, persecution, and tragedy.

This lesson focuses on the brief life of one of God's children, junior soldier Joshua Olson. Born with an incurable disease called Pseudo-Obstruction Syndrome, Josh Olson defied medical precedents when he lived to be 12 years old; no one affected with his disease had lived past the age of six.

Even though Josh required constant medical attention, he lived a full life. He went fishing, camping, and hunting with his family. He had a dog named Bodo. Josh loved to play roller hockey, watch sports, play Nintendo, and play in the youth band at his corps. When Josh was seven years old, he was enrolled as a junior soldier.

In Josh's short life, he touched many people, and helped lead many people to a deeper relationship with God. He has been described as having a spiritual maturity at the age of 12 that most adults would love to have. Josh was a prayer warrior, and a powerful witness. He wanted to be a missionary. He loved to tell others about Jesus. Two years before he died, Josh gave the following testimony at his corps:

"A couple of months ago I got very sick. Sicker than I usually do. One night I was having trouble falling asleep because I was afraid that I wouldn't wake up. So I asked my mom if I was going to die. And she said I might, but that I didn't have to worry because if I didn't wake up Jesus would be there to take care of me. That night I trusted in Jesus and fell asleep... As Christmas approaches, I think of how important it is to me that Jesus was born. I hope He is important to you."

His grandmother said, "He had a longing for other people—anybody—to know Christ."

Josh was promoted to Glory in 1999. But his influence is still felt. His parents and oldest sister are now serving God as officers in The Salvation Army.



LESSON 4

The life of Josh Olson was full of courage. Not only was Josh strong as he faced his illness, but he was brave to shine as a witness and living testimony of God's love, grace, and care for His children.

It's our duty as Christians to share Christ with others. It isn't always easy to witness, but it's our responsibility. As the return of Christ draws nearer, it won't get easier. Our duty is to teach others about God's love. We must challenge our junior soldiers to live for God regardless of the consequences. We must help them find the courage to do what's right, even when it isn't easy.

In America our rights and freedoms are protected by the laws of country, but we have no guarantee that will never change. That doesn't mean we aren't persecuted. The goal of this lesson is to teach the junior soldiers to do their part by sharing Jesus with others through their actions and prayers.

OPENING ACTIVITY **Dodge Ball**

Before class, write the following words on NERF® balls or sponges: fear, accusing, lie, mistrust, misunderstanding, fighting. Make a straight line across the floor with a rope or a piece of tape.

Say: **Raise your hand if you've ever played the game dodge ball.** (*Allow response.*) **Today we're going to play a different version of dodge ball.**

Divide junior soldiers into two groups. Assign each group to one side of the line.

Say: **I'll give an equal number of sponges (or balls) to each group. If you're hit with a sponge (or ball), leave the playing area, and take a seat. The group with the most people left at the end of the activity wins.**

Before junior soldiers begin playing, set some ground rules such as no hitting above the waist, etc. Allow junior soldiers to play.

Say: **Let's look at the words on the sponges (or balls).**

Have junior soldiers read the words written on the sponges (or balls).

Say: **The words on the sponges (or balls) are words that hurt us. It hurts us when people fight, lie, or say we did something we didn't do. As Christians our feelings are sometimes hurt when people make fun of us because we believe in God. Sometimes they don't accept us, because they don't understand.**

Have you ever experienced someone not liking you because you love God? (*Allow response.*)



MATERIALS NEEDED:

- sponges/NERF® balls
- rope or tape
- permanent marker



Say: In dodge ball, when you're hit you're out of the game. But, as a Christian when people hurt you, you're not out of the game. There are things you can do to help the people who hurt you understand what it means to be a Christian. Can you think of ways that you can help others know what it means to be a Christian? *(Allow response.)* You can pray for people, tell them about Jesus, invite them to Sunbeams or Adventure Corps, you can love them, and forgive them.

BE AWARE!

If you have a junior soldier who can't participate in the game because of physical limitations, allow them to help you see who has been "hit" and ask them to sit down. Or, allow him or her to throw balls or sponges from the sideline.



MATERIALS NEEDED:

-  A-B

LESSON

God's Army:

I'll Do My Part

Say: Over the last few weeks we've been talking a lot about what The Salvation Army does to help people, and why The Salvation Army helps people. Can you tell me some of the things The Salvation Army does? *(Allow response.)* Why does The Salvation Army help people? *(Allow response.)* We help people because we love God, and God wants us to help others.

It hasn't always been easy for The Salvation Army to help others. When The Salvation Army first started in England, people didn't like The Salvation Army. They disturbed the meetings, and even physically hurt the Salvationists.

When The Salvation Army started to grow and opened corps in other countries, it was hard for the officers and missionaries to adjust to the new language, culture, and people. Even today The Salvation Army sometimes faces hard times when trying to tell people about God's love.

Raise your hand if you've tried to tell someone about God's love. *(Allow response.)* Was it easy? Why or why not? *(Allow response.)* Sometimes it's difficult to tell others about Jesus. They may not want to listen to what we have to say. They may say that loving Jesus isn't cool.

As Christians we're supposed to be strong and brave in our faith. We're supposed to tell people about Jesus even when it's difficult to do so.

Show junior soldiers  A.



Say: **This is Joshua Olson. Josh is a special boy. When he was born, he was very sick. When he was only two days old, he had to have surgery to save his life. But, even after surgery, Josh was sick. He had a disease that only a few people in the entire world get, and there's no cure. Most people who get this disease die when they're small children under six years old.**

Even though Josh was sick, he did many things like other children his age. He went fishing, hunting, and camping with his mom, dad, sister, and dog. He liked to go to The Salvation Army for church, and to play the cornet in the band. But most of all, Josh loved Jesus!

Show junior soldiers  B.

Say: **When Josh turned seven years old he became a junior soldier. He loved being a junior soldier in The Salvation Army. He loved telling everyone about his friend Jesus. Josh wanted to be a missionary. He wanted to tell others about God's love and care.**

Josh was very brave! Even though he was very sick, he was happy because of Jesus. When he was in the hospital he told the doctors and nurses about Jesus. He prayed for everyone he knew. Even when he was so sick that he had to stay in the hospital, Josh continued to trust God and tell others about Him. Josh lived to be 12 years old. At Josh's funeral many people asked Jesus to come into their hearts.

Josh showed everyone who met him what it meant to be a Christian. He was a good example of what a Christian is. Josh trusted God with all of his heart, mind, body, and soul. Josh let the light of Jesus shine so that everyone he met would know who Jesus is!

It doesn't matter how old you are, or how long you've been a Christian, you can share God's love with everyone. You don't need to be a Salvation Army officer to tell people about Jesus. You don't need to go to a different country to tell people about Jesus. You don't even always need to use words to tell people about Jesus. By living a life that makes God happy, other people will see that you love Jesus.

The Bible says that we must tell others about Jesus. That's our job as Christians. We need to tell everyone how great it is to love God and be a Christian. We must be brave, strong, and have courage to tell others about Jesus even if it's difficult. Josh fulfilled his desire. He was a missionary because he told others about Jesus.

Let's thank God for Josh Olson and his example. Let's also pray that God will give us the courage to tell others about Him even when it's difficult to do so.

Ask a junior soldier to volunteer to pray, have all junior soldiers offer a short prayer, or offer the prayer yourself.





MATERIALS NEEDED:

- cardstock/construction paper
- crayons/markers
- clear contact paper or laminating machine
- scissors



MATERIALS NEEDED:

- poster board with a cross
- blank poster board
- newspapers/magazines
- scissors
- glue or tape

MEMORY VERSE

1 Corinthians 16:13-14 (NIV)

“Be on your guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be brave. Be strong. Be loving in everything you do.”

Write the memory verse on the board. Review the verse several times with junior soldiers.

Give each junior soldier a piece of cardstock or construction paper. Instruct junior soldiers to make a placemat by writing the verse on their piece of paper and decorating the page. For fun they could trace their feet on the paper to represent “stand firm.” Cover each project with clear contact paper, or laminate them if your corps has a laminating machine.

Encourage junior soldiers to use their placemat this week or put it somewhere so that they’ll be reminded of the verse during the week.

REINFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

(CHOOSE ONE OPTION)

With Your Entire Mind (Option 1)

Before class, gather old newspapers and magazines for the junior soldiers to cut up. Draw a cross on a piece of poster board.

Say: **I brought a poster with me today. This poster has a cross on it. What do you think of when you look at this poster?** (Allow response—God, Jesus dying on the cross, God’s love, etc.) **Matthew 22:37 NIV says, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind.”**

As Christians we must love God with everything that we have. We should love God so much that others can see God in us. We should be witnesses for Jesus. But sometimes it’s hard to be totally focused on Jesus. What are some things that keep you from thinking about God? (Allow response.)

Instruct junior soldiers to look through the newspapers and magazines and cut out pictures or words to represent things that distract them from thinking about God. Allow junior soldiers to glue those things to a piece of blank poster board. Then, help junior soldiers brainstorm ways to keep their focus on God. Write their responses on the poster board of the cross.



Say: **It makes God happy when we're focused on Him with all our heart, soul, and mind. The Holy Spirit will help us stay focused on God.**

Pray for strength to stay focused on God.

Ways To Witness (Option 2)

Say: **There are many ways to tell others about Jesus. When we tell people about Jesus through our actions and words, we're being witnesses for Jesus. Sharing our witness means sharing the story of Jesus and how He lives in our hearts.**

Let's think of creative ways we can witness to others!

Help junior soldiers brainstorm ideas of how they can witness to others. Help them think "outside the box." Witnessing doesn't always have to involve words. Write their ideas on slips of paper and place them in a bag, hat, basket, or jar. Then, allow each junior soldier to pick one way of witnessing and try it during the week.

Say: **This week, try to share your witness with someone by using the idea on your piece of paper. If you can't do what's on your paper, try to witness in a different way.**

WORSHIP PROGRAM

CHORUS: Song #75: "Make Me a Servant"
(Track #25, *Great Big Praise* CD 2)

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:13-16 (NIRV)

CHORUS: Song #69: "I Want to Be a Witness"
(Track #19, *Great Big Praise* CD 2)

DEVOTIONAL

Salt And Light

Before class gather coarse sea salt and a flashlight.

Say: **In the Bible Jesus said we should be witnesses of God's love. Several times in the New Testament Jesus explains what it means to be a witness.**

After Jesus called the disciples and traveled through Galilee preaching and healing, He stopped on a mountainside and a large crowd gathered to hear Him speak. Jesus told the people many things that day, He talked

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- strips of paper
- jar, bag, basket, or hat

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- coarse sea salt
- flashlight



to them about how to treat one another, and about following God's commands. Jesus also talked to them about being witnesses.

Read Matthew 5:13-16.

Say: **What do you think Jesus meant when He said we should be salt and light?** (*Allow response.*)

Give a few grains of coarse sea salt to each junior soldier who'd like to try it.

Say: **Would you want to eat food that tasted like salt?** (*Allow response.*)

Say: **When you add just the right amount of salt to food, it doesn't make the food taste salty. It brings out the real flavor of the food. In *The Message* version, it says, "You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of the earth." We're here to show how things should be.**

Turn off the lights. Comment on how dark it is. Turn on the flashlight.

Say: **When Jesus said we should be a light to the world, He meant we should shine brightly so that everyone can find Jesus.**

By being a witness for Jesus we show others how wonderful it is to love Jesus and be a Christian. When people see how happy we are, they'll want what we have—Jesus!

PRAYER



Remember to fill out
the *What Do You Think*
Evaluation on page 219.

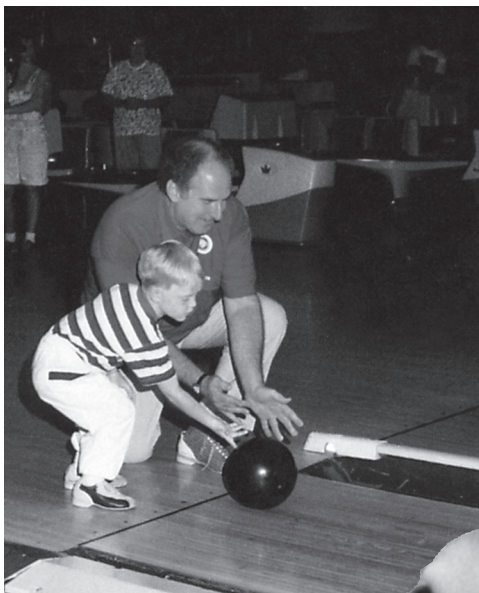




Joshua on a fishing trip



Joshua with his sister



Joshua bowling



Joshua with his dog



Joshua and family





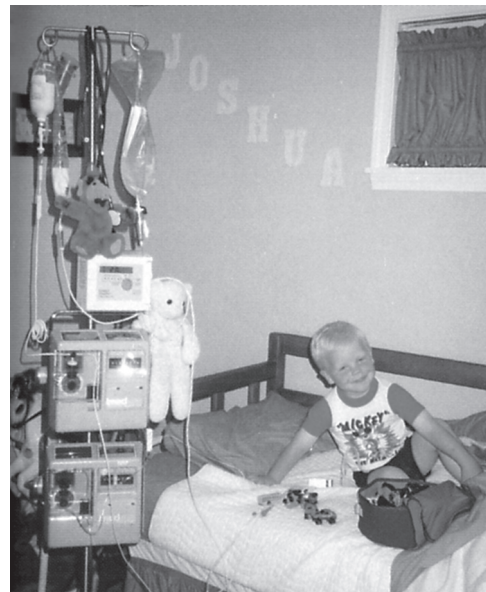
Joshua's enrollment
as a junior soldier



Joshua with his cornet



Joshua with his family



Joshua in bed



Joshua with Santa



LESSON 4

LDI

Grades 1 & 2 Strong And Brave

Grades 3 & 4 On Your Guard

Grades 5 & 6 Be Courageous

DIALOGUE FOLDER

Grades 1 & 2 iSPEAK

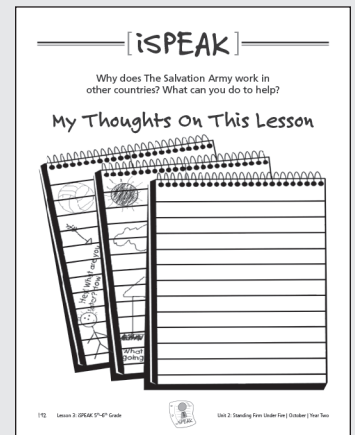
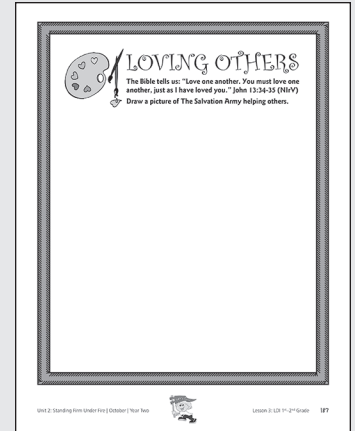
Grades 3 & 4 iSPEAK

Grades 5 & 6 iSPEAK

TLC

As a result of this lesson, junior soldiers will:

- recognize the importance of sharing their faith,
- know that God will strengthen them to do what's right, and
- become motivated to witness to others.



Strong and Brave

Trace the words to complete the Bible verse. Find the words in the word find.

"Be on your **guard**. Stand firm in the
faith. Be **brave**. Be **strong**.
Be **loving** in everything **you** do."

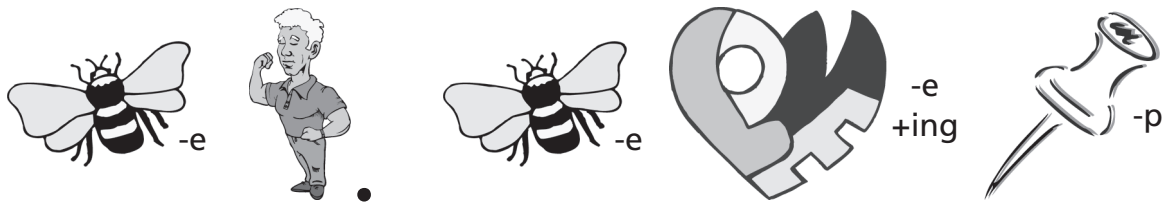
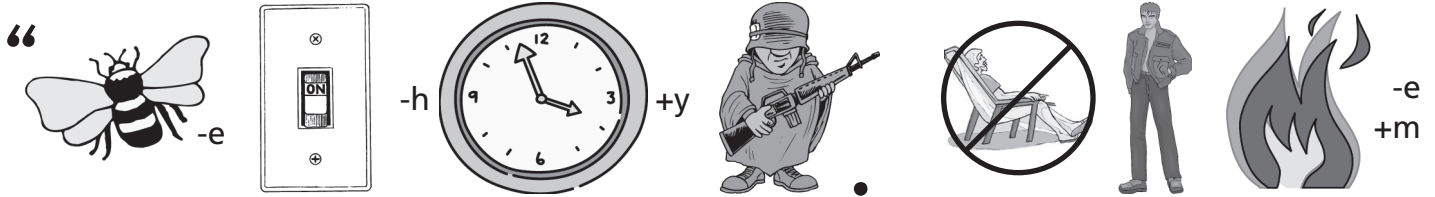
1 Corinthians 16:13-14 (NIV)

S	E	N	G	U	A	R	D	S	D
T	W	P	R	A	H	F	H	J	U
R	E	A	S	T	K	L	E	O	M
O	N	Y	I	G	L	I	Y	A	N
N	H	A	D	F	O	U	M	V	E
G	F	N	B	R	A	V	E	Y	S
E	Y	L	B	J	K	O	P	B	T
C	L	O	V	I	N	G	I	T	A



ON YOUR GUARD

REVEAL THE SCRIPTURE BY FIGURING OUT THE PUZZLE.



1 CORINTHIANS 16:13-14 (NIRV)



BE COURAGEOUS

Starting with the first letter, write every third letter on the line to find the secret word. The first one has been done for you. Place the secret words in the blanks to complete the verse.

BE

1. BKJELL: _____

2. FKVACFILPTOXH: _____

3. CLNOU TRBAIGRNDJTKYHERIBVACDNOFS: _____

4. SAVTDERFGOTKNEDG: _____

5. GRJUSPACDRWQD: _____

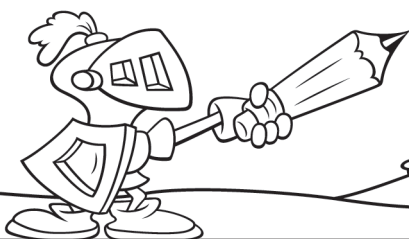
6. LWZORSVUMIRBNADG: _____

7. BUFRSEAGHVTKE: _____

" _____ on your _____. Stand firm in the _____.

Be _____. Be _____. Be _____ in everything you

do." | _____ 16:13-14 (NIV)



[iSPEAK]

Draw a picture of you standing firm for Jesus.

My Thoughts On This Lesson



[iSPEAK]

There are many ways to tell others about Jesus. What are some ways you can witness to others about Jesus?

My Thoughts On This Lesson



[iSPEAK]

What are things you can do to stay focused on God with all your heart, soul and mind?

My Thoughts On This Lesson



[HOMEPAGE]

For families of junior soldiers

THIS WEEK'S TOPIC: **God's Army: I'll Do My Part**

MEMORY VERSE:

1 Corinthians
16:13-14 (NIV)

"Be on your guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be brave. Be strong. Be loving in everything you do."

The memory verse for the week is included on each HOMEPAGE. Help your child review it during the week.

PARENT POINT:

Talk to your child about what it means to share Jesus with others. Talk about ways you can share Jesus together.



THIS WEEK THE junior soldiers completed the unit "Standing Firm Under Fire." Over the last few weeks they learned about the persecution and martyrs of the early Salvation Army, the hardship faced by The Salvation Army as it expanded globally, and how The Salvation Army helps people in times of personal tragedy and difficulty. Today the children learned about being a witness for Jesus even when times are tough.

The junior soldiers learned about Joshua Olson, an extraordinary boy who died at the age of 12. Born with an incurable disease called Pseudo-Obstruction Syndrome, Josh defied medical precedents when he lived to be 12 years old; no one affected with this disease had lived past the age of six.

Even though Josh required constant medical attention, he lived a full life. He went fishing, camping, and hunting with his family. He had a dog named Bodo. Josh loved to play roller hockey, watch sports, play Nintendo, and play in the youth band at his corps. When Josh was seven years old, he was enrolled as a junior soldier.

In Josh's short life, he touched many people, and helped lead many people to a deeper relationship with God. He has been described as having a spiritual maturity at the age of 12 that most adults would love to have. He loved to tell others about Jesus. His grandmother said, "He had a longing for other people—anybody—to know Christ." Josh was promoted to Glory in 1999, but his influence is still felt.

The life of Josh Olson was full of bravery and courage. Not only was Josh strong as he faced his illness, but he was brave to shine as a witness and living testimony of God's love, grace, and care for His children. Not only was Josh an example of God's love and care, he was an example to all Christians of how to be a witness for Jesus.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOME

This lesson helped junior soldiers understand their part in sharing Jesus with others through their actions and prayer support.