

ENROLLMENT & DAY OF RENEWAL SUNDAY

PURPOSE

Junior Soldier Enrollment & Day of Renewal Sunday is an incredible opportunity to remind the congregation to rejoice in the goodness of God and to follow Him because of His goodness; enroll new Junior Soldiers, focusing on their commitment to follow God.

SUGGESTED SUNDAY SCHOOL OPENING OUTLINE

SCRIPTURE VERSE

"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."
2 Peter 3:18

WELCOME

Led by a Junior Soldier

OPENING PRAYER

THEME

As Christians, we need to "feed" on the Word of God to become strong.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- A variety of junk foods (candy, chips, cookies, etc.)
- A brown paper lunch bag labeled with leader's name

LESSON

Say: **Do you see this bag? It is called "a brown bag." Now, a "brown bag" is what we used to take our lunch to school in when I was a kid. Hardly anyone had a fancy lunch box like children use today. My mother would save sacks from when she went to the store and use them as lunch bags. Kids who took their lunch to school in one of these bags were called "brown baggers." See my name on it? That was important, because every kid in school had a lunch bag just like mine.**

Let's see what I have for lunch in my brown bag today. Here are some chips. Oh, and here are some cookies. Let's see what else.... here is a candy bar. Hey, do you think my mother would pack

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR THE LEADER

SUGGESTED HOLINESS MEETING:

"Feed On The Word"
(Spring 2015)

ENROLLMENT SUNDAY MATERIAL:

Junior Soldier Enrollment Sunday materials are based on materials submitted by the USA Central Territory of The Salvation Army.



me a lunch like this? No way! This is all junk food! Do you know what would happen to me if I ate a steady diet of junk food like this? (Allow time for children to give answers.) **I would become weak and sickly because this junk food does not have the vitamins and nourishment needed to grow a strong, healthy body. Our bodies need the nourishment we get from meat, bread, fruits and vegetables. As much as you think it would be neat to eat just junk food, no one can survive for very long on a junk food diet.**

No one would really think of feeding their body a steady diet of junk food. And yet, many people feed their minds with a steady diet of junk food every day. They feed it with TV, the internet, movies, comic books, magazines, bad language, and other junk. They never give their minds the real nourishment that it needs to be strong and healthy. They never feed it with the Word of God. The Bible says that our strength comes from the Lord, and that comes to us through His Word.

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Say: **Raise your hand if you're a Junior Soldier. Do you remember signing the Junior Soldier Promise? Let's say the Promise together:**

I know that Jesus is my Savior from sin.

I have asked Him to forgive my sins, and I will trust Him to keep me good.

By His help, I will be His loving and obedient child and will help others to follow Him.

I promise to pray, to read my Bible and to lead a life that is clean in thought, word and deed.

I will not use anything that may injure my body or my mind, including harmful drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

If you want to live out your Promise or, for those of you who aren't Junior Soldiers, if you want to grow as a Christian, you cannot do that by filling your mind with "junk food." What kind of things do you need to do to grow as a Christian and Junior Soldier? (Allow time for sharing. If the children don't come up with answers, guide them to answer with things like: read the Bible, pray, have Christian friends, come to church, try to live like Jesus did, make good choices, etc.)

So this morning, let's take a moment to recommit ourselves and renew our promises to God. Let's have a time of silent prayer to ask God to help us keep our promises to read His Word, to pray, and to live our lives so that others can see that we love Jesus.



ACTIVITY

MATERIALS NEEDED

- White paper plates
- Crayons, markers

DIRECTIONS

- Have the children divide their plate into at least four sections using a crayon or marker.
- In each section, have them draw or write things that will give them the “nutrition” they need to grow as Christians. No junk food on this plate!

SCRIPTURE VERSE

“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”
2 Peter 3:18

SCRIPTURE MEMORY GAME

Many children learn best by moving. To break up having to sit still all through Sunday school, divide the congregation into smaller groups. Each group should brainstorm motions to match the Scripture verse. If there’s time, let groups come up and demonstrate their motions as everyone repeats the Scripture verse. Close out the time by emphasizing the importance of growing as Christians; how we need to read the Bible every day to learn more about God and how He wants us to live; how God loves to talk with us in prayer; and how, if anyone wants to learn how they can better live their lives for Jesus, they can come and talk to God.

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Father, please help us to remember that just as our bodies can’t survive on junk food, neither can our minds. Help us to remember that our strength comes from You, and that to learn about You, we need to feed on Your Word. This morning we renewed our Promises to You, Lord, and we ask that You help each one of us to love and serve You better every day. Amen.



SUGGESTED WORSHIP SERVICE PROGRAM OUTLINE

(Doctrine number one should appear on the screen or in the bulletin.)

We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and that they only constitute the Divine rule of Christian faith and practice.

WELCOME AND GREET EACH OTHER

JUNIOR SOLDIER ENROLLMENT

(See page 29 for enrollment suggestions.)

CALL TO WORSHIP

The source of Christian doctrine is the Bible. New Junior Soldiers, you will be learning more about doctrine #1, and you made a promise to read your Bible and to lead a life that is clean in thought, word and deed. The Bible is our guide for Christian living. The Bible is a book written by many writers: it is a human document. But we believe that it is also God's written Word. Let's read doctrine #1 together. To grow as a Christian we need spiritual food, and we can find that in the Bible.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" SB #1

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

(Great time to use youngest Junior Soldiers)

(The following readings can be done by Junior Soldiers who have read through and prepared their readings ahead of time.)

READING: God's Word is unlike any other word. It is alive. It is for everyone—Junior Soldiers, included! Jesus said, "The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life." When God speaks, things change. Everything around you—all of creation—exists because "God said it." He spoke it all into existence. Without God's Word you would not even be alive. James points out, "God decided to give us life through the word of truth so we might be the most important of all the things he made." (James 1:18, NCV)

READING: "The Bible is far more than a guidebook. God's word generates life, creates faith, produces change, frightens the Devil, causes miracles, heals hurts, builds character, transforms circumstances, imparts joy,



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overcomes adversity, defeats temptation, infuses hope, releases power, cleanses our minds, brings things into being, and guarantees our future forever!" (*The Purpose Driven Life*, pages 185 – 186)

READING: **"There are more Bibles in print today than ever before, but the Bible on a shelf is worthless. Millions of believers are starving to death from spiritual malnutrition. One of the most important decisions you can make is to always ask, 'What does the Bible say?' when making decisions. Adopt the Apostle Paul's statement as your personal affirmation of faith: 'I believe everything that agrees with the Law and that is written in the Prophets.'" (Acts 24:14, NIV)** (*The Purpose Driven Life*, pages 186 – 187)

READING: **"It is not enough just to believe the Bible; we must fill our minds with it. Daily Bible reading will help you to hear what God has to say to you. No other habit can do more to transform your life and make you more like Jesus. As we spend more time in His Word, we are 'transformed into his likeness with ever – increasing glory.'" (2 Corinthians 3:18, NIV)** (*The Purpose Driven Life*, pages 186-187)

READING: **"Jesus said, 'Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.' (John 13:17, NIV) Jesus points out that God's blessing comes from obeying the truth, not just knowing it. We must become 'doers of the word.' (James 1:22 - KJV) As D.L. Moody once said, 'The Bible was not given to increase our knowledge but to change our lives.'" (The Purpose Driven Life, pages 191-192)**

PRAISE AND WORSHIP

"Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet"

"How Marvelous" HC#105

PRAYER TIME

Thank God for...

the truth of the Bible.

Ask God for...

a deeper understanding of the Bible

the desire to study Scripture

help to build our life on His truth

help to become like Jesus.

PASTORAL PRAYER



MESSAGE

"The B-I-B-L-E! Yes, That's the Book For Me (Spiritual Nutrition)"

PRAYER CHORUS/ALTAR CALL/JUNIOR SOLDIER RENEWAL

"Change My Heart, O God" HC#77

BENEDICTION

Readings and sermon notes taken and adapted from "Equipped for Battle" Worship Series week one.
Produced by The Salvation Army USA Central Territory, 2003.



SUGGESTED SERMON OUTLINE

"THE B-I-B-L-E! YES, THAT'S THE BOOK FOR ME (SPIRITUAL NUTRITION)"

SCRIPTURE VERSES

Exodus 16; Psalm 119:103; Jeremiah 15:16; Ezekiel 3:1; Matthew 4:4; Matthew 7:26; Hebrews 10:25; and 2 Peter 3:18.

THEME

One sermon per week is not enough to sustain spiritual life.

INTRODUCTION

We live in an age consumed by physical health. There are reality shows about nutrition and exercise. We can watch home shopping segments about the latest nutritional supplements. More and more fast food chains and restaurants are listing the calorie count of items on the menu. Nutrition and physical fitness are buzz words. But there is something even more important than physical nutrition.

Today we are going to look at the health of our spiritual lives. We will consider four things: the overall need for spiritual nutrition, the provision of spiritual food, how obedience factors in, and choosing appropriate nutrition for our needs.

1. NEED: WE NEED FOOD TO LIVE; OTHERWISE WE WOULD STARVE.

Our growing Junior Soldiers need food to sustain their growth. Do any of you have teenagers? Are they eating you out of house and home? Maybe some of us have fasted or gone without eating for a day. We know that after a while without food, we may get dizzy and have trouble concentrating. Spiritual nutrition is equally as necessary to our spiritual life as eating good food every day is to our physical health. Listen to these Scriptures:

"When your words came: I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight." (Jeremiah 15:16)

"How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" (Psalm 119:103)

"And he said to me, 'Son of man, eat what is before you, eat this scroll; then go and speak to the house of Israel.'" (Ezekiel 3:1)

"Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" (Matthew 4:4)

If we neglect the Word of God, we put ourselves in danger of spiritual



starvation. In the same way that we need food to live, we need the Word of God each and every day. Let's take a look at God's dealings with the Israelites for some principles.

2. PROVISION: GOD PROVIDES EXACTLY WHAT WE NEED AS WE NEED IT.

Exodus 16 tells us about God's provision for the Israelites. They have recently been freed from slavery in Egypt under Pharaoh. They have crossed the Red Sea, watching the miracle before them of its parting as well as the miracle of it returning to its original state to drown the enemy. They have also already experienced the miracle of bitter water turning sweet by the addition of a piece of wood.

And yet, here they are—grumbling once again. Verse 2 tells us, "In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron." They were hungry! So hungry, in fact, that they said to Moses, "If only we had died by the Lord's hand in Egypt! ...but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death" (verse 3). And, once again, God steps in. Their attitudes don't prevent Him from providing. He rains down manna and quail for His people, complete with instructions. And that brings us to our next principle about spiritual nutrition: obedience.

3. OBEDIENCE: WE NEED TO BE OBEDIENT IN HANDLING WHAT GOD PROVIDES FOR US.

If you overeat, what happens? The bottom line is, you are not healthy. Perhaps you have a special treat at home, like maybe your favorite special dessert. You take a nibble, then a bigger bite, then...oh my! Is the whole thing really gone?! Most likely your tummy didn't feel so good in the end. In the same way that there are principles to healthy eating, the same is true for spiritual nutrition. We are not intended to "hoard." It's not a matter of spiritual overeating being a possibility. After all, is it possible to read your Bible too much? I don't think so. But there are those folks who go to church every Sunday (maybe even morning and night); they do three Bible studies per week; they listen to Christian radio and watch preachers on TV. In other words, their spiritual plate is full and overflowing. But they take all that in and never use it; they don't live out the truths of what they are learning.

Matthew 7:26 tells us, "But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his home on sand."

God's instructions to the Israelites in Exodus 16 said this: "The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day (vs. 5).... Everyone is to gather as much as they need (vs. 16)." Moses clarified that no one should keep any of the manna until morning (vs. 19). "However, some of



them paid no attention to Moses; they kept part of it until morning, but it was full of maggots and began to smell” (vs. 20).

They were trying to overeat. They were gathering all of their food in one effort, saving some for the next day. It didn’t work. In fact, it backfired, attracting maggots! Coming to church on Sunday, filling up, and taking home the lessons to last you all week is not sufficient spiritual nutrition. The truths learned will go stale if you’re not living it out, seeking more food for each day, and applying it regularly.

The opposite problem exists as well: undereating. Undereating happens when a person doesn’t consume enough calories to keep up with what is being burned. Spiritual undereating can be seen in people who “work hard for God,” but don’t get enough spiritual calories. They are so busy working for the Lord that they neglect their daily Bible reading or are too tired to focus on the messages they sit through. Spiritual undereating leads to burn out, self-pity and often bitterness.

The Israelites were commanded to gather the manna each day for six days, then gather enough on the sixth day to last them for two days. This allowed for a Sabbath rest on the seventh day. “Nevertheless, some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather it, but they found none” (verse 27). God was providing a way to not burn more calories than were consumed, allowing them to rest and to keep His day holy.

Seeing their actions, God said to Moses in verse 28, “How long will you refuse to keep my commands and my instructions?” Proper spiritual nutrition comes from listening and following God’s instructions; it comes out of obedience.

4. CHOOSING APPROPRIATE NUTRITION: BABY FOOD IS GOOD FOR BABIES BUT INADEQUATE FOR HEALTHY ADULTS.

“Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it may you grow up in your salvation.” (1 Peter 2:2)

I’ve heard of people tasting baby food chocolate pudding—not bad. I’ve also heard of people tasting baby food green beans—not so good. I doubt any of us would want to live only eating baby food. We need something more solid; we need something we can chew on. Of course, babies don’t have teeth yet. Even if we liked it, a diet of baby food would not be healthy in the long run for our growth. It doesn’t have the right balance of nutrients that folks other than babies need. That’s why it’s called baby food.

What are some spiritual baby food items for kids and adults? Well, maybe reading a book with a Christian theme rather than reading the Bible. Or solely using devotional books all of the time and never opening the Bible. Devotional books are better than nothing, but they are often only one or



two verses with a little story to go along with them. They are okay for a snack, but hardly a main meal!

Sermons provide sustenance, but in one sense, they can be a bit like baby food. Who benefits most from a sermon? The preacher! He or she wrestles for hours with God's Word to establish exactly what it is saying. The preacher understands best what is being preached. Do you really want to live off of only what is being fed to you, rather than feeding yourself?

I'm not suggesting that you give up listening to sermons! But do you want that to be your whole diet? Or even the majority of it? All comparisons, even Biblical comparisons, breakdown at some point. Of course, preaching has its place—a very important place. And, all of us need to come to church every week and be ready to get all we can out of the sermon, our Junior Soldier lesson, our Sunday school class... and the list continues. I am not implying that mature believers have no need for gathering together for worship – or for preaching!

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25)

Coming together regularly for worship, fellowship and instruction is far more important than some of us realize. But when the sermon is the major—or even the only—"meal" of the week, then there is a problem! We are not going to grow. And God's Word tells us in 2 Peter 3:18 to "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

CONCLUSION

Although we live in a society that tells us to pay attention to our diet and our physical health—things that are important—it is of eternal importance that we pay attention to our spiritual health.

We see from the example of the Israelites and manna that God wants to give us daily bread. We need it to live. He provides it. We need to be obedient and choose the appropriate spiritual food to meet our needs of growing in Him. I encourage you to feast daily on God's precious, holy Word.

And, in growing daily here on Earth, we have the hope of God's promise of sitting at His banquet table, feasting with Him in paradise!

This morning, let's take a moment to renew our promises to the Lord. Junior Soldiers, your Promise is up on the screen. If you are older and were a Junior Soldier when you were a kid, the Promise you signed is one for a lifetime. Adults, even if you were never a Junior Soldier, this Promise has important guidelines for you. Let's all renew our commitment to be spiritually nourished.



SAMPLE ENROLLMENT CEREMONY

Place an open Bible on the Holiness Table. Fold a small Salvation Army flag and lay it across the Bible. Place a tall white candle near the Bible. Position a small white candle for each Junior Soldier being enrolled around the Bible and tall white candle.

(At some time prior to the meeting, meet with the Junior Soldiers to have them sign their Junior Soldier certificates and talk about the Promise they are making. Frame their certificates for presentation.)

OFFICER: Today is an important day as you say to everyone here that you love Jesus Christ and you want to follow Him. You want to grow as one of His children. You will be doing that by becoming a Junior Soldier.

JUNIOR SOLDIERS: I do.

OFFICER: You desire to become a Junior Soldier in The Salvation Army. As a Junior Soldier, will you be faithful, loyal to God and to The Salvation Army?

JUNIOR SOLDIERS: I will.

OFFICER: Do you promise to pray, to read your Bible, and live a life that is clean in thought, word, and deed?

JUNIOR SOLDIERS: I do.

OFFICER: Do you promise to live in such a way that others will want to know Christ better?

JUNIOR SOLDIERS: I do.

OFFICER: As you live out every day the things you're going to say in your Junior Soldier Promise, you're doing as Jesus commanded. He said, "Let your light so shine before all men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven."

I am going to ask you to take this candle (show a small candle) and light it from the tall candle that represents Christ, the Light of the world. As you light your candle please remember that the only way you can show God's light and love to others is if you have God's light in your life.



This light is but a flicker now, but as you live out your Junior Soldier Promise and learn more about God and His love, your light will grow stronger and brighter.

(After the Junior Soldiers have lit their candles, have them repeat their Junior Soldier Promise with you.)

On behalf of General André Cox of The Salvation Army, I accept you as Junior Soldiers of the (name of corps) Corps and welcome you into the fellowship of Salvationists. I present you with this signed statement of your Declaration of Faith. May God bless you and help you to be good, true and faithful.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Our Heavenly Father, we thank You that children are given a place in Your kingdom. We thank You that they are loved and that they have value and purpose. We pray Your blessing upon these Junior Soldiers who have entered the Christian fellowship. Help them to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Give them the guidance of Your Spirit and grace to live as Christians—through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

