

Introduction



Welcome to the Junior Soldier Training Course. This is a great resource for discipling children in the 8 to 11 age group who have already decided to become followers of Christ.

In this manual you will find 20 sessions you can use at any time and in any order. Use the contents page to help you plan your program for the next six months. Don't forget those events that will cut into your group time e.g. school holidays, corps and divisional events, etc. A few of the sessions have been written as a series which can be used consecutively and others stand alone. You will need to be aware of this when working out how many of the sessions you can fit into a six month block and which ones are most suitable for your group.

There are seven other manuals in the Junior Soldier Training Course that make up a four year balanced curriculum with a spread of Christian teaching and belief, Salvation Army doctrine, history and practices and various issues that Junior Soldiers face in their daily life. You should have a copy of the *HELPS* manual on hand which sets out the full curriculum and explains more about Junior Soldiers – the preparation material, enrolling Junior Soldiers, prayer pals, the challenge tasks for award work and Junior Soldier Renewal Day.

The teaching material is broken up into several sections in each session. The sessions are designed to take approximately 60 minutes including time for worship and completing challenge tasks so you need to carefully plan and prepare.

You will notice that ideas for worship are not listed in every session, but opportunity should be made for Junior Soldiers to participate in worship as part of their weekly meeting. Junior Soldier Sergeants and leaders are free to incorporate worship where applicable in their weekly meetings.

FOR THE LEADER

In this section there are ideas and information which are not intended to be used directly with the Junior Soldiers but which will help in your preparation. The background will increase your knowledge and thinking about the topic.


Aim

The **aim** is about the development of the Junior Soldiers and how they can grow as Christians and Salvationists. The **outcomes** are included and are designed to facilitate behavioural changes and encourage the Junior Soldiers to think about the impact of Christianity in every aspect of their daily lives.

Bible Base

This **Bible Base** gives some of the Bible passages that support the session aim. These should be read in your preparation time and thought about in terms of the overall aim. They generally

occur in the session material for the Junior Soldiers. The Good News version of the Bible is used unless otherwise stated.



Today at a glance

This table at the beginning of the session reminds you of the preparation you will need to do beforehand as well as the suggested timing of each segment. It will also serve as a reminder for the **challenge tasks**.

PROGRAM



Tuning in

This activity starts the Junior Soldiers thinking about the main idea. The activity should help both in capturing the interest of the Junior Soldiers and in setting the scene. Be clear about the purpose and make sure the activity keeps with the aim of the session. The purpose of the activity is found in bold type at the end of this segment.



The main thing

The main teaching is contained in this section and is approached in many different ways in various sessions. The activity sheets are usually incorporated into this part of the session.



Tying it in

This section reminds every leader that Junior Soldiership is about everyday living and not just learning facts. All leaders should make sure that the Junior Soldiers in their group go away thinking about the challenge the session has presented for their own lives.