

16

The General Down To Me



FOR THE LEADER

Aim

To remind the Junior Soldiers that every Salvationist from the General to the youngest Junior Soldier serves God in the same Army. As a result of this session the Junior Soldiers will:

- learn about the role of the General;
- learn about some of the previous Generals;
- realise that every Salvationist serves God.

Bible Base

2 Thessalonians 1:11 - 12

Ephesians 4:11 - 13

When The Salvation Army was legally constituted, the General became the sole director of the work and the sole trustee of Army property for life with the power of nominating his successor. In 1912, Bramwell Booth succeeded to the Generalship having been named in a sealed envelope left by his father but by 1929, when Bramwell was old and ill, it was obvious that another method of choosing a General had to be found. Thus, the first High Council of senior Army leaders met and elected Edward Higgins as General. Since then, every General has been elected and has served for a set term until retirement.

The High Council is made up of all active Commissioners (the highest appointed rank) and certain territorial commanders of lesser rank. They meet in London for the sole purpose of electing an international leader. The council is not a legislative body. It is however free to manage its own affairs and settle its own procedure, providing certain legal requirements are fulfilled. Each member has the right to choose a nominee, who is given the opportunity of accepting or declining nomination. Voting on accepted nominations then follows, until one candidate has a two thirds majority. Usually more than one ballot has to be taken. The final act of the High Council is for the General-elect to sign the Deed of Acceptance, after which the President dissolves the council.

When the General takes office, he/she directs Salvation Army operations around the world through the administrative departments of International Headquarters. The Chief of the Staff, a Commissioner appointed by the General to be the second in command, is the Army's chief executive whose function is to implement the General's policy decisions and effect liaison between all departments facilitating the integration of their work.

The General is guided in his/her decision making by the General's Consultative Council which conducts study and research on a wide range of matters affecting the Movement's many activities.

Each holder of this responsible position is supported by the prayers and sympathetic concern

of thousands of Salvationists throughout the world, many of whom never meet the General, although he/she travels extensively to encourage the forces during his/her term.

Today at a glance

Section	Timing	What you need
Tuning in • Hangman game.	5 - 8 mins	➤ Board/chart or large piece of paper to write on for hangman game.
The main thing • Our Army. • What the General does. • The first General. • Other Generals. • A fighting Army.	5 mins 5 mins 1 mins 10 - 15 mins 5 mins	➤ Pictures and biographies from Leader's Kit 7:16 (1 - 3).
Tying it in • Activity sheets.	5 mins 10 mins	➤ Scissors, coloured pencils/pens. ➤ Copies of activity sheets 7:16 (1) or (2) for each Junior Soldiers. Copy the Bronze/Silver activity sheet on to light card. ➤ Interactive CD-Rom.

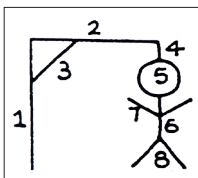


PROGRAM

Tuning in (5 - 8 mins)

Play 'hangman'. Have a board ready for each team to draw the picture as wrong guesses are made.

A dash for each letter is placed on the board:



The clue for the first one is 'Someone important in the Army'. Divide Junior Soldiers into two teams so all can participate. First member of Team 1 calls out a letter. If the letter is in the words, write it in all the correct dashes. If not, draw the first part of the picture. First member of Team 2 then has a turn. Another picture should be drawn for them. When all the letters are in place, the team 'least hung' has won. (*The answer is 'Every Junior Soldier'.*)

Remind the Junior Soldiers that every soldier, junior or senior, is important and has a part to play. If there is time, a second turn can be played.

The clue for the second one is every soldier from 'the General to me' has to have this.

(The answer is 'responsibility'.)

Every soldier and adherent, as followers of Jesus, has a responsibility to serve God. This includes the Army's world wide leader – the General – and every Junior Soldier. In this session we are going to look at the job of the General.

The main thing (26 - 31 mins)

Our Army

The Salvation Army has one world leader who holds the rank of General. Ask the Junior Soldiers to imagine what it would be like if everyone in the Army was a General! (Everyone would try to give orders about what was to be done!)

Now imagine what it would be like if no one gave any instructions at all and everyone did whatever they wanted. What would happen? (Or you could allow the Junior Soldiers to role play a situation like this.)

Our Army is not like that. Each member has a part to play. One leader of The Salvation Army is chosen to be the world wide leader of the Army or 'General' at a special set of meetings called the High Council.

What the General does

The General is the spiritual leader of the Army all over the world and he/she asks Salvationists from around the world to pray for special needs, uniting them in their requests.

The General encourages Salvationists all over the world by visiting different countries and leading meetings where people can think about and worship God. In this way the General meets with the leaders of the countries and talks to them about the Army and prays with them.

It is the General's job to work out who will be in charge of the Army's work in different countries around the world.

The General is also the head of many departments of the Army deciding how people can best be helped to know about God, and how the money from rich countries can best be used to assist countries that don't have as much.

The first General

The first General of The Salvation Army was William Booth. He is called the Founder and he stayed as General from the beginning of the Army until 1912 when he died at the age of 83. Everyone knew that he was in charge and his officers and soldiers were happy to do what he said because he had such good ideas and because it was obvious that God had given him a special power to lead.

Other Generals

When the Founder died, his son Bramwell took over and now we have another General. Do you know his name? (Shaw Clifton) Do you know in which country he was born? (United Kingdom – Northern Ireland) Whom did he replace? (John Larsson)

Generals have come from Canada, Sweden, Finland, the United Kingdom, the USA and two from Australia. Two Generals have been women – Evangeline Booth, daughter of the Founder, who became General in 1934 and Eva Burrows, from Australia, who was our General from 1986 to 1993.

Use Leader's Kit 7:16 (1), (2) and (3) to tell the stories of the three Generals. Divide your group into three to visit the three different areas and listen to the stories about the Generals. (George Carpenter, John Larsson, Shaw Clifton.)

A fighting Army

It is important to have a General in charge of the whole Army and officers in charge of each country, division or corps but it is also important that all the soldiers do their part. The General and our Corps Officer cannot do it all. We need to remember that we also have a responsibility to do our part to serve God. Ask the Junior Soldiers to think of ways they can help the General and the Corps Officer.



Tying it in (15 mins)

There are over 2 million soldiers in the Army and you might think it does not matter much if one small Junior Soldier leaves all the work to others, but it really matters a great deal. Think what it would be like if everyone left it all to someone else. You may not be able to preach but have you ever thought about how you can help in your corps?

Being friendly and co-operative to your leaders and friends is another way you can join in. Yes, there's a job in the Army for everyone from the General to me!

(Have the Junior Soldiers complete their activity sheets.)

Use the Interactive CD-Rom. *(Click on the screen on the main church to hear William Booth speaking.)*

(Click on the mailboxes and look in Jessica's mailbox.)

From the General Down To Me

It is important that all soldiers ask God to guide our Army leaders.

This is a bookmark you could decorate, sign and send to a leader.

Or you could write a letter from your whole group to post to a leader.

The E-mail address for I.H.Q. is IHQ-TheGeneral@salvationarmy.org

As you come to a missing letter, write it in and then place it as a large capital in the box.

An important Salvationist livin ___ in London is

in charg ___ of all The Salvation Army work

i ___ the whole world.

___ very day he has important decisions to make.

He visits many different count ___ ies.

He ___ Iso talks to state leaders as he visits their countries.

He needs al ___ good soldiers to pray for him.

My Prayer
for you.

This is why we
always pray
for you.

We ask our God
to make you
worthy of
the life he
has called you
to live.

(2 Thessalonians 1:11)

From Junior Soldier

Corps.

From the General Down To Me

This is a picture of the General's epaulette.

(The edge, crest and bar should

be gold, if you want

to make it

more

accurate.)



(The words

'The

Salvation

Army'

on the

cap or hat

are also

in gold.)

The General

needs to:

(tick those you think are right)

- be hard working
- speak English
- preach well
- travel long distances
- be used to being in charge
- trust God for help
- meet people in a friendly way
- understand the internet
- pray for all the soldiers

Look at the list below. Put a tick alongside the things Junior Soldiers can do. Draw a star alongside things the General can do. Put a star and a tick alongside things both the General and Junior Soldier can do.

- Lead worship for large numbers of Salvationists.
- Pray for people.
- Smile at people as they come to the meeting.
- Act in ways that please parents.
- Travel to different countries encouraging Salvationists.
- Be friendly to other children in the corps.
- Direct The Salvation Army's work around the world.
- Keep promises to love and serve God.
- Read the Bible regularly.
- Help to keep the hall tidy.

Use 2 Thessalonians 1:11 to write a prayer, placing the General's name into the verse.

That is why we always pray for you, General.
We ask our God to _____