CHAPTER SEVEN –

'I will uphold the sanctity of marriage and of family life'

We were made for life together.

From the very beginning, God's desire has been for us to flourish in relationship with him and with other people.

As part of the family of God, our identity is grounded in Christ. We are all valuable. We are all equal.

And this truth should define how we treat one another.

As Christians, we consider marriage a divine gift. An expression of mutual love, enriching and empowering each partner and diminishing neither. A reflection of God's love for humanity and the
self-giving love between Christ and the Church. A sharing of life. A willingness to serve one another in love, to forgive and be forgiven, to grow together. A relationship lived in the presence of God. A foundation for nurturing others.

Marriage is a covenant and a calling. And not a calling for everyone.

Against a background where Judaism viewed singleness as a sign of God's disapproval, Jesus taught that the single life was to be respected and considered equally honourable with married life in the Christian church.

Whether married or single, above all, our relationships and our family life should be defined by consent, respect and sacrificial, Christ-like love.

God's love is intimate and invested. It is constant and covenantal. It is dignifying rather than degrading. It does not use and abuse. It does not take advantage for a short-lived thrill. It is not rooted in selfish desire but in self-giving faithfulness.

The way we live our life, in marriage or singleness, can bear witness to all these things.

In a world where instant gratification, casual relationships and self-indulgence are encouraged, we are called to live differently.

We, the people of God, exist to point people to God.

Our lives can serve as the embodiment of God's best for humanity, a vision of freedom, honour, and dignity.

This week we are focusing on chapter seven of Called to be a Soldier and what flourishing relationships look like. Read with us. Contact your local Salvation Army to find out how you can access a copy of the book.

Find out more about the Called to be a Soldier resource and this focus at sar.my/calledfocus or follow the link in our bio.

Get in touch - tell us your story, share where God is at work in your life or how you are using Called to be a Soldier.
We are made for life together.

As followers of Jesus, we need partners for the journey, a community to help us along the way.

Jesus invites all who follow him to be a part of a new family. This family of God is not a social club or a group of friends who look, think, and talk similarly, but a community of apprentices following Jesus’ way of life.

Not a family defined by bloodline or last name. But by a Father. A shared story. A new way to be human.
At the dinner table. On the daily commute. In the quiet moments before bed.

There is no place off limits when it comes to talking about our faith.

Check out the 'Faith Talks' card game created by the Youth and Children's team at International Headquarters. This game encourages intergenerational conversations so that people of all ages can share their story, listen to and learn from each other and deepen their personal faith.

Most of the questions of this game aim for sharing personal experiences rather than knowledge.

🔗 Download the 'Faith Talks' game at sar.my/called or via the link in our bio
'We call Salvationists worldwide to restore the family to its central position in passing on the faith, to generate resources to help parents grow together in faithful love and to lead their children into wholeness, with hearts on fire for God and his mission'

- The International Spiritual Life Commission

Family should be a safe environment for everyone to grow and flourish. A place to nurture faith and a commitment to mission. To cultivate a heart of gratitude and live from a posture of praise.

This is not a reality for everyone.

But our church families can offer that safe space too. A community where everyone belongs, where healthy relationships can be formed and there is an opportunity for healing.