one army

{ THE BOOK } IN SERVICE
SAVED TO SERVE
There is no better example of a servant than Jesus. Most people don't choose to be a servant. Jesus did – and he embraced it wholeheartedly. He knew what a difference would be made to the world – to our lives – so he did it. The apostle Paul tells us that Jesus (God Almighty) made himself ‘nothing’, took the form of a servant and was ‘obedient to death’ – death on a cross (Philippians 2:7, 8). This was servant-hood supreme.

Some people – and religions – find the concept of God being a servant difficult to understand. Jesus didn't. He described himself as a servant while telling his disciples not to be full of their own importance. 'I am among you as one who serves,' he said (Luke 22:27). They found this lesson difficult to learn. They were not the only ones.

Through the centuries, countless leaders – including some calling themselves Christian – have used their authority and power for their own ends. Instead of being an example of serving God and their people, they have taught their people to serve them. They have exploited others' dedication and even bullied, ill-treated or killed in Christ's name. History provides us with many examples of people who called themselves followers of Christ, but who failed to live by his godly standards.

Jesus never used force to make people do what he said. He ‘called’ people, talked with them, invited and returned questions. The Gospels tell us he taught 'with authority' (Mark 1:27). It was an authority that came from his goodness, his authenticity – from who he was. It didn't come from status or position, from qualifications or passing examinations. And it didn't come from a forceful power base.

His authority wasn't lessened because he saw himself as a servant. In fact, his authority became stronger. Instead of giving orders from a distance, Jesus lived his life among the people – old, young, rich, poor, educated and those with limited capacity. He showed that he understood their thinking, their way of life, their hopes and trials. He came close to people, gave himself to them, spending time and energy on showing them the true, loving heart of God. It was something the religious leaders of the day were failing to do (Matthew 23:1-4).

He made himself ‘nothing’ in order that there would be no off-putting barriers between him and others. He ensured his importance or power didn't get in the way of people being able to approach him with their simple or far-reaching needs. It is an important lesson for his followers today.

Jesus kneeling to wash his disciples' feet is probably our best known illustration of his humility (John 13:1-5). It was also a lesson. Having completed the washing, he told his disciples to follow his example (v 15). For Jesus, being a servant wasn't an act or a show. It was the means by which he revealed his true self – his surrendered heart. It was a way of life – one of sacrifice and simplicity – yet also one that displayed leadership qualities that have never been equaled. Jesus elevated servant-hood to greatness (Luke 22:26) and invites us to do the same – by the way we live.

In discussion
1. Why is there no better example of servant-hood than Jesus?
   Philippians 2:5-11
2. Consider what it meant for Jesus to be ‘obedient to death’.
   Philippians 2:8; John 6:38-40; John 10:11-18
3. Discuss the concept of God being a servant. How does this translate in your culture?
   Luke 22:24-27; 2 Corinthians 8:9
4. Although Jesus called himself a servant, why was his spiritual authority not damaged or lessened?
   Mark 1:22; John 14:23, 24; John 13:13, 14; Mark 8:27-29

In prayer
Pray that the servant heart of Jesus will be yours too.
THE CONCEPT of serving God is prominent throughout the Bible. It begins in the Old Testament where the first of the Ten Commandments is direct and forthright in its instruction – ‘You shall have no other gods before me’ (Exodus 20:3). The second commandment follows by forbidding worship of any idols – or serving them (v 5). The Israelites were not to have divided loyalties.

When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness soon after his baptism, he referred back to the Old Testament. He countered the devil’s persuasive arguments each time with ‘It is written… ’ (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10). When encouraged to compromise divine authority, Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 6:13 – ‘… worship the Lord your God, and serve him only’ (Matthew 4:10). This was not a matter for debate! But what does it mean to serve God? What is involved? What are the implications?

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus returns to the subject of divided loyalties. ‘No-one can serve two masters,’ he says (Matthew 6:24). ‘Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money’. Each of us has to decide where our loyalties lie – are they with God or with our own self-interest?

What is often not understood is that God’s priorities are for us and are in our best interests. By choosing to serve him our lives become far more enriched than if we were to selfishly seek our own ends. To serve God, who is all goodness, is to invest in all that is for each other’s highest good. By serving him we are devoting our energies to making a better world, a community of love, a kingdom in which each looks and works for the welfare of others.

The Old Testament concept of serving God was centred on obedience. It was necessary to ensure that reverence for God was established within the nation. Allegiance to the one true God and adherence to his laws were essential for its foundations and identity. This same sense of full commitment to God is still foundational to any relationship with him. To assume a less than fully committed approach is to undermine the strength and security that comes with it.

Unfortunately, through the centuries and even today, some have interpreted serving God as destroying those who do not share their faith (John 16:2). They narrowly link God to their own culture. One religion rises up against another in the mistaken belief that getting rid of those they perceive to be God’s enemies is actually doing his will. Nothing could be further from the truth, especially for those who follow Jesus, who died forgiving those who had crucified him.

God prefers that any service we give comes of our own free will – as does his to us. Rivals competing for the allegiance we may promise God are constantly with us. They come in various forms. Some make money their god (as Jesus indicated). For others it may be simply a materialistic approach to life, or fanatically following a football team. It could be nationalistic pride – isolating those of different race or nationality. It could be the worship of a person – from celebrity to partner. These and other substitutes usually reflect the error of placing our own interests before God and frequently include not daring, or wanting, to trust ourselves to God’s will and purposes.

General Albert Orsborn wrote of ‘serving Christ my one desire’. It was a prayer. It must be a prayer if it is to become a reality. The only way to serve God worthily is to put his loving purposes first – and then see how other things fall into their place.

IN DISCUSSION
1. What does it mean to serve only God?
   Deuteronomy 6:13; Matthew 4:10
2. Why can’t we serve both God and money?
   Matthew 6:24; 1 Timothy 6:10; Mark 10:17-27
3. Identify distorted or mistaken ways in which people think they are serving God.
   Isaiah 1:13-17; Mark 10:13, 14; Matthew 7:21-23; Luke 9:51-56; Mark 9:38-40; John 16:2
4. Consider the line of the song, ‘serving Christ my one desire’. How can we achieve this?

IN PRAYER
Pray that your commitment to serving God will be worthy of his commitment to you.
THE CONCEPT of serving God has been prominent in The Salvation Army from its beginnings. Serving others in his name has also been an identifying feature of Salvationism through the years. The passion seen in William and Catherine Booth was overwhelmingly for others. The indignation shown by the youthful William, in Nottingham, when he felt the poor and disadvantaged were being disregarded by many churches, was typical of his outgoing concern.

The message of the two 'S's (in English) on the uniform indicates with simple emphasis that Salvationists are 'saved to serve'. Salvationists are not saved to arrange their life and local corps to suit their own needs. They are saved to share the grace of God with others – to serve them by every good means at their disposal. Salvation Army songs have reflected the spirit of service in every generation. They have placed service at the heart of who we are. They still do.

When Jesus – the Master – began to wash his disciples' feet (John 13:3-8) he was met by protests. Peter objected. It didn't seem right. A Master kneeling in service before his followers was not appropriate. It was counter-cultural. Yet, for Jesus, it was essential that those who would become leaders of the Church should understand that leading – according to Christ – involves serving.

Peter's protest, 'No, you shall never wash my feet' (v 8), may have come for a number of reasons. The disciples could well have been embarrassed that none of them had volunteered to undertake this much-needed, refreshing task. The Master's actions were making them feel ashamed. But the most significant aspect of Jesus washing their feet was most likely the strong message it had for the disciples' future. Following Jesus and preaching the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven was not a pathway to self-importance, acclamation and personal glory. Discipleship means service – those who are 'first' should embrace becoming 'last' for the greater good of all (Mark 9:35).

Sometime prior to this, Peter seemed to have been in denial about such counter-cultural principles. At Caesarea Philippi, where Jesus had indicated he was going to be rejected, suffer and be killed (Mark 8:31), Peter showed fierce opposition (v 32). A path of sacrifice was not what he had in mind. Then, in the Upper Room, confronted by his servant Master reasserting the place of servanthood, he was uncomfortable and again resisted receiving the clear, uncompromising message.

All over the globe, the concept of leaders choosing servanthood is still counter-cultural. In some cultures, especially where Christians are persecuted or regarded as of low status, embracing servanthood has special challenges. In other societies where 'the boss' must always be obeyed, or where any kindness is seen as weakness, servant leadership is often quietly avoided. Yet, for Christians, serving one another is an essential expression of the faith. It comes from understanding that the Master who knelt to meet his disciples' needs, values and loves each one of us far more than we can comprehend – more than even our greatest human companion or friend.

Later, after years of leadership, Peter is found urging his fellow-Christians to be 'eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you' (1 Peter 5:2, 3). He had learned the value of Jesus' example – and wants us all to learn it too.

IN DISCUSSION
1. Why is a Salvationist said to be 'saved to serve'? What does it mean? Mark 16:15; Matthew 9:36-38; Matthew 25:40; 1 Peter 4:8-10
2. Why do you think Peter objected to Jesus serving him? Would we have done the same? John 13:8-14
3. What reason does Paul give for serving others? Do we do and feel the same? 1 Corinthians 9:19
4. Which do you enjoy the most – serving or being served? Why? Philippians 2:1-4; Galatians 5:13

IN PRAYER
Ask God to help you receive with graciousness the service of others as you live to serve others too.
THE GOSPELS show that Jesus often used parables, illustrations and questions to make people think through the implications of his teaching. Parables provide different ways of looking at situations and for discovering truth. Many lessons can be found in one parable and, frequently, some of the lessons are not what we expect.

In Luke 17:7-10, Jesus gave an illustration of a servant working in a field for his master and he then asked a pointed question of his disciples. Would the master ‘thank the servant because he did what he was told to do?’ (v 9). Jesus did not wait for an answer on this occasion. He continued: ‘So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, “We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty,”’ (v 10). This teaching may have seemed a little harsh at first to some, but it was not unusual for Jesus to be asked by his disciples for favours and rewards. Their attitude needed changing.

In Matthew’s Gospel, we read the parable of the workers in the vineyard (20:1-16). It concerns men who had no work and who accepted the landowner’s offer to work for a day in his vineyard. Each agreed to receive a stated amount for their day’s work. During the course of the day, the landowner saw others in need of employment and they agreed to work for him too (vv 4-7). At the end of the day he paid everyone the same amount.

Continuing with the parable Jesus related that those who had worked the longest objected to receiving only the same amount as others who had worked a number of hours less. They thought this was unfair, but the landowner pointed out that they had received what had been agreed. Why would they expect more for simply doing their duty? What others received from him was not their concern.

Jesus used the parable to illustrate what the Kingdom of Heaven is like (v 1). None of us is worthy to belong. We belong only by the grace of God. If we then serve him faithfully, should we expect a bonus? Some are able to use gifts of music, writing, preaching, encouraging, healing or organising. Others are able to share from their wealth of money, or by the influence they have within society. If these gifts and abilities are used for God, should reward be expected? The answer is ‘no’.

There can be no greater privilege than being able to use the gifts and abilities God has given us in his service. When we accept that we are unworthy servants, and our desire to live for Jesus transcends all other ambitions, we won’t be concerned about reward. We will have found life’s best and richest blessing – being united in aim and purpose with God himself.
In the grounds at William Booth College, London, where cadets are trained for officership, there is a brick slab from the original training garrison with three words on it – ‘By love serve’. The words echo those of the apostle Paul, who, 2,000 years ago urged his fellow-Christians to ‘Serve one another in love’ (Galatians 5:13). Service is a hallmark of the Church – of The Salvation Army. May it always be so!

IN DISCUSSION
1. In what ways does Jesus – whose name is above every name – still serve us? How and why does he do it?
Hebrews 7:25; Philippians 4:5-7; Matthew 28:20; Matthew 7:7, 8
2. Compare a loving parent’s care for a child with God’s ongoing care for us.
Matthew 7:9-11; Isaiah 49:15
3. Consider the importance of remembering that Christ is Lord, and not taking his kindness for granted.
John 13:16
4. Serving one another in love is a great ideal. How can we ensure we do it?
Galatians 5:13

IN PRAYER
Jesus continues to serve our needs by his love. Pray he will help us all to ‘serve one another in love’.

IN SERVICE
JESUS STILL SERVES

DID JESUS stop caring about us after he ascended to Heaven? Did he leave us to our own devices? Has he stopped being interested in our development as people – our spiritual progress, the way we live our lives? The answer is overwhelmingly ‘no’.

Christians the world over testify to his daily presence in their lives; his guidance, strength and grace. He is still very much ‘God with us’.

Just before his crucifixion, when he told his disciples he was going away, Jesus promised them the presence of his Holy Spirit for the future (John 16:13), and his last recorded words to them in Matthew’s Gospel are, ‘I am with you always, to the very end of the age’ (28:20). Clearly, Jesus planned to play a part in our lives after his days living as a man on earth were over.

Even though Jesus was ‘exalted to the highest place’ and given ‘the name that is above every name’ (Philippians 2:9), by his Spirit he is still with, in and among us. The servant heart he revealed has not changed. It is God’s nature to want the highest good for each of his creatures. He is ever ready to help, whatever our need. So he is here – the King of kings, yet ready to serve, to meet our needs as only he can.

Sometimes he is with us through his people. As he lives in them, so he uses them for his loving purposes. This is why serving others is crucial to the Army’s effectiveness. At other times, through personal relationship with those who seek him, he meets needs according to each situation. He is companion, guide and friend (John 15:15). He intercedes with the Father on our behalf (Romans 8:34). He forgives, restores and renews. He is not removed, remote and unfeeling. He is here, ready to lift us up each time we need him.

Yet he is still Lord – and we must never forget it. We should not mistake his kindness or his graciousness, for weakness. In much the same way that parents meet the needs of their children, or teachers those of their students, so God gives himself to meeting our needs without relinquishing his authority. Shortly after telling his disciples they could be known as his friends (John 15:15), he gave them a command – ‘Love one another’ (v 17 ESV). The King of kings is still to be obeyed. Without such obedience any relationship with him becomes unworthy, unproductive, false and, ultimately, meaningless.

He is still to be served too. In the same discourse, Jesus reminded the disciples, A servant is not greater than his master’ (v 20). We are to continue following his example. However great our achievements, however clever, kind or good we become, we are never too important to serve others. In fact, the more we become like Jesus, through his presence in our lives, the more our actions will be like his and come from a servant’s heart.
CHRISTIANITY was introduced into ‘the land of the morning calm’ (Korea) as an instrument of national enlightenment. The early Korean church emphasised an indirect, educational and medical mission, together with a direct evangelical approach, to infiltrate the closed Confucian society. The setting up of educational and medical bodies at this time became the cornerstone of modernisation.

Currently Christianity is becoming the dominant religion, with around 20 per cent of the population Protestant and 10 per cent Catholic. The Church plays an important leading role in the social welfare ministry of serving and caring for those in need. More than 60 per cent of the social welfare organisations have been founded by the Christian Church.

The Salvation Army serves and cares for the underprivileged and needy ‘from cradle to grave’ in Korea. The Christmas Kettle Appeal is widely known as a symbol of social services and is featured in elementary school textbooks.

The Army’s ministry reaches out to marginalised people, including the growing population of multicultural families and even the people in North Korea. Furthermore, the service is stretched to neighbouring countries, bringing children with heart diseases from Mongolia, Cambodia and China to South Korea for necessary surgery. There are more than 250 children who now have a new life due to this programme, and these children and their families are becoming supporters of Salvation Army ministry in their home countries.

However, the Church in Korea has been experiencing stagnation since the start of the 21st century. Massive economic growth within a short period of time has resulted in secularisation, and the values of the Church have been seriously challenged. The social credibility of the Church is also being downgraded and there is a decline in spiritual vitality. Rather than being a mature and healthy Church serving God and others as light, salt and yeast, the influence of a culture of success, materialism and careerism is noticeable in the Church.

The faith and attitude of some mega-churches and leaders are being criticised due to their promotion of ‘prosperity theology’ and their desire for power and status. This is just like the way the mother of Zebedee’s sons asked Jesus, ‘Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and
the other at your left in your kingdom.’ (Matthew 20:21). This kind of aspiration of attaining secular success and blessings, living a life of being served rather than serving, is holding sway over the lives of many Christians, who previously humbly served God and others in order to follow the way of the Lord Jesus, the supreme Servant.

The teaching and principle of servant leadership in accordance with Scripture is familiar in the Church community. However, it is mainly theory-based and faces difficulty in practical application. Among many reasons, the Confucian style of leadership may be one explanation. The older generations are ingrained in Confucian values and culture which are based on authoritarian leadership and hierarchical structure. In contrast, the younger generations are educated democratically in a horizontal and egalitarian structure. This generation gap can create hindrances in communication where a leadership position determines the value of one’s opinion. Thus a direct expression of ideas or feelings against the older person may be perceived as lack of respect and may lead to confrontation or disagreement.

In a culture where obedience or submission is demanded, it is clear that there is a growing need for mutual communication and participation between any positions.

There needs to be consistent education and specific examples of humble leadership where one lifts up, shares, helps and serves, like Jesus. However, this is not an easy step due to the existing social structure; more practical examples of servant leadership will help to build a vital community with a shared vision for Salvationists as well.

**CULTURE IN CONTEXT:**

1. Materialism and the ambition to succeed career-wise can be a challenge to the Christian way of life. Discuss ways in which the right balance can be kept, with Jesus’ call to serve others not being neglected.
2. Share what you know about the development of Salvation Army social services in your country. How do non-Salvationists perceive The Salvation Army in this regard? How is the Army reaching out to marginalised people?
3. What is your experience of the relationship between those in leadership positions in the Army and the younger generation? How can positive relations be encouraged?
additional resources

The introductory discussion points, Bible readings and prayers help put the series into the context of each life and individual understanding. The Leader’s Manual has further suggestions as to how these opportunities for growth may be developed.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES FOR THE SERIES

BOOKS FOR THE SERIES
The Holy Bible
The Salvation Army Handbook of Doctrine, Salvation Books, IHQ
The Salvation Army in the Body of Christ: An Ecclesiological Statement, Salvation Books, IHQ
The Salvation Army Year Book, Salvation Books, IHQ
The Song Book of The Salvation Army, IHQ
Called to be God’s People – based on the Calls of the International Spiritual Life Commission, Salvation Books, IHQ
Samuel Logan Brengle: Heart for God, edited by Peter Farthing, Australia Eastern Territory
Holiness Unwrapped, Salvation Books, IHQ and Australia Eastern Territory
The Life and Ministry of William Booth, Roger J. Green, Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN, USA
Who are These Salvationists? An Analysis for the 21st Century, Shaw Clifton, Crest Books, The Salvation Army, Alexandria, VA, USA

Some of these books are available in a number of languages.

DVDs FOR THE SERIES
Called to be God’s People – based on the Calls of the International Spiritual Life Commission, Salvation Books, IHQ
Holiness Unwrapped, Australia Eastern Territory
Our People – The remarkable story of William and Catherine Booth and The Salvation Army, Australia Eastern Territory
Boundless Salvation, four-part series by John Cleary, Australia Southern Territory

REFERENCED RESOURCES FOR THIS UNIT

BOOKS FOR THIS UNIT
1. The book Servant Leadership, by Robert Street, takes up this theme. It has been translated into more than a dozen languages, and is a useful supplementary aid. It is available from IHQ and trade departments throughout the world. Servants Together, Salvation Books, also takes up this theme and amplifies on the lessons considered for this unit (e.g. ‘Servanthood’, p 134).
3. Servant Leadership, chapter 1, ‘Taking the very nature of a servant’.
5. Servant Leadership, chapter 2, ‘As one having authority’.
7. Called to be God’s People, ‘Call to our Life in the World’, p 65.
8. Song 522, ‘Saviour, if my feet have faltered’, in the 1986 edition of The Song Book of The Salvation Army.
9. When William Booth had room for only one word on his transatlantic telegram to Salvationists he chose the word ‘others’.
10. The Life and Ministry of William Booth, Roger J. Green, p 14, Abingdon Press.
11. To get more out of parables, see Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes, Kenneth E. Bailey, ‘Introduction to the parables’, pp 279-282, SPCK, London, UK.

What resources would you add? Let us know by emailing OneArmy@salvationarmy.org or visit www.salvationarmy.org/onearmy/resources

@TSAOneArmy

This unit relates in part to doctrines 2, 4 and 9
IN SERVICE
Note to youth leaders
This material can be delivered in a single session. However, by using the additional resources listed at the end, or those recommended on the website, it can be extended over more sessions. We haven't included suggested timings because much will depend on the age, understanding and size of each group. For some of the activities in the series, advanced preparation and materials are required. See also the Leader’s Manual for other ideas that could be adapted.
**ICEBREAKER AND DISCUSSION STARTER**

**IN SERVICE**

**JESUS – SERVANT SUPREME**

There is no better example of a servant than Jesus. Most people don't choose to be a servant. Jesus did – and he embraced it wholeheartedly. He knew what a difference would be made to the world – to our lives – so he did it (see page 02 of the main book).

Try this activity with the other members of your group. Choose one person to be blindfolded. Now hide three objects around the room and challenge members three times to find the objects within 90 seconds.

The first time simply tell the blindfolded person that it is their job to find the objects on their own. They will undoubtedly fail.

The second time allow the group to shout instructions to guide the person to the objects. They may succeed within 90 seconds but it's very unlikely.

Finally, allow everyone in the group to help out, by not only calling instructions but also physically guiding the individual. This time it should be easy.

**NOW CONSIDER TWO OR THREE OF THESE QUESTIONS TOGETHER:**

- What difference does it make when people serve one another? Share some real-life examples of something you've experienced.
- Is serving others something you do naturally or does it take effort?
- Can you recall any examples from the Gospels about how Jesus served others? What can we learn from his actions?
WE ARE called to serve God. By choosing to serve him our lives become far more enriched than when we seek our own ends. By serving him we are devoting our energies to making a better world, a community of love, a kingdom in which each person looks and works for the welfare of others (see page 04 of the main book).

WRITE down the following verses of Scripture on a piece of paper and then cut them up, word by word. Now split into four groups, giving one cut up verse to each group. Try to rearrange them into the correct order within one minute.

‘As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD’ (Joshua 24:15).
‘Be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart’ (1 Samuel 12:24).

‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only’ (Matthew 4:10).
‘Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord’ (Romans 12:11).

NOW look again at the completed Bible verses together and discuss the following questions:

- What does it mean to serve God only?
- How can we do that faithfully?
- What other things might we be tempted into serving instead of God (see page 05 of the main book)? For example, what does Jesus mean in Matthew 6:24 about God and money?
- How does serving God affect the way we serve others?
- How does Jesus’ example, as explained by the apostle Paul in Philippians 2:5-11, give us a pattern of how we can serve God?
FROM the beginnings of The Salvation Army, William and Catherine Booth emphasised the need to serve others in Christ’s name. Salvationists are saved by God in order to serve others and share the grace of God in the world. It is an essential part of who we are (see page 06 of the main book).

**Activity**

**TALK TOGETHER** about simple and practical ways you can serve people in your community. Read and journal the story of Jesus washing the disciples’ feet in John 13:3-17. What does this inspire you to do?

**IN SERVICE SERVING OTHERS**

Here are a few suggestions, but it will be even better if you can think of something that fits your location and culture. Ensure your youth leaders are aware of your plans.

- Get some rubbish bags and protective gloves and clear litter from a street or park nearby.
- Arrange visits to those in your community who are unable to leave their homes.
- Prepare a meal for someone who would otherwise go without.
- Speak to those living near where you meet and ask if there are any small practical jobs you can help them with.
- Take more responsibility at home for household tasks, such as cleaning and cooking.

**Think about** how this could become a regular part of your group activities and not simply a one-off exercise.

**IN SERVICE NOTES**

- **Talk together** about simple and practical ways you can serve people in your community. Read and journal the story of Jesus washing the disciples’ feet in John 13:3-17. What does this inspire you to do?
- **Get some rubbish bags and protective gloves and clear litter from a street or park nearby.**
- **Arrange visits to those in your community who are unable to leave their homes.**
- **Prepare a meal for someone who would otherwise go without.**
- **Speak to those living near where you meet and ask if there are any small practical jobs you can help them with.**
- **Take more responsibility at home for household tasks, such as cleaning and cooking.**

**Think about** how this could become a regular part of your group activities and not simply a one-off exercise.
FOR THOSE who embrace Jesus Christ, a lifetime of service in the Kingdom of Heaven awaits. None of us is worthy to belong. We belong only by the grace of God. There is no greater privilege than being able to use the gifts and abilities God has given us in his service (see page 08 of the main book).

PLACE A LARGE PIECE OF PAPER in the centre of your group. Go around the group one at a time and write down each person’s name. Add a quick drawing if you like. Now write down the gifts and abilities God has given each person. Allow the group to recognise the gifts in one another. When you have finished, take a look at all the words on the paper and ask yourselves: how do we use these gifts in serving in God’s Kingdom?

TAKE A MOMENT TO PRAY together, thanking God for his gifts and asking him to help you serve him with all he has given you. Plan how you will use your gifts.

Should we expect any reward for using gifts God has given us to use in his service?
BY HIS Spirit Jesus is still with, in and among us. The servant heart he revealed has not changed. Christians the world over testify to his daily presence in their lives, his guidance, strength and grace (see page 10 of the main book).

EXPLORE how Jesus serves you in your life. Have a number of objects related to the preparation, serving and clearing away of food placed in a bag (e.g. a utensil used in cooking, a cleaning cloth or a drinking vessel). Allow members of the group to take an item out of the bag and share for a moment how the object relates to how Jesus is serving them in their life and experience.

An example could go like this: 'This drinking vessel is filled with water for drinking. It reminds me that I can be filled with the water of life, refreshing me each moment of the day. I experienced this when....'
HOMEWORK
FURTHER BIBLE STUDY

HOMEWORK
Set yourself a task to be completed by the time your group meets again. Ask everyone to join in so that when you next meet you can all talk about it and find out how you got on. Decide on one of these two ideas:

1. Do some research on Salvationists who have excelled at serving others. See what you can find out about Mrs Elizabeth Cottrill, Commissioner Charles Pean or Commissioner (Dr) Harry Williams. Some resources available include:
   - The General Next to God, Richard Collier, page 122 (the reference to Elizabeth Cottrill) and pages 272-291 (the story of Charles Pean's prison work), Crest Books.

2. Each evening this week, spend five minutes reflecting on how you have served others that day. Write down the things that you’ve done and opportunities you’ve missed. Thank God for what has been achieved and ask God to prompt you into action tomorrow.
**HOMEWORK**

**FURTHER BIBLE STUDY**

**FURTHER BIBLE STUDY MATERIAL**
The Bible is full of challenge and advice on how to serve God and others. Read through some of these verses and think about how they might apply to your life:
- Joshua 22:5
- Matthew 23:11
- Matthew 25:35-40
- Mark 10:44, 45
- 1 Peter 4:10

**RECOMMENDED RESOURCES FOR THE SERIES**

**BOOKS**
The Bible
- The Salvation Army Year Book, Salvation Books, IHQ
- What and Why We Believe, Harry Dean, Salvation Books, IHQ
- From Generation to Generation, Robert and Janet Street, Salvation Books, IHQ
- The Life and Ministry of William Booth, Roger Green, Abingdon Press
- Never the Same Again, Shaw Clifton, Crest Books
- The Common People’s Gospel, Gunpei Yamamuro, Salvation Books, IHQ
- Holiness Unwrapped, Salvation Books, IHQ, Australia Eastern Territory
- Born Again In The Spirit, Kapela Ntoya, Salvation Books, IHQ

**DVD**
Our People – The Remarkable Story of William and Catherine Booth and The Salvation Army, Australia Eastern Territory

**THIS UNIT**
The General Next to God, Crest Books

**HAVE YOU LOOKED AT ...**
the 'In Culture' feature on pages 12-15 of the main book?

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

Check with your own territorial or command headquarters for youth resources to add to this list.

What resources would you add?
Let us know by emailing OneArmy@salvationarmy.org or visit www.salvationarmy.org/onearmy/resources

Don't forget that more ideas are in the Leader’s Manual.

Some books are available in different languages. Please ask.