



THE WARRIOR

HER VOICE, HIS VICTORY • EPHESIANS 6:10-18

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL 2025

SUNDAY, 5 OCTOBER 2025

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Sunday Program Resources

Written and developed by the International Social Justice Girls



Introduction

The International Social Justice Girls' Group has written resources to assist your corps or other ministry unit in the planning of and preparation for Sunday, 5 October 2025 – the Sunday on which Salvation Army locations around the world will be celebrating the International Day of the Girl. But you are more than welcome to celebrate the **International Day of the Girl** any Sunday in the month of October.

The programme connects to the theme of '**The Warrior: Her Voice, His Victory**', taken from Ephesians 6:10-18, with a focus on the Armour of God. Ideas on how to celebrate this theme in creative and interactive ways have been included, reminding us to put on the Armour of God at all times.

You are encouraged to invite girls and women in your corps to be participants in this programme.

We pray that these resources will be helpful tools as we celebrate this special day together in the month of October.

Happy International Day of the Girl!




MUSICAL RESOURCES

International Day of the Girl 2025



Contemporary Songs

- **'Warrior'** – Hannah Kerr
 - **'Stand in Your Love'** – Josh Baldwin
 - **'Battle Belongs'** – Phil Wickham
 - **'See a Victory'** – Elevation Worship
 - **'Who You Say I Am'** – Hillsong Worship
 - **'Brave'** – Moriah Peters
 - **'Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me'** – CityAlight
 - **'Whom Shall I Fear (God of Angel Armies)'** – Chris Tomlin
 - **'Defender'** – Francesca Battistelli and Steffany Gretzinger
 - **'Surrounded (Fight My Battles)'** – Michael W. Smith
 - **'O, Church Arise'** – Keith and Kristyn Getty
- 

Hymns

- 'Jesus Needs You'
- 'Christian Youth'
- 'Be Thou My Vision'
- 'Victory in Jesus'
- 'I'll Not Turn Back'
- 'In Christ Alone'
- 'Onward, Christian Soldiers'
- 'O, Church Arise'
- 'What a Friend We Have in Jesus'





SERMON OUTLINE

‘Wearing the Armour of God’

Written by Melanie Sanchez and Niamh Standley (Girl Advocates)

International Day of the Girl 2025

'WEARING THE ARMOUR OF GOD'

Scripture: 'A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.' (**Ephesians 6:10-18 NLT**)

(As an introduction to our theme, the speaker will share a video of a firewoman/man, policewoman/man, soldier, etc., preparing themselves for action. This video must be used as an example for us Christians, of getting ready to live every single day of this life for God.)

At the beginning of Ephesians 6:10, we are told to '**Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power**'. That is our starting point. We cannot fully use each piece of the armour of God if we are not receiving our strength directly from the Lord. Without being strong **IN** the Lord, it doesn't matter if we have the best equipment or the best armour because we will still be ineffective soldiers.

Belt of truth (v 14)

In Genesis, the devil tried to make Adam and Eve believe that God is not worthy of trust: 'Did God really say you must not eat the fruit...?' 'You won't die!' (**Genesis 3:1, 4 NLT**).

The devil is 'the father of lies' (John 8:44). His main goal is to cause people to doubt the truth of God's Word and make them believe that God lies to us.

That is why Paul tells us to put on '**the belt of truth**'. There are a lot of temptations coming from the father of lies for which we need to wear this belt of truth in order to stay firm in what God says about us. We need biblical knowledge so that 'we will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth' (**Ephesians 4:14 NLT**).

Stay firm in the truth of God, not following what the world says nowadays.

(The speaker should use some examples of what the world says versus what God says, **BASED ON THE BIBLE.**)

***Mary Magdalene* (John 20:11-18)**

Mary Magdalene was a devoted woman. She demonstrated the belt of truth by spreading the news of the Resurrection as a witness. Her faithfulness allowed her to spread the Truth, even if her testimony wasn't accredited at first because she was a woman. But she was a key figure in the turning point of Christian faith. God chose a faithful woman to proclaim to the disciples and the world about this life-changing event. Because of her faithfulness, she was able to freely share the Truth.

Body armour of God's righteousness (v 14)

The goal of this piece of the armour of God is to cover and protect the heart, lungs, intestines and other vital organs. By putting on the body armour of God's righteousness, we are covering every part where the devil can attack us (body, mind and will, emotions and feeling).

To put on the body armour means to live in constant obedience in every moment. The body armour is life in holiness. We cannot rely on our self-righteousness because it is useless. We need God's righteousness.

'And when you become a believer, when you become a Christian, you reach out your hand of faith, take hold of the hand of God through Jesus Christ. At that moment, the righteousness of Christ is imputed to you. God clothes you in the righteousness of Christ. God puts over you, as it were, a canopy of the absolute holiness of Jesus Christ.' (John MacArthur, 'The Breastplate of Righteousness' sermon)

For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News... (v 15)

Nowadays, shoes are extremely important to us. For example, we can't practise rugby, ballet or running without wearing the proper shoes – we need them.

In biblical times, shoes were vital for soldiers. They needed good shoes to walk through water, on stones and over hot ground, etc. A soldier who was hurt or whose feet were cut or swollen could not fight properly.

We need to wear shoes that allow us to do whatever needs to be done. The '**peace that comes from the Good News**' is the wonderful truth that in Christ we are at peace with God.

Now, we can walk with our spiritual shoes, firmly knowing that we are friends with God and that he is walking with us.

'What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us?' (**Romans 8:31 NLT**)

Shield of faith (v 16)

Paul says here that faith is trust in God. Leave all your weight before him.

This shield (*thureos*) protects the soldier from the enemy's arrows. Our shield protects us from the temptations from the devil.

(The speaker should list different temptations. Examples include doubt, fear and hate, etc.)

The goal of the 'fiery arrows' from the devil is to make us doubt until we abandon our trust in God. The only way to protect ourselves and 'stop the fiery arrows of the devil' is to take up our shield of faith.

'For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our FAITH.' (**1 John 5:4 NLT**)

'Every word of God proves true. He is a shield to all who come to him for protection. Do not add to his words, or he may rebuke you and expose you as a liar.' (**Proverbs 30:5-6 NLT**)

***Mary* (Luke 1:38)**

Mary, the mother of Jesus, used the shield of faith and gospel of peace throughout her life in the Bible. Most importantly, it was during the time of her finding out about and giving birth to the Son of God. She used the strength of her faith in God to say 'yes' to God's purpose for her in her life. Furthermore, in the face of trials that came during this period, she remained peaceful through her faith in God.

Salvation as your helmet (v 17)

It is obvious that the helmet was created to protect the heads of the soldiers. For us, the devil wants to attack and make us doubt our salvation IN CHRIST. The helmet of salvation is that great hope of final salvation which gives us full confidence and assurance that our present struggle with Satan will not last forever, and that in the end we will be victorious.' (**John MacArthur, Ephesians: The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, p439**)

'This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls...' (Hebrews 6:19 NLT)

***Esther* (Esther 4:16)**

Esther is the perfect example of a female warrior during the biblical period. She was a key figure in saving her kingdom, wearing the breastplate of righteousness and helmet of salvation by fighting for God's restored Kingdom rather than her own individual needs.

'Sword of the Spirit (v 17)

We are not talking about a sword created by humans, but a spiritual weapon whose origin is the Spirit. Our sword must always be available. Paul clearly says that our sword is God's Word.

The Bible is inerrant and infallible.

The Bible is complete.

The Bible affirms its full authority.

The Bible affirms it is effective.

The Bible is a source of joy.

The Bible is the source of spiritual growth.

God's Word is the main weapon to fight the devil.

Conclusion

Put on the armour of God. We need to understand that if we are not protected, we can easily fall prey to the destruction set by the devil. We need God and we need his armour.

'A final word: Be strong **IN THE LORD** and in his mighty power.' (Ephesians 6:10 NLT)

The Bible is clear: **IN THE LORD** and only with him we 'will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil' (v 11).

Put on the armour of God – not only on special days, but every day of your life.

Pray every day, in every moment and always. As a soldier, stay alert to the attacks of the enemy.

'Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.' (Ephesians 6:18 NLT)

THREE AREAS OF FOCUS

COMPASS: GLOBAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

As The General's Council (TGC), The Salvation Army International Trustee Company (SAITCo) and the General's Consultative Council (GCC) said, we need to equip ministry leaders building up the Body of Christ. Using the armour of God, we are empowering our soldiers and giving them tools to fight. It is extremely important 'because congregations should pursue holy living and biblical justice practices'. Only by knowing his Word are we able to pursue a holy life.

As noted previously, 'peace that comes from the Good News' is the wonderful truth that in Christ we are at peace with God. This is the news we need to spread all over the world: that's our mission. TGC, SAITCo and the GCC encourage us to remember that 'the call to every Christian is to be actively involved in the mission of God (*missio Dei*)'.

'Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth'. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'" **(Matthew 28:18-20 NLT)**

To finish, we will address the third area of focus in Compass: 'Establish an enduring legacy.' It is important to encourage our future generations to use the whole armour of God, then we will raise new believers who are confident in God. Through their confidence in God, the future generations will not be swayed by what the world says, but rather focus on what God says. We are building God's legacy in this world. Are you equipped with the armour of God? Are you at peace with God? As a warrior, are you ready to establish God's legacy and victory?



RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Written by Melanie Sanchez (Girl Advocate)
International Day of the Girl 2025

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: When I doubt the truth of the Bible...

Congregation: We remember that 'All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realise what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.' (2 Timothy 3:16 TLA)

Leader: When I doubt who I am in Christ...

Congregation: He reminds me that 'You are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.' (1 Peter 2:9 NLT)

Leader: When I doubt the promises of God for us...

Congregation: His Word is a constant reminder:

'For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!". And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory. It is God who enables us, along with you, to stand firm for Christ. He has commissioned us, and he has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first installment that guarantees everything he has promised us.' (2 Corinthians 1:20-22 NLT)

Leader: When I struggle to lay all my burdens before him...

Congregation: He tells me: 'Give your burdens to the Lord, and he will take care of you. He will not permit the godly to slip and fall.' (Psalm 55:22 NLT)

All: Amen.

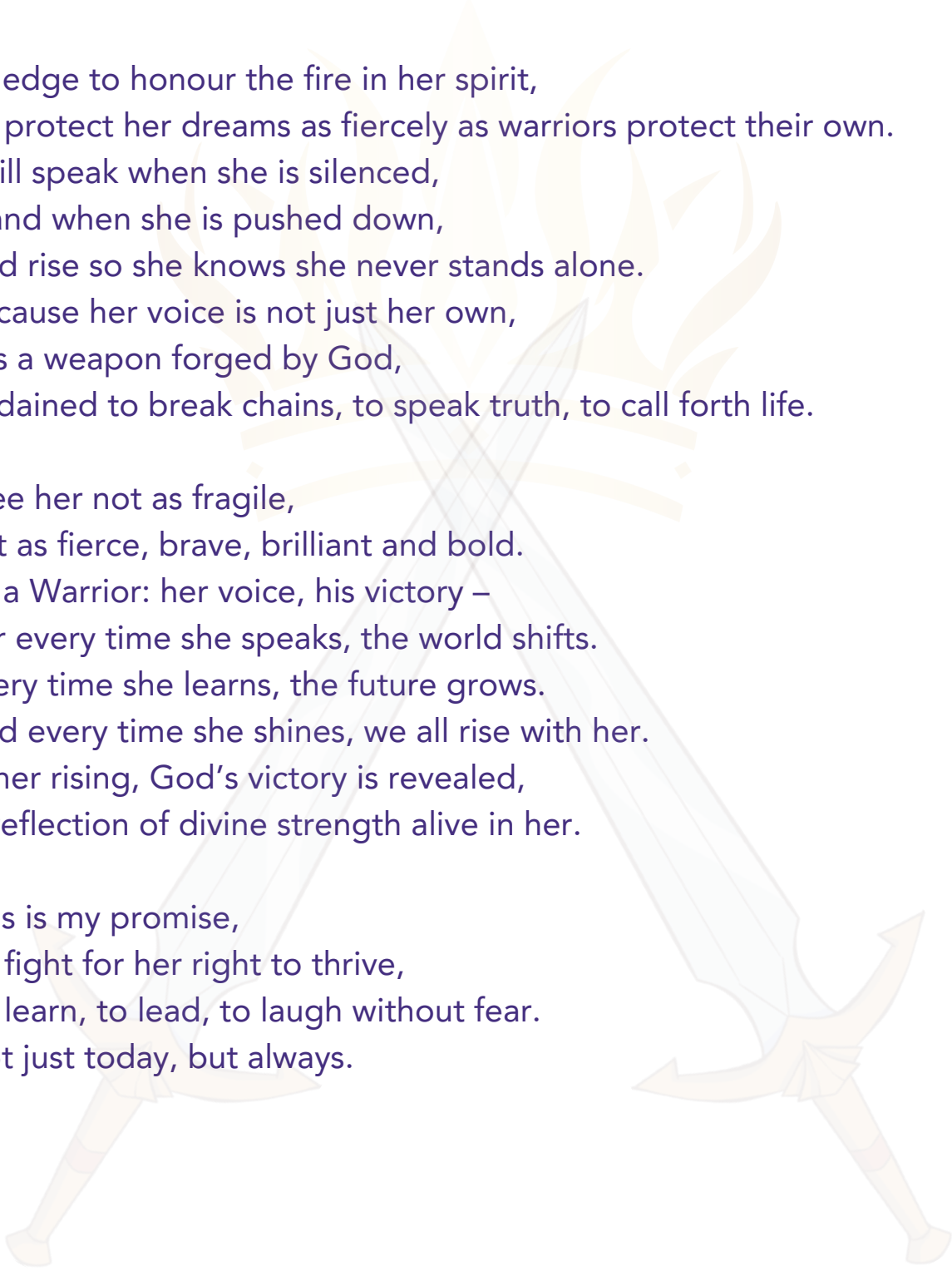


CORPS PLEDGE

Written by Vanessa Mafukidze (Girl Advocate)
International Day of the Girl 2025



CORPS PLEDGE



I pledge to honour the fire in her spirit,
To protect her dreams as fiercely as warriors protect their own.
I will speak when she is silenced,
Stand when she is pushed down,
And rise so she knows she never stands alone.
Because her voice is not just her own,
It is a weapon forged by God,
Ordained to break chains, to speak truth, to call forth life.

I see her not as fragile,
But as fierce, brave, brilliant and bold.
As a Warrior: her voice, his victory –
For every time she speaks, the world shifts.
Every time she learns, the future grows.
And every time she shines, we all rise with her.
In her rising, God's victory is revealed,
A reflection of divine strength alive in her.

This is my promise,
To fight for her right to thrive,
To learn, to lead, to laugh without fear.
Not just today, but always.



CORPS PRAYER

Written by Niamh Standley (Girl Advocate)
International Day of the Girl 2025



CORPS PRAYER

Father God,

We want to thank you for all the girls you created in your image. We praise you for giving each of them a purpose in your almighty plan.

We also thank you for the girls who have come before us and those who will come after us, continuing the mission to create a just world built on love and hope. We are grateful that you have made us warriors in proclaiming you.

We thank you for all the girls who constantly wear the armour of God and are warriors for the restoration of your Kingdom through their daily lives and their fight for justice.

But today, Lord, we want to bring before you all the girls who struggle, due to oppression and injustice, because of their gender. We ask for strength to continue restoring justice for all girls, and we pray that those facing injustice may be given strength and hope, reassured of your unconditional love for them.

We ask for patience when we are angered by the lack of recognition for faith warriors who are girls, in a world that we have constructed and filled with sin.

We also ask for forgiveness for the times we have failed to support struggling girls, and when we haven't challenged unjust behaviour. Forgive us, too, when we have let temptation take hold and failed to use the tools you equip us with to be warriors.

So today, Lord, please help us to continue to fight as warriors for all girls. May we spread your words of love and peace.

We ask this in your precious name.

Amen.



ARMOUR OF GOD

A six poem series written by Girl Advocates
International Day of the Girl 2025

'The Belt of Truth'

written by Cherise Holley (Girl Advocate)

I am the way,
the truth that will set you free.
So gird yourself with the belt of truth.
Wrap yourself in me
Said he:
The way,
The one who embodied the truth that
sets you free.

I know that truth isn't on-trend
That the fake, the overly polished,
The worldly, the pretend
Gets more clicks.

Yet we aren't told in Ephesians 6 to be
trendy,
But to get ready for battle.
To put on the armour fit for a spiritual
fight
To be strong in the Lord, and in his
might.
So stand strong then, with the belt of
truth buckled 'round your waist.

Because it's not just about you or me,
but all of creation being redeemed.
Set free.

For our battle is not against flesh and
blood
But against the rulers
Against the authorities
Against the powers of this dark world
Against the spiritual forces of evil in the
heavenly realms
Forces slain only with truth.

So prepare, mighty warrior, for battle.
Don't shy away from the purpose God
has made you for,
Don't play small.
Don't pander to the lies that the
enemy's told.

Gird yourself with every word that
comes from the mouth of the Most
High God.
Precious
Warrior
Sanctified
Redeemed

Because the world needs you and me,
Equipped for the fight.
A mighty army of light
Defeating darkness and lies.
Ever doing the right,
I'll fight,
I'll fight to the very end.

'The Shield of Faith'

written by Kayla Calvo and Major Kathleen Calvo

The armour of God,
the shield of faith
Protects us from the enemy's
blows,
Shields our mind, body and soul.

The armour of God,
the shield of faith,
His Truth is our guide,
With his Word by our side.

The armour of God,
the shield of faith,
A tiny mustard seed,
It's the bond that we need.

The armour of God,
the shield of faith,
The enemy to attack,
I will not move back.

The armour of God,
the shield of faith,
Together we band,
God's Army will stand!

The armour of God,
the shield of faith,
With the Spirit as our sword,
We march in accord.

The armour of God,
the shield of faith,
All day long, through the night in the
fight,
I will stand strong, led by faith not by
sight.

The armour of God,
the shield of faith,
With courage I stand, his Truth my
light,
A warrior girl, ready to fight.

The armour of God,
the shield of faith,
I rise unshaken, fierce and free,
The Holy Spirit is alive in me.

'The Shoes of Peace'

written by Simone Govender

Words erupted
Like lava ready to devour the bonds
of
My childhood.
An unanticipated assault
A dagger to the heart
How could one be so crude?

There, I laid in the vehemence of
Words spoken.
They poked at my flesh
Keeping wounds open.

As my eyes gazed upon the ashy
smoke
That lingered in the air,
Two nail-scarred hands
Held my feet that were bare.
Upon which he encased
Two sturdy sandals.
He lifted me up and
Walked me through the panhandle.

With each step I forgave the lies,
The hurt
The pain
That cut family ties.
My heart becomes lighter
As we tread through the pale storm.
The shoes crushed the vengeance
That lay forlorn.

'These shoes I give to you to spread
peace,
To trample upon serpents
Misery and grief,
Now go out, stand tall,
Forgive them who've cut the cord,
Share my gospel.'

– The Lion Roared

As I walked in the Shoes of Peace,
I felt the pain of yesterday being
released.

'The Helmet of Salvation'

written by Kendra Gitau (Girl Advocate)

The mind is a powerful weapon,
One that needs God's
protection.

What better way, as his creation,
Than wearing the helmet of
salvation?

Not only does it guard our mind,
It keeps the darkest fears
confined.

It blocks the lies the devil may
say,
Shielding us when skies turn
grey.

It's easy to believe the words,
The world throws at us like
swords.
We cling to voices loud and
cold,
Letting their shadows take hold.

We're told we're not enough,
That we'll never be tough.
We let the world define our
worth,
Forgetting our true place not on
this earth.

But putting on this helmet bright,
Fills our minds with truth and light.
It holds us firm when times get
rough,
Reminding us we're loved
enough.

In putting on this helmet, our
minds stay strong,
Protected by faith, where we truly
belong.
No fear or doubt can steal our
peace,
With God's salvation, our hope
won't cease!

'The Breastplate of Righteousness'

written by Diane Umucyo (Girl Advocate)

In this world, there's pain and fear,
But God's protection is always near.
He gives us armour, pure and bright,
The Breastplate of Righteousness,
shining light.

It's not made of steel, heavy and cold,
But God's own love, strong and bold.
It guards our hearts, it keeps us safe,
The Breastplate of Righteousness,
full of grace.

When doubts come close, when fear is near,
God's truth protects us, we have no fear.
We stand up tall, we know what's right,
The Breastplate of Righteousness
gives us light.

God's righteousness is our shield,
It helps us stand, it helps us yield.
It guards our hearts, our thoughts, our way,
And keeps us safe through every day.

This armour isn't from our own might,
It's God's own righteousness, pure and bright.
We wear it proudly, in his grace,
The Breastplate of Righteousness, our safe place.

It covers us when we feel weak,
It makes us strong when life's too bleak.
With God's protection, we stand tall,
The Breastplate of Righteousness
helps us through it all.

So wear it, friend, with all your heart,
The Breastplate of Righteousness, a holy start.
With God's own love, we stand so true,
His righteousness will see us through.

'The Sword of the Spirit'

written by Inez Rosario (Girl Advocate)

The letter **S**.

Sword, **S**pirit, **S**trength, **S**truggle.

The **S**word slices through **S**ilence, a
weapon not forged in flame

But in the breath of God within the
truth of his name.

I was gripped by different lies, too
hard to ignore,

'You're not enough' or 'You'll never
win'.

These were told from the shadows
and their words struck at my core.

But the Word strikes harder, every
verse as a victory and roar.

When temptation comes in, cloaked
in light,

I wield my sword not in pride, but in
need.

A whisper of Psalms, a flash through
grace

The **S**pirit moves when my soul
bleeds, his truth restoring yet leads.

When my faith felt frail, prayers
trembling off my lips

Like dust, the **S**word stood firm in my
shaking hands.

Not because I'm strong but because
he is just,

His word a fortress that I learnt to
trust.

So I train in the truth, daily and deeply

The **S**cripture not just carried but
carved in my heart.

I don't fight with fists but with the fire
of the **S**pirit,

For with the **S**word I make my stand
and start firm.

So, the letter **S** stands strong

As a **s**ymbol and a **s**word.

Spirit, **S**cripture, **S**trength, **S**alvation

I **s**peak, I **s**tand, I **s**trike – *solamente
con Dios*.



VIDEO SCRIPT

International Day of the Girl 2025



Reader 1

Across the world, girls are rising – strong in faith, bold in voice and rooted deeply in God’s purpose.

Each of us is part of a greater movement – a people called by God, commissioned for mission and entrusted with a legacy that will shape generations to come.

Reader 2

We are God’s warriors – not by our own power, but clothed in his righteousness and strengthened by his Spirit.


As Salvationists, we stand on the front line of God’s mission, ready to fight the good fight and bring hope to every corner of the earth.

Reader 1

‘Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.’ (Ephesians 6:10-18 NIV)

We fasten the belt of truth around our waists, living with honesty and integrity as children of the Most High.

The breastplate of righteousness guards our hearts, empowering us to walk faithfully in God’s ways.





Reader 2

With the shoes of peace on our feet, we are ready to share the gospel and bring God's peace into every community.

We lift the shield of faith, trusting that no weapon formed against us will prevail.

We wear the helmet of salvation, securing the hope of eternal life in our minds and hearts.

Reader 1

And we wield the sword of the Spirit – the living Word of God – shining light into darkness and cutting through every lie.

We pray without ceasing, standing united in Spirit, committed to the mission God has given us.

Reader 2

Together, as Salvation Army warriors, we are strong. Together, we advance God's mission with courage and conviction.

Together, we build a lasting legacy of faith and freedom.

This is our time.

To rise.

To speak.

To stand firm in God's truth.

Other Readers

I am a warrior.

Reader 1

My voice. His victory.

