

Junior Soldiers

Unit 7 : Lesson 5



The perfect match!

PURPOSE : For the children to explore and understand that The Salvation Army has a rich heritage of meeting people's physical needs as well as their spiritual needs and tackling social justice issues head-on. This lesson is to celebrate past achievements, specifically the impact the Army had on the match-making industry in Victorian England.

'Don't be jealous or proud, but be humble and consider others more important than yourselves. Care about them as much as you care about yourselves.'

Philippians 2:3-4 (CEV)

Consider & Prepare

Read:

Isaiah 58

Philippians 2:1-5

While this lesson falls within the 'Salvation Army' category it also has a strong social justice flavour and ties in well with the following lesson (Unit 7, Lesson 6) about child labour in cocoa plantations today.

Many Junior Soldiers are unaware of much of The Salvation Army's social work. The game in the 'Connecting In' section seeks to introduce some aspects of our social work, both past and present.

History can be dull and boring or it can be exciting and vibrant. It is essential for the leader to be familiar with the material so that this lesson can be presented in an interesting manner. Try to build a sense of drama—will the Army's endeavours succeed or fail?

The Salvation Army has a brief but rich heritage. We don't want to live in the past but it can teach us and inspire us for the present and into the future. History is dead if we don't learn everything we can from it!

Dates, as well as facts and figures have been kept to a minimum in this lesson but further information can be found from the following sources:

Social Evils the Army has Challenged by S. Carvosso Gauntlett (chapter 3)

The History of The Salvation Army Vol 3 by Robert Sandall (chapter 21, section 5)

The Shocking Story of Phosphorus by John Emsley (chapter 6)

You can also read about Army history on the international web site (click on 'About us' and then 'History') or at the Wikipedia page on the Army.

What you will need:

For 'Connecting In'

- Choose 8–10 scenarios from the list to use in your game
- A 'TRUE' and 'FALSE' sign

For 'The Main Thing'

- Bibles, preferably Contemporary English Version (e.g. *The Big Rescue Bible*)
- Whiteboard or sheets of butcher's paper with appropriate markers
- Pens, paper, textas or coloured pencils
- Printed copies of the photos or a projector or computer/iPad that you can show them on

For 'Tying In'

- Whiteboard or sheet of butcher's paper with appropriate markers
- Pens, paper, textas or pencils

For 'Home & Beyond'

- Print off Home & Beyond cards for each child
- You might like to give each child a 'glowstick' to take home to remind them of the dangerous situation that was changed by The Salvation Army's work in England



Connecting In

The Army at work...

For this game you will need to choose 8–10 of the following statements to use. Make sure that you have a mix of historical and present day examples. Historical examples are highlighted in bold. Feel free to add some of your own statements about the social work that The Salvation Army is involved in in your local area. It is important to make sure that you finish with statement 20 about the match factory. You will also need to label one side of the room as 'TRUE' and the other side of the room as 'FALSE'.

1. The Salvation Army has homes for elderly people who are no longer able to look after themselves.
2. **The founder of The Salvation Army, General William Booth, wrote a book about lots of problems in England and how to fix them called *In Darkest England and The Way Out*.**
3. Children from underprivileged families receive toys from The Salvation Army at Christmas.
4. **During the First World War, female Salvation Officers became known as 'doughnut girls' because they cooked doughnuts (donuts) for the American soldiers.**
5. The Salvation Army operates programs for people who are addicted to alcohol, other drugs and gambling.
6. **The Salvation Army once kidnapped a girl to show how laws needed to be changed to protect children.**
7. People who have lost contact with members of their family are often able to find them with the help of the Army's Family Tracing Service.
8. The Salvation Army used to operate maternity hospitals for unmarried mothers.
9. The Army has hostels where homeless people can get a bed for the night and a hot meal
10. **A Salvation Army officer invented a hand loom (weaving machine) to help people in India make material faster.**
11. The Salvation Army teaches people how to budget and better manage their money.
12. The Salvation Army stands up for suffering and underprivileged people.
13. **When affordable accommodation was hard to find, The Salvation Army opened motels called People's Palaces.**
14. Employment Plus is a service of the Army that helps unemployed people to find work.
15. During times of natural disaster such as floods and bushfires, the Salvos supply meals to displaced people as well as emergency workers (fire brigade, police, etc).

16. The Army used to have farms where boys were taught how to be farmers.
17. People who can't afford to buy food for themselves and their family can get assistance from The Salvation Army.
18. **The Salvation Army had a Prison Gate Brigade where officers would meet prisoners leaving jail and help them to lead honest lives.**
19. In some countries where the government doesn't operate schools, The Salvation Army does.
20. **In the late 1800s, the Salvation Army operated a match factory in England.**



- Label one side of the room 'True' and the other side 'False'.
- Explain to the children that they must listen to each statement as it is read out and decide whether it is true or false. They must then run to the correct side of the room.
- After each statement and the children have chosen which side of the room they are going to go to, ask one of the children from each side of the room why they think the statement is true and why they think it is false.
- After you have gone through all the statements let the children know that in actual fact, **all** of these statements are **true**.

Link: We have been playing a true and false game as we looked at some of the ways that The Salvation Army makes a difference in people's lives today and how they have also in the past. Today we are going to explore further how passionate those in The Salvation Army were to make a difference for people in a variety of ways, they truly love and care for others above themselves.

The Main Thing

Matches that made a difference...

For this section you will need a copy of the family making matches together (either printed or for the screen) and a whiteboard/butchers paper and appropriate markers. You will also need some paper and drawing implements for the children.

When we want light or heat today, all we need to do is simply turn on a switch, but this has not always been the case. When The Salvation Army started in the 1800s there was no electricity. People relied on candles or gas lamps for light and had fire places in their homes for heating. Even food was cooked on stoves that burnt wood or coal. All of these things needed to be lit with matches. Today we might only use matches a few times a year, to light a camp fire, birthday candles or perhaps a candle when the power goes out.

- I wonder when the last time you remember either you or someone in your family using a match.
- Think about how many times during a day you turn on a light switch and how often mum or dad might turn on the stove or oven and imagine how many matches people must have used each day before electricity.

In the early days of The Salvation Army, making matches was not a nice job. It was a job that poor people did and they were paid very low wages and this was based on how many matches or match boxes they made. Sometimes they even worked in extremely crowded factories, however, most of the time the whole family worked together at making matches and match boxes in their own home.

- Show attached picture of family working to make matches (use either a printed copy of the picture or show it on a computer or through a projector)

Imagine for a moment if you had to work from early in the morning until you went to bed at night.

- I wonder what sorts of things you would miss out on. (*Allow the children to think about their responses and come and write them on the whiteboard/butchers paper, e.g. playing, having fun with their friends, getting out in the sunshine, going to school, watching television, doing nothing, meals, sports etc.*)

Now you might think that it would be a good thing if you missed out on school BUT...if you couldn't go to school, you wouldn't be able to learn to read and write so when you grew up you would have great difficulty in getting a good job or perhaps a job at all. You might then have to do something like making matches and match boxes, just like your family had to do.

Another big problem with making matches in those days was the poisonous chemicals that were used. Matches were made by dipping small pieces of wood into white phosphorus. Because the workers were paid based on how many matches they made, they couldn't afford to stop for meals so they often ate as they worked. This meant that along the way they swallowed some of the phosphorus.

The factories were dark and stuffy, without good airflow, so the workers also breathed in the poisonous phosphorus.

Being around the phosphorus caused a disease called necrosis or 'phossy jaw'. One of the first symptoms was that their faces would glow in the dark! That sounds cool, doesn't it? But really it wasn't and then things would begin to get much more serious. Their faces would ache and their teeth would fall out. Eventually the victim died a slow and very painful death.

This was a really serious problem and one that The Salvation Army decided that they were going to do something about. I am going to share with you now what they did back in the 1890s to make a difference for so many people. While you listen to what they did, you can use the paper and drawing implements and choose one of the following:

- Design a match box for a match company called 'Lights in Darkest England', or
- Create a newspaper advertisement for 'Lights in Darkest England'.



When the Founder of The Salvation Army, General William Booth, heard about the conditions that the match and match box makers worked under, he sent some officers to investigate and check out the situation. They reported the poor working conditions and the dangers of 'phossy jaw', all for the sake of the match company owners making matches cheaper and, therefore, making more profits for themselves.

We shouldn't buy things just because they are cheap. We need to make sure that no-one was taken advantage of or put into unfair work circumstances to make the products for such a low price. As Christians, we should care for other people as well as ourselves. (*Read together Philippians 2:1-4 and stress verse four, in particular.*)

Jesus wants us to treat others as we would like to be treated, and to consider the interests and well-being of others. This is how Jesus lived, and in this passage in Philippians, Paul reminds us to imitate Christ.

In order to prove that matches could be produced without taking advantage of anyone or putting people in danger, The Salvation Army bought a building and set up a new style of factory. General William Booth, himself, opened this factory in May 1891. It was bright and airy—a comfortable place to work. The employees were paid a fair pay for a fair day's work and had time off for morning and afternoon tea as well as a lunch hour.

Most importantly, the factory only produced matches made without the dangerous white phosphorus that caused 'phossy jaw'. By introducing the safe red phosphorus, The Salvation Army revolutionized the match-making industry. When you use a match today with a 'red head', you can thank the Salvos for introducing the change.

The match factory was a great success and 'Lights in Darkest England', as the matches were called, became very popular. Advertisements appeared in The Salvation Army's magazine, *The War Cry* every week. Other newspapers offered The Salvation Army free advertising as well.

- Show pictures of match boxes, and advertisements (either printed copies or through a projector).

However, after a few years the sales of these matches began to drop. Someone tried to ruin The Salvation Army's work by bringing fake 'Lights in Darkest England' matches in from Sweden. Lots of people didn't want to pay the higher price for the Army's 'safety matches' and chose to buy cheaper matches, even though the people who made them were exposed to danger and not well paid either.



Again something had to be done! New machinery from the USA was added into the factory which meant the matches could be produced faster and more cheaply. An officer was put in charge of sales and advertising and another officer was put in charge of running the factory. Large batches of matches were sold direct to large institutions like hospitals, prisons and railway companies.

A special club called the 'British Match Consumers' League' was started and anyone who wanted to become a member had to promise only to buy matches made in Britain without white phosphorus. Groups of young boys sold boxes of matches on the streets. People wrote poems, songs and clever advertisements to promote The Salvation Army's matches.

Because lots of people did their bit, eventually the other match factories started to treat their employees fairly and the use of white phosphorus was made illegal. The Salvation Army then closed down its factory; it had achieved its goal; to make a change in the match industry with fair and safe conditions for their workers along with a fair rate of pay for their work.



Optional Extra Creative Activity...

You will need to supply the appropriate resources for the children if you choose to do this creative activity.

Imagine that you are living back in the 1890s when the Army had its match factory. Use your creative skills to do one of the following:

- Write a newspaper report about The Salvation Army's match factory.
- Write a poem, song or advertising jingle about The Salvation Army's safety matches.
- You could write or storyboard a drama about working in a match factory or The Salvation Army's matches, 'Lights in Darkest England'.

Tying In

Discussion...

There are still lots of problems in our world today not unlike the match production situation. We may think at times that the problems we see are too big for us and that there is not a lot that we can do to make a difference. There were a lot of people who played a role in changing the match industry all those years ago. It wasn't just done by one person and things did not change overnight.

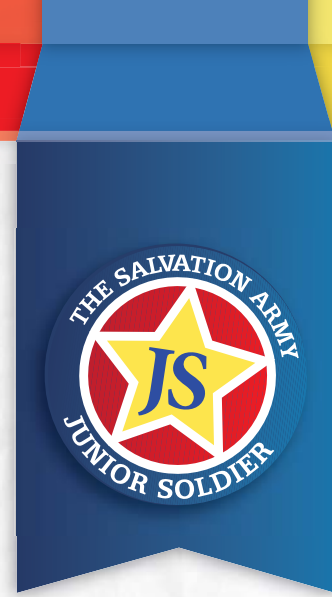
- Who were some of the people who helped to make a difference in this unfair situation?
- Write up the children's suggestions to the whiteboard/butchers paper and help them to think of some of the others below if they miss some of the people that contributed.

- **General William Booth** - Saw that people were not getting paid fairly and were getting really sick from their work
- **Salvation Army officers** - Investigated and reported on the situation in the factories
- **Scientists** - Invented 'safety matches' that did not use the poisonous white phosphorus
- **The Salvation Army** - Opened a new factory
- **Newspapers** - Gave The Salvation Army free advertising
- **Writers** - Created poems and clever advertisements to sell the matches
- **Small boys** - Sold boxes of matches in the streets
- **Housewives** - Paid extra to buy the 'safety matches'
- **Christians** - Prayed that God would help them to change this unfair situation
- **Politicians** - Made laws about changes in the factories
- **Businessmen** - Promised not to buy matches made with dangerous white phosphorus
- **Artists** - Drew cartoons and pictures that helped people see the changes that were needed

What do you notice about the list of people? (Allow some time for the children to observe and share their thoughts.)

Think about some people, places, businesses or situations that you know of that are unfair and show that others are not cared about. Can we share these and make a list of what some of them are?

- I wonder what you would like to see change in these situations. (*Allow the children some time to think about and share their responses—add them alongside their particular situation on the list that you have just made.*)
- If these are the unfair situations and the things that you would like to see change, I wonder what sorts of things you might be able to do to help support or make a difference to these issues. You might not be able to change the situation by yourself, but you may be able to play a part; prayer is always a powerful way of helping in these situations.



Read Matthew 12:9–14.

In Jesus' day, Jewish Law decreed that you couldn't do any work on the Sabbath (the day of worship), not even healing someone like Jesus did! But Jesus knew that was a silly law. He said to the Pharisees (who maintained and policed Jewish Law), 'So if a sheep fell into a hole on the Sabbath, you'd just leave it there until the next day because you couldn't work to pull it out on the Sabbath. How silly's that! Of course you'd help the sheep. Now a man is more important than a sheep, so shouldn't I help a man even though it's the Sabbath?'

- Does Jesus' argument make sense or has he got it all wrong?

Prayer Activity...

Let's pray, asking God to show us what we can do about the unfair situations we have looked at today:

Jesus, we can see that there are lots of situations in our world that we see and know are unfair.

These are some that we have been thinking about ... (*ask the children to volunteer to take turns reading out the 'unfair situations' that were listed.*)

We know from your scripture that you want us to care about all people and to do what we can to make our world a better place for everyone.

Please help us to be strong and brave people who do what we can to make a difference.

We want to love and care for others as we would want to be loved and cared for.

Amen.

In our next lesson we will explore a situation where people are being exploited and treated unfairly in our world today and how we can play our part in changing that situation.


Home & Beyond

Print off the 'Home & Beyond' cards attached. The children might like to keep these in their journals or notebook where they could write or stick the challenges, reflect, answer questions or complete activities each week.

Reflect...

For this Home & Beyond it would be good for you to reflect on some of the things we have talked about today. You might like to write or draw some of the things that God is saying to you as you think about how you can make a difference.

- I wonder how you are loving and caring for other's around you—is it in a fair or unfair way.
- Can you make a difference by the way you act, speak, think or treat others?
- I wonder if there is one thing you can do differently to help make things fairer for someone that you know.
- Choose one day this week and keep a tally of the number of times you switch on a light. Think about how many matches you would need to light this many lamps! I pray that this will help you to remember how The Salvation Army made a difference in a big way by everyone doing their part—I wonder what part you are going to play in making a difference for others.




Home & Beyond

Reflect...
 For this Home & Beyond it would be good for you to reflect on some of the things that we have talked about today. You might like to write or draw some of the things that God is saying to you as you think about caring for other's around you—is it in a fair or unfair way.


- I wonder how you are loving and caring for other's around you—
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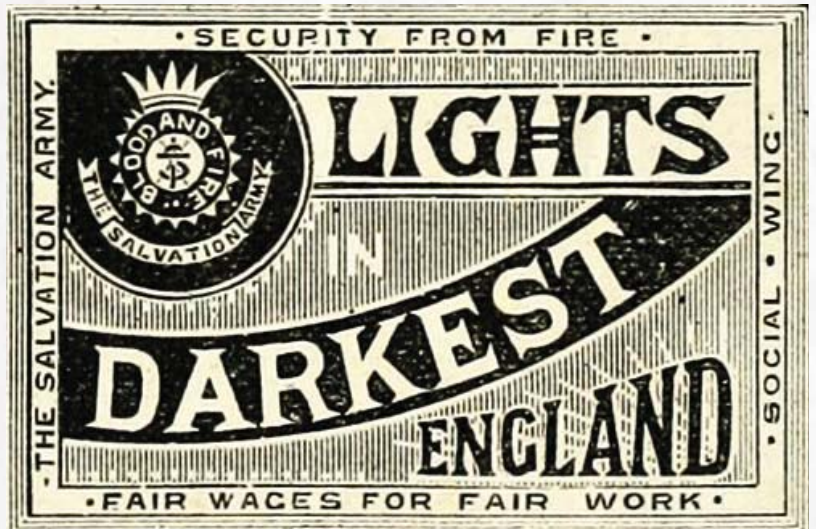
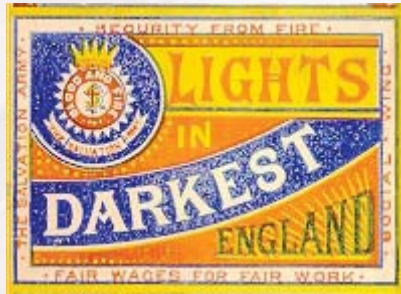
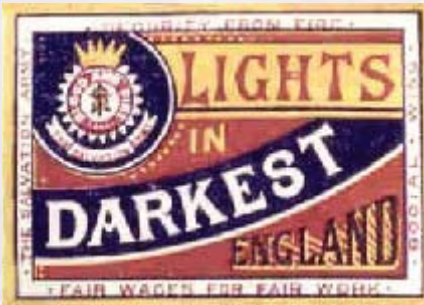
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"LIGHTS IN DARKEST ENGLAND."
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