



Sunbeams

Devotional Book

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SCRIPTURE: 2nd Timothy 2:15 (The Living Bible)

“Work hard so God can say to you, “Well done.” Be a good workman, one who does not need to be ashamed, when God examines your work.”

School isn't the only place where Sunbeams need to work hard. Maybe some work hard doing their chores at home. Others may work hard being a team player in community sports teams. What are some ways you can be a worker for God?

We all want to be told “well done”. Wouldn't it be so huge coming from God? As you continue working on these things, keep in mind that everything should be done in a good manner and with a kind heart. Be confident that God will one day tell you too, “Well done!”

As you work on earning your Achievement emblem, have this verse in mind and think about what it means to *work hard*. *“Work hard so God can say to you, “Well done.” Be a good workman, one who does not need to be ashamed, when God examines your work.”* II Timothy 2:15 (The Living Bible)

Take some time to learn the verse with a buddy. You can take turns by saying every other word then switching and then finally saying it together. Challenge each other to recite the verse by memory.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank you for giving us the chance to go to school and learn many things. Bless our principal and teachers. Help us to study hard and be good friends to the others in our classes. Amen.

Submitted by:
Krystina Macias
Christian Education Director for Outreach
USA Western Territory

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 2:1-5 (MSG)

“Good friend, take to heart what I’m telling you; collect my counsels and guard them with your life. Tune your ears to the world of Wisdom; set your heart on a life of Understanding. That’s right—if you make Insight your priority, and won’t take no for an answer, Searching for it like a prospector panning for gold, like an adventurer on a treasure hunt, Believe me, before you know it Fear-of-God will be yours; you’ll have come upon the Knowledge of God.”

As you have discovered from this emblem, being a good adventurer requires learning and knowing what you are up against. Have you ever found yourself in a situation where someone asked you about your relationship with God or being a Christian and you could not answer it? Take some time to write out your story.

It is not fun being unprepared. We need to search out the answers of what God wants us to do just, *“...like an adventurer on a treasure hunt,”* Proverbs says. As you go for your hike, look for things to bring back and show others as evidence of your adventure. Think about how you have been looking for things about God in the Bible or from a Sunday school teacher or your parents that you can share with others as well.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father God, thank you for teaching us about your wisdom and for allowing us to have it and use it at all times. Help us make insight a priority, so we can grow to have a life of understanding. Thank you for equipping us to be your adventurer girls.
Amen.

*Submitted by:
Envoy Felecia Pederson
Grants Pass
Cascade Division
USA Western Territory*

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1:1

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

God, the creator of the universe stirs up the creativity inside us through the wonders of his original masterpieces.

"He is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them – He remains faithful forever." – Psalm 146:6

Ever wonder how if someone tells a group of artists to draw an apple that each apple will be different? This is by unique design, God created each of us to have our own creativity, our own view and look on life and the things around us.

When God created, He followed it up by saying, "it is good." We can all look at our art and tend to compare it with someone else's creation. However, when we are being creative, in art or drawing, God wants us to create something unique, different, using our own minds and creativity he has put in us.

When God created the heavens and the earth, He still felt something was missing...us! So we were created in His image to fellowship with God. We are His masterpiece!

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the things he planned for us long ago." – Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

So next time you look at the differences in art, such as the artistic periods of Classic, Renaissance, Impressionist, and Modern Art or even how you see yourself; remember that each piece of art is unique because we are unique.

You are God's most valuable piece of art. He loves us so much that since the beginning of time He wanted to have fellowship with us!

CLOSING PRAYER

Thank you Lord for creating me in your image, for wanting to be in fellowship with me since the beginning of time, and for having a plan for me to do good works. Help me to recognize I am unique, created to be exactly who I am. Thank you for the works my hands can create through art. In Jesus' name, Amen.

*Submitted by:
Major Paula Wild
Territorial Youth Secretary
USA Western Territory*

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:28, 32 (NIV)

*"My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word.
I run in the path of your commands, for you have broadened my understanding."*

In the same way that we must exercise our bodies to become strong, we can become strong in obeying God by reading His word and exercising our ability to become more like Him. These verses remind us that paying attention to God's word helps us to know how to obey God's commands.

When people start an exercise routine whether at the gym or with a video series in their home the first thing they usually do is create a schedule of when they will exercise. One of the best times that God's word helps us to obey commands is when we find ourselves being tempted to sin. When we read the Bible and hide its words in our hearts we will become strong enough to what is right in God's eyes. When Jesus lived on earth he showed us how important God's word is in helping us keep His commands.

Take some time to read Luke 4:1-13

- What did Jesus say was the most important thing to do?
- What helped Jesus obey God when Satan kept trying to convince him to do wrong?
- What are some things that Satan may try to convince us to do that go against God's commands?
- How can God's word help you when you're tempted to sin?

If we commit to exercising by reading and studying Gods word, we will be strong enough to obey when Satan does tempt us!

CLOSING PRAYER

God, we are so grateful for the Bible. We thank you for revealing yourself to us through that book. Help us to become strong in obeying you. Give us the desire to read it every day. Help us to remember your commands. In Jesus' name, Amen.

*Submitted by:
Captain Nichole Lynn, ADYS
Kentucky/Tennessee Division
USA Southern Territory*

SCRIPTURE: Colossians 2:2, NLT

"I want them to be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love. I want them to have complete confidence that they understand God's mysterious plan, which is Christ himself."

Some of the best things in life can be our friends and family. When we are with them, we get to share in activities we all enjoy and laugh together. When we have friends and family, we know that we won't be sitting alone at lunch, be bored, and will be loved. However, they aren't meant to just be here for the good times. Sometimes, we need our friends and family members to teach us how to do new things, help us when we're feeling sad, or to stop us if we are making poor choices. It may be hard to be corrected or take advise from others when we disagree, but if our relationships are found in love, we can strengthen one another. When our relationships are with people who know and love Christ, they can continue to strengthen us and encourage us on a path of knowing him. We will never know everything about God or life, but with people surrounding us to encourage us to grow in him and discover more about him regularly, then we can be confident.

This is much like a basket. When building a basket, the goal is to create something that is strong enough to hold other objects. One reed on its own won't hold anything. Even two or three reeds won't be able to hold things, but when there are more reeds that join together and join together properly through weaving, the basket will be strong. You can be confident that a basket that was built with many reeds and built properly will hold the items you place in it. This is like your relationships with others when it comes to Christ. Build strong, healthy relationships with those who love and know Christ, and you can be confident that you will be filled with knowledge and understanding of who Christ is and what he can do in your life!

CLOSING PRAYER

God, we thank you for providing people in our lives who love us, are fun to be with, teach us, and help us grow. Help us to take direction from these people and to ask questions about you, so that we can grow in our understanding of you and your plan for our lives. We love you Lord. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

*Submitted by:
Heather St. Aime
Event & Project Manager
Territorial Youth Department
USA Western Territory*

SCRIPTURE: Romans 15:4, NIV

“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.”

Sometimes we go through life wishing that God would just talk to us. Like maybe if He just told us what was going to happen in certain situations or reminded us that He is there and listening, we might feel better. What if I told you that He actually does talk to you and He has inspired people to write this book we see so often called the Bible. In 2nd Timothy Paul states that “all scripture is God-breathed”, meaning that the truths we find in the Bible come directly from God. Although the different books were written by different people, we can trust that all inspiration to put the Bible together came from God.

Have you ever taken some time to read some stories in the Bible? What are some of your favorite stories? List three stories and why you like them.

1.

2.

3.

Although there are some areas of the Bible that do not make sense, know that understanding the Bible takes time. There are stories in the Bible that I have read tons of times and still today, I find something new about it that I didn't see before! If you are having trouble understanding, find a leader near you and talk about the passage together.

In times when you are feeling like God is not listening or responding, take a second to read some passages in the Bible and check out the great characteristics and love that God had for people and continues to have today for you.

CLOSING PRAYER

*Submitted by:
Krystina Macias
Christian Education Director for Outreach
Territorial Youth Department
USA Western Territory*

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 40:31 (NLT)

“But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.”

He's got the whole world in His hands, He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands, He's got the whole world in His hands!
He's got the itty, bitty, baby in His hands
He's got mamma and papa
He's got you and me, sister, in His hands

Can you name some birds that you have seen flying around? Think about all the different types of birds in this world, so many different colors, sizes, and sounds. Yet, each one created by God to be a special part of this world. Do you know that when a bird hatches from its egg, it has to struggle in order to have the strength to live and get out of the egg? And once they are free from the egg, they now can begin to grow, That is the same with us. There will be times in our lives when we will have struggles, and it is in those times that we also gain our strength in order to grow.

God understand that sometimes life will be hard for us, and he wants us to know that in those times when we are struggling. If we seek Him and trust Him with all of our hearts he will give us strength to get through our struggles. And just like the mighty Eagles who soar so High in the Sky we also will soar, and not grow tired and won't want to give up, but keep doing the things that God needs us to do in this world, so that all those who do not know him will find him through our faith and trust in Him.

So, let this study of Birds remind you of how special you are to the Lord. That you were created very special, very different, and for a purpose. And on those hard days, just turn to God and know that he will help you get through.

WRITE OUT YOUR PRAYER

*Capt. Regina Shull, DYS
Golden State Division
Western Territory*

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 148 (NIV)

*“Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights above.
Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts.
Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars.
Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.
Let them praise the name of the LORD, for at his command they were created,
and he established them forever and ever—he issued a decree that will never pass
away.*

*Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning
and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding, you mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars,*

*wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds, kings of the earth and all
nations, you princes and all rulers on earth, young men and women, old men and
children.*

*Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is
above the earth and the heavens.*

*And he has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his faithful servants, of Israel,
the people close to his heart. Praise the LORD.”*

Pretend you are a tree. Practice getting into a posture that would make you look like you are a tree. When you pretend to be a tree, what part of your body is the trunk? What about the branches or limbs? What part of your body do you use for those things? Now, what about the leaves? Which part do you use to represent leaves?

In God's Word, the Bible, we read about how God created the earth. All of the land and water and animals and trees and flowers and plants-- God created them all.

In Psalm 148 David writes about all creation giving God praise. But, how can a tree praise God?

To close, continue to pretend that you are a tree. As someone reads from Psalm 148, every time they say the word “praise,” or “praising,” or “praiseworthy,” wave your hands like leaves in the breeze so that you can praise God like a tree.

WRITE OUT YOUR PRAYER

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 49:15-16 (NCV)

"Can a woman forget the baby she nurses? Can she feel no kindness for the child to whom she gave birth? Even if she could forget her children, I will not forget you. I have written your name on my hand."

Where does the computer store information? Here's a clue- it processes information and writes that information to the hard drive and to its memory. Now, what does the computer memory do? Clue #2- the memory stores information temporarily so that you can run a program; sometimes several programs at one time. But what about the hard drive? Clue #3- information that is input into the computer is permanently etched on its hard drive.

How can we relate the computer, with its memory and hard drive to God and us?

Just as the computer processes information and stores it temporarily on its memory, so too we process information and keep things in our memory. However, it's temporary. We forget. But God is like the computer's hard drive. He does not forget. Once our names are written on God's heart it can never be erased. God will never forget your name; He has it written on His hand (hard drive).

What does that mean? It means that your name is very important to God. It says who you are. And, it means that you are very important to God. He will never forget you, because you are permanently etched on His hard drive.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we thank you that you know each one of us here so well. Thank you that you know each of our names and will never forget them. Amen.

CHORUS: He Knows my Name

*Submitted by:
Captain Beth Foster
Lawrence Corps
Major Marta Arocho
Casa De Luz
Massachusetts Division
USA Eastern Territory*

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 5:22-23

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

Did you know that a strawberry isn't an actual berry, but a banana is? You know, there is a tree called fruit salad tree that sprouts 3 to 7 different fruits in the same tree? Fruits and vegetables are essentials in cooking meals. They are the healthier side of cooking and if possible, should always be included. However, that is not always the case. I think we can all agree that some foods aren't very healthy but still yummy.

It is very important to take into account what all foods are cooked with. Some may be harmful for our bodies or can increase levels that should be taken care of. In order to be able to cook different meals we have to be prepared with a recipe, as well as have all of the utensils need to create it. Have you ever tried making something by following a recipe? What happens when you miss a step?

It is very necessary to follow what the recipe says to come close to a perfect end result. From being accurate to the measuring of something to timing how long it will be in oven, every detail is important.

In the recipe of being a good Christian, we can see these as being the outline. We need love to be able to share it with others. We need forbearance (patience) when we are told to wait a bit longer. We need goodness- just like kindness. We need faithfulness, even when others aren't faithful toward us. We need gentleness, to be avoid hurting other's feelings. All of these are possible to have- if only we pray and figure out ways to be just like the fruit salad tree but in our own lives!

Which of the fruits of the spirit do you have trouble having? Do not be discouraged. We all struggle with some of these, sometimes.

CLOSE IN PRAYER WITH A FRIEND

Submitted by:
Krystina Macias
Christian Education Director for Outreach
Territorial Youth Department
USA Western Territory

SCRIPTURE: 1Timothy 4:8 (ESV)

“For while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.”

If you ride your bike every day, your legs will get stronger and stronger. If you do push-ups every day, your arms and shoulders will get stronger. Did you know that the more you read, your memory will get stronger too? It's amazing! If you want your body to be strong, you have to exercise it every day.

The same goes for living a Christian life – a life that shows others that you love Jesus. How do you think you can make a Christian life stronger?

You can do this by believing in Jesus and reading His word, the Bible, every day! When you read the Bible, you learn how to be more and more like Him. That will give you strength to keep on living for Him every day of your life on earth, and for eternity!

We can exercise and be stronger in our bodies, but we can also exercise and be stronger in living like Jesus! When we do that, we know that it is good for you, me and the world!

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you for another day of life! We pray that you will help us to take care of our bodies and to strengthen our lives to live in a way that shows who you are. Help us to remember to read the Bible every day. We love you! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen!

Submitted by:
Captain Joanne Louangamath, ADYS
Cascade Division
USA Western Territory

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:11 (MSG)

"Friends, this world is not your home, so don't make yourselves cozy in it. Don't indulge your ego at the expense of your soul."

Every time we turn on our TV's we are bombarded with commercials. These advertisements -from restaurants especially - are aimed at trying to convince our appetites that what they have is so irresistible that we must have it now!

We may be faced with temptations that seem irresistible, but God promises these words for us:

"No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it"
1 Corinthians 10:13 (NIV).

In other words, when we are tempted, God will always give us a way out of that temptation. Isn't that great news for us?

We are all created with a special purpose for God's Kingdom. We matter to God! When temptations come our way, we have the choice to make the right decision. We have the power to say no to the temptation and choose God's way. It isn't always easy, but the reward of following God and His plan for us is worth it. He will always provide a way out!

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Lord, thank you for protecting us when we face temptations. Help us be strong enough to face them and make the right choice. We are so thankful for your Holy Spirit and power in these times. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

*Submitted by:
Capt. Shannon Thies, Corps Officer
Pekin IL, Heartland Division
USA Central Territory*

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 2:15, NIV

"The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."

In exploring the world and everything that is nature, we see God's artistic and amazing power. Everything was created so detailed and different. Some trees are tall and full-others are short and skinny. Some flowers are plump and red, others are dainty and white. We see in the book of Genesis, the story of creation and how God created everything. Not one thing was created without Him. Everything was good.

What are some things God created that were and continue to be good?

In Genesis 2:15, we see how God set Adam in the Garden of Eden to look after it. Isn't it crazy that God gave Adam such a big job in naming everything and watching over it? Adam had to make sure that plants and animals were surviving and living healthily. Adam's task though, eventually becomes all of our task. God has created us to continue that work and make sure we do not harm the Earth. We must learn about ecosystems, biodegradable products, organic products and toxic to be able to do that job in the best way.

What are some ways people can harm the Earth?

As you complete this badge, make it a goal to teach others of ways to take care of the Earth. No one wants to live on an Earth that is not kept well.

CLOSE IN PRAYER WITH A FRIEND

*Submitted by:
Krystina Macias
Christian Education Director for Outreach
Territorial Youth Department
USA Western Territory*

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 7:12

"Do to others as you would have them do to you."

When Jesus was preaching on the kingdom of heaven, he said to them,

"So in everything, do to others as you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."

Jesus then goes on to tell the story of the good Samaritan- a man who came across a Jewish man who had been robbed and left for dead on the side of the road. The story talks about several people walking past the man without helping him, even a minister! Finally, a Samaritan man saw him and stopped to help him. You see at that time, Jews and Samaritans did not get along. But what the Samaritan man did is exactly what God wants us to do with others. We should treat others with respect, with honesty, and with kindness!

Saying please and thank you show that you care for others and that you are respectful. Showing good manners and thinking of others is what God wants us to do. We all like to be treated nicely and we should treat others the same way we want to be treated. This is sometimes called, "The Golden Rule." We all have rules we should follow, God's rules include treating others with kindness and respect.

What if someone is not treating you with kindness? Unfortunately, there will always be some that don't follow the rules. When this happens, tell someone who can help. Don't get angry or do something unkind back. It is important to tell an adult so that something can be done right away. We all deserve respect and kindness so don't let anyone treat you unfairly.

CLOSING PRAYER

God help me to have good manners, to treat others the same way I like to be treated. Please be with those that don't follow the rules and help them to recognize they are doing wrong. It is not always easy to be kind, help me to think before I speak and to help others when I can. Amen.

*Submitted by:
Major Paula Wild
Territorial Youth Secretary
USA Western Territory*

SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:29-37 (NIV)

*“But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”
In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’
“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”
The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”
Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”*

In the Bible lesson, how was a man hurt?

- How many people in the lesson walked past the hurt man and pretended not to see him?
- Which man was the good neighbor?

There are many things that can hurt children. Sometimes children are hurt by evil people, like the robbers in the story Jesus told. Sometimes children are hurt because ordinary people do nothing to help them.

CLOSING PRAYER

God, thank you teaching us about loving and taking care of others. Although sometimes it is hard to love those that are not kind, we ask that you give us an extra measure of grace and love and to protect us in times where we can be the hurt man. In Jesus' name, Amen.

*Submitted By:
Jerrie Miller
Territorial Director of Character Building
USA Central Territory*

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:14, NIV

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden."

Being part of the Sunbeam group is such an awesome group to be a part of. As of now, you know that in order to be a Sunbeam, you have to learn and recite certain things. You have chosen to be dedicated to this group and to wear your uniform or sash proudly. You have been part of special ceremonies, maybe on a Sunday, where you are presented for your hard work and commitment. You go week to week, learning more stuff and earning more badges. But what comes next for a Sunbeam?

We all start off with being a Second Class Sunbeam for at least two months. Then we get to finally switch over to a First Class Sunbeam. Now, this isn't about who is better or who has been in the troop for longer. The main idea of being a Sunbeam, is you- yes you- are a light of the world. God has chosen you to be a town built on a hill that cannot be hidden. There is so much wrong in the world and sometimes, it is hard to hope for better. It is important that you remember that because you have God's love, you were placed in this world to shine that love to others- so they can experience and have what we have with him.

As you continue onto being a First Class Sunbeam, be encouraged to work on the badges that will push you to winning awards! Everyone should be celebrated for their hard work- but first the hard work must be done. In addition, don't be afraid to become more involved at your corps. It is important that we step into this family and be part of other programs such as Sunday School or Junior Church.

What is something you can do at your corps- besides Sunbeams- that will help you in this journey of being a follower of Jesus?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Don't give up- Do Right!

CLOSE IN PRAYER WITH A FRIEND

Submitted by:
Krystina Macias
Christian Education Director for Outreach
Territorial Youth Department
USA Western Territory

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:28-30

“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?”

God loves all of His creation, from the largest things to the smallest; the things that last a long time, and those things that are short term. Even the flowers we have studied, or those that we have planted and grown are important to God. If the flowers that are beautiful today but are gone tomorrow are important to Him, then how much more important are we to God?

What are some flowers that you are amazed by, that God has created? Take some time to draw those out below.

WRITE OUT YOUR PRAYER

*Submitted by:
Captain Nora McNeil
Salem North Shore
Massachusetts Division
USA Eastern Territory*

SCRIPTURE: Colossians 1:16

“For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.”

I love my dog, Padme. She is not too big nor too small. She's has golden long hair and loves attention and protecting my family and I. Sometimes she begs and barks too much. However, the best quality about Padme is her willingness to be loyal to those living in my home. When she sees someone outside the door, she is quick to make sure they are from around here. If someone is sad and crying, she lays next to them and sympathizes with them in their sadness. When someone is happy and playful, she is fully willing to play around and share in the joy. There is no one like her.

Have you ever had a pet that is/was your best friend? Share a bit about them below.

God requires us to take care of the animals of the Earth. We are to be friends to these animals, willing to help and protect them like they do for us. It is important that we are aware of medical attention for them as well as knowing where to take an animal in the case that they are stray. With the care and love of God, we can be sensitive to these animals that are normally pets.

If you have never been to an animal shelter in your community, I encourage you to do so. Take some time to play with these lonely stray animals, you will find that you too gain joy.

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Lord, thank you for creating all of the animals. In many ways, we can see these animals to be our friends and pets. Thank you for teaching us how to take care of them and make sure they have proper care. We pray that you protect all animals and that they are treated good in their habitats. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Submitted by:
Krystina Macias
Christian Education Director for Outreach
Territorial Youth Department
USA Western Territory

SCRIPTURE: John 15:13 (ESV)

“Greater love has no one than this; that someone lay down his life for his friends.”

Friends are so important. Not just because they are really fun and nice but because they help you in times of need. God wants us to make good choices and pick good friends. Hopefully, friends are going to be there your whole life. If it's one thing that won't fade, is a really good friend.

Good friends have your back and are there for you. They play around with you and comfort you when you are sad. A true friend is a friend no matter what is going on around you.

Write about a friend who has been there for you in happy times as well as sad times. Take some time to pray for them and thank them for what they've done for you.

Jesus is the perfect example of a friend. In fact, He is more than a friend because he willingly died on the cross for our sins. He is our best friend that will always be there for us and He is a friend we need to share with others.

WRITE OUT YOUR PRAYER & PICK A FRIEND TO PRAY FOR

*Submitted by:
Major Roy Wild
Territorial Youth Secretary
USA Western Territory*

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 127:3-4

“Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,
the fruit of the womb a reward.
Like arrows in the hand of a warrior
are the children of one's youth.”

Every family is different and unique. We grow up watching movies and TV shows that show this perfect image of a family, making it seem a little too hard to believe. We see the perfect family with their dog, the perfect house and everyone gathers around a table for breakfast, lunch and dinner. In reality, not every family is like that. Some live comfortably as a family and others struggle. One fact remains, no one will ever understand you like family will.

We are all children of our heritage, branching from families that go back for hundreds of years. How big is your family tree? Spend some time drawing it below.

Did you know that we are all part of a bigger family that belongs to God? No kidding! You are a child of God, created to be obedient as a daughter and receive the blessings that God has planned for your life. Those surrounding you can become brothers and sisters in Christ, linked to fellowship with one another and love others into joining the same family of God.

CLOSE IN PRAYER WITH A FRIEND

Submitted by:
Krystina Macias
Christian Education Director for Outreach
Territorial Youth Department
USA Western Territory

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 2:15

"The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it."

When God created Adam and Eve, he placed them in a garden called the Garden of Eden. He told them to take care of it. The garden would provide everything they needed to survive if they took care of it properly. God wanted Adam and Eve to take care of the garden and protect it so that it would continue to be productive not just for them but for future generations. This principle is called biblical stewardship. God gives us the ability to have things but we must take care of them, we should take pride in caring for the things we have.

Do you keep your room clean?

What happens when friends or someone comes over to visit and your room is very messy?

My mom would always tell me to clean my room but many times I did not want to. When my friends came over, I was happy that I listened to my mom and cleaned up! God uses the idea of sowing and reaping in the Bible. To sow seeds is to plant seeds and to reap is to enjoy the fruit of your labor. The time a farmer takes to plant their crops will determine how much return they get during harvest time.

We all have a responsibility to help care for the things God gives us. When we help around the house we are not only helping our families we are helping ourselves! Be proud of what you have, take good care of it. When we take good care of things, we appreciate them more and can recognize all that God has given us.

CLOSING PRAYER

God, help me to take good care of the things you have provided. Help me to recognize my responsibility to help around the house to keep things nice and tidy. Thank you for providing me with the things I need. Amen.

*Submitted by:
Major Paula Wild
Territorial Youth Secretary
USA Western Territory*

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Did you know that ants are the super weight lifters of the animal world? Even though they are one of the smallest insects/animals on the planet, they are the strongest. Ants are able to carry 10-50 times their weight. That may not seem to be a lot, but for humans, if we could do what ants do, that would mean we could lift three cars at once! Ants are so strong because they have a lot of muscles which give them a great deal of strength. Even elephants, as big as they are, are not as strong as ants.

Did you know that when we follow Jesus, we are a lot like ants? Our “spiritual muscles” are strengthened, and we have strength and power. Not the strength to pick up three cars at once, but the strength to help us to live like Jesus every day, doing what He wants us to do. Listen to what the Bible has to say about the strength and power we have when we are living for Jesus.

“Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’” Matthew 19:26 (NIV)

“...”Everything is possible for one who believes.”” Mark 9:23b (NIV)

“I can do all this through him who gives me strength.” Philippians 4:13 (NIV)

(Just before Jesus leaves this world to go to Heaven, He leaves the disciples with this promise) – *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8 (NIV)*

“...because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.” 1 John 4:4b (NIV)

All these verses are promises from God that He will give us strength and power to do great things when we live for Him and when we have a strong relationship with Him.

Unlike the ant, we don't have to carry heavy loads alone; we have someone there who will help us when we get tired and don't think we are strong enough. That someone is Jesus. God gives us strength and power and He also helps us every day to live for Him. This is His promise to each one of us.

CLOSE IN PRAYER WITH A FRIEND

Submitted by:

Captain Kati Chase

Jackson, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi Division

USA Southern Territory

SCRIPTURE: Philippians 2:14-15a

“Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, ‘children of God without fault.’”

Growing up, one of the things I hated doing was laundry. It seemed like the piles of clothes never ended. Doing chores is never fun but it is necessary. Sometimes I felt like if I grumbled or complained enough my mom would just do it for me. But, that never really happened. You see, it was a hard lesson I had to learn and my mom was helping me to recognize that our attitude has a lot to do with how we view things, even chores.

Our attitude is just as important as the responsibilities we have. Each piece of clothing has a care label that we should follow. If we don't follow the directions, we chance ruining the item we are washing. One of the most critical things with laundry is dealing with a stain! If we see a stain, we need to pre-treat it before we put it in the washing machine or we risk a permanent stain!

As Christians, we believe that when we sin, it causes a stain in our lives. We have the best solution, it's Jesus! Jesus tells us in 1 John 1:9,

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all wickedness.”

Just like the laundry, if we don't keep up with sins in our lives they can pile up and can become overwhelming. We all do things that cause stains in our lives, how we choose to handle them will help us clean up! Next time you are struggling with sin in your life, don't grumble about it, ask God to take care of it! No one can do the cleaning for us, we need to ask Jesus ourselves to cleanse us!

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for helping me to realize that we all have things in our life that we have to clean up. Help me not to grumble or complain about daily tasks but instead have a good attitude. Help me to confess my sins regularly so that they don't pile up. Thank you for forgiving me when I confess my sins and for cleansing me from all wickedness.

*Submitted by:
Major Paula Wild
Territorial Youth Secretary
Western Territory*

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 139:13-14 (NLT)

*"You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body
and knit me together in my mother's womb.
Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex!
Your workmanship is marvelous—and how well I know it."*

Don't you love to be crafty? To get all of your supplies together, and with your hands, to create a masterpiece? Whatever type of craft you're doing – scrapbooking, sewing, weaving - even leather lacing - you get to see the pieces become something new. According to the Bible, God is pretty crafty too!

God created some pretty spectacular things using just his voice, the stars, the mountains, the oceans. From the very beginning, He said, "Let there be light," and it happened! That's a powerful voice. Nearly everything in all creation was made, simply because God spoke it into being.

With you and me, God used a new technique. He used his hands. Genesis 3:7 (NLT) says, *"Then the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person."* We are a hands-on creation! A masterpiece made by a very crafty God! So when you look at yourself, may you remember that the very same God who created sunsets and flowers took great care in creating YOU. You are perfect just the way God made you!

Use the space below to draw out a few of God's creations.

CLOSE IN PRAYER WITH A FRIEND

*Submitted by:
Captain Jamie Spalding
Tulsa, Arkansas and Oklahoma Division
USA Southern Territory*

SCRIPTURE: Acts 10:34-35, NIV

“So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.”

American culture is so rich and full of diversity, which helps us learn what our country is all about. To live in America is to receive true freedom and to live in a place hundreds of people fight to get to. However, in order to be able to receive the perks of America the Beautiful, it is important that we look back at an area that is very key to the American culture: Native Americans.

In the learning of this emblem, you learned all about Native Americans and their way of life. You learned key things like:

- Where they came from...
- How they got the name “Indian” and “Native Americans”
- Who they were in the past and how they got their name

In the verse above, we see how Peter explains how fair and impartial God is. How cool is it that God loves all people? Even in the midst of civilization not being fully there yet, God was present, guiding Native Americans to our America today. Through their stories and lifestyle, we see a lot of what makes us American, today.

Be reminded that history is important and should be embraced. There is so much background to what we call home that is left for us to discover. Don’t leave it till November when it is time to eat tons of yummy food- discover America today.

WRITE OUT YOUR PRAYER

*Submitted by:
Krystina Macias
Christian Education Director for Outreach
Territorial Youth Department
USA Western Territory*

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 139: 13-14 (NIV)

*“For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and
wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.”*

Some of the best gifts are those that are homemade. I personally love hand-made gifts. Just knowing that someone loves me enough to take the time to create something just for me, makes me feel quite special. The cross stitch designs that my grandmother made and the scrapbooks (and many other crafts!) that my daughter has made are some of my most prized possessions.

Did you know that our heavenly Father is a crafter?

Psalm 33:15 says that God, “made [our] hearts, so He understands everything [we] do.” (NLT)

How does it make you feel to know that the Ultimate Crafter, Almighty God, fashioned your heart individually? You have a hand-made heart! God is such an amazing crafter that He doesn’t even have to spend countless hours toiling over the task.

Psalm 33:9 tells us, “For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.” (NIV)

If you are ever feeling less-than-special, pray these words based on Psalm 139:13-14 out loud, and take comfort as you allow the truth to settle into your heart and soul.

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Lord, we can be very critical of Your one-of-a-kind creations, us. Please forgive our lack of thanksgiving for all the beautiful things You hand-fashioned in us. We all know that we have flaws that need work, but nevertheless, we are fearfully and wonderfully made by the Master crafter – You. Polish and shape us into exactly who You had in mind when you knit us together in our mothers’ wombs. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

*Submitted by:
Cassie Hull
Youth Ministries Coordinator
Indiana Division
USA Central Territory*

SCRIPTURE: James 4:7 (CEV)

“Surrender to God! Resist the devil, and he will run from you.”

Sometimes, when you've been asked to watch little children, they might want to do things that they shouldn't, maybe things that their parents have instructed them not to do. But while you are watching over them they try to get away with doing those things. It is important that the little ones understand that their parents are not being mean to them, but that they want them to obey so that they don't get hurt or get into trouble.

In God's Word, in the book of Genesis, we hear the story of Adam and Eve. They were the first people that God created and they were His favorite creation. He loved them so much that He allowed them to live in Garden of Eden, filled with beautiful trees and wonderful fruit to eat. God gave them one important instruction, it was—

“You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden – except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die.” (Genesis 2:16b-17)

Adam and Eve lived freely in the garden, living the good life. One day a serpent came into the garden and tricked Eve into eating the fruit of the ONE tree God had instructed her not to eat. The serpent was very clever and he knew how to trick Eve. She ate some of the fruit and then convinced Adam to eat some as well. Within moments of them eating the fruit, their eyes were opened up to new feelings of shame and guilt. A bit later God walked through the garden and called out to Adam and Eve. God asked them,

“Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?”(Gen. 3:11)

God already knew that they had disobeyed Him and because of their disobedience, He allowed for them to now feel pain and have to work hard to eat and live. Lastly, God banished Adam and Eve from the garden. God didn't give them that instruction to be mean to them, but to protect them and love them. God continued to watch over Adam and Eve, even after they were out of the garden because of His great love for them both.

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Jesus, we thank you for our time together learning a little bit more about taking care of your little ones. Thank you for the lesson of Adam and Eve and help us to remember to be obedient to you and to never forget that you love us and care for us. Thank you once again for all that you provide for us, how you love us and how you gave us the Holy Spirit to comfort us. In Jesus name we pray – Amen!

*Submitted by:
Kristen Castillo
USA Eastern Territory*

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:105

"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."

Camping can be a lot of fun, if you have all the right equipment. I recently went on my first camping trip and with the help of others who had gone before, I was able to get all the necessary items like my tent, sleeping bag, pillow, flashlight, snacks, bug spray, sunscreen, etc. When we arrived we had to prepare the area our tent was going to be placed. We made sure the ground was clear of rocks and twigs and was fairly even ground.

During the evening time when the fire was dimming, we were very glad to have our flashlights! It reminded me of the scripture of Psalm 119,

"God's word is a lamp for my feet and light on my path."

Without the flashlight, it would have been impossible for me to know where I was going in the dark of the night. Without the light guiding me, I could have fallen into a ditch or even worse, into the creek! I could have run into trees or stepped in mud. Even worse, I could have gotten lost! I can't imagine going to a campout without a flashlight!

Why would God tell us his word is a lamp? Scripture tells us that there are people who walk in darkness, some who walk in sinful ways. If we put our trust and faith in God, He will direct our path and help us to avoid darkness in our life,

"because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven, to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace." – Luke 1:78-79

Part of being prepared for what life has for us is to be in God's word. His word, the Bible, gives us the things we need in life. One of my favorite things about camping is the evening and morning sounds of nature, all the sounds that we miss in the busy noise of our normal day. The sounds of morning are very different when we campout, instead of the sounds of alarm clocks we hear birds chirping, wind blowing in the trees, and can feel the freshness of the morning dew. God's word brings us the same refreshment when we start our day in his word.

CLOSING PRAYER

Thank you Lord for providing us the guide we need through your word. When we feel darkness in our life and need direction, help us to look to your word as our light. As we experience God's creation, nature and goodness, help us to remember when we stumble or fall, your Word guides us back to the right path and keeps us there! Amen.

*Submitted by:
Major Paula Wild
Territorial Youth Secretary
USA Western Territory*

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 9:13 (NIV)

"I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth."

Symbols serve many purposes. Perhaps most importantly, symbols help us remember who we are, what we believe and where we came from. They mean we have something in common; that we belong to a group that shares the same ideas, beliefs and values. When things are difficult, symbols can help us to focus on what is important. Draw some symbols below that help represent America.

Now take some time to write out the memory verse in symbols as you see it. As you do this, think about why you are picking those symbols to represent those words.

WRITE OUT YOUR PRAYER

Submitted by:
Jerrie Miller
Territorial Director of Character Building Ministries
USA Central Territory

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 6:10 (NIV)

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power."

If you could have anything you wanted, what would you choose for dinner? How many of the those would make us strong? Making healthy choices can be hard sometimes. It might seem like more fun to eat whatever we want, but do you think that it's what God would choose for us to do?

Let's do this – draw a happy face next to the things that will help us and a sad face next to those that will not be so good. if you think it is not something that will help you much.

Milk _____ Eating cakes and cookies every day! _____

Candy _____ Eating lots of fruit and veggies! _____

Broccoli _____ Hot Dogs and French Fries _____

Cottage cheese _____ Cheese and Crackers _____

Ice cream with sprinkles, whipped cream & a cherry on top _____

In order to be strong in the Lord, we need to make healthy choices about what we eat and drink. There are other good choices we need to make. We must choose to read, study, memorize and obey God's Word. We need to choose to pray and trust God to help us have strength to be obedient to Him.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank you for forming our bodies from the hair on our heads to the size of our hearts. We thank you for teaching us how to be healthy. We ask that you help us make better choices in not only what we eat, but what we hear, see and do. Thank you for giving us mighty power that never gives out. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Submitted by:

Jerrie Miller

Territorial Director of Character Building Ministries

USA Central Territory

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 27:1, NIV

*“The Lord is my light and my salvation—
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life—
of whom shall I be afraid?”*

Often in life, we are in places that are normally free from harm- or so we think. It almost seems weird to think there might be harm. The thing is- there is always a chance of it. It is important that we are aware of our surroundings and making decisions that won't compromise our safety. Thankfully, there are also people around us and in the community who can keep us safe. List a few below and why they can be trusted.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

We are very fortunate that there are people around us that are paid to keep us safe. Police, firefighters, soldiers and doctors are a few examples of people that risk their lives to protect us and fight to serve us in and keep us safe. It is important that we include people in these areas in our prayers- that God would continue to be with them and cover them from all harm as well. Whenever you see one of them around, make sure to take a second to thank them and appreciate their hard work.

Do you know of someone who risks their lives every day for the safety of others?

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Lord, thank you for being our constant protector. There are many times where we do not make the best choices to keep ourselves or something those around us safe. We ask that you continue to give us the wisdom to make choices that will keep our personal safety firm. We love you for always being with us and keeping us from dangers and harms.

*Submitted by:
Krystina Macias
Christian Education Director for Outreach
Territorial Youth Department
USA Western Territory*

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 & Romans 12:1 (ESV)

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”

We like to keep church clean and beautiful, right? Imagine if we didn't take care of this building. No one wants to be in a place that isn't taken care of or kept in order. It's important to take care of church because this is where we all gather to worship God.

But it's even more important to take care of ourselves and stay healthy. We worship in this building, but God lives in other temples: US! How much more important is it to take care of God's house. We are God's house! And it's an act of worship to take care of ourselves. Whenever we make an effort to take care of ourselves: exercise, eat healthy, etc. we are taking care of God's temple!

What are some ways we can take care of this temple we call our bodies?

CLOSING PRAYER

God, let me make good decisions regarding my health and fitness. May I always seek to take care of this body which is your temple. And be able to present my life as a living sacrifice and act of worship to you. AMEN.

*Submitted by:
Erick Rodriguez
Territorial Youth Department
USA Western Territory*

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 139: 1-4, NIV

*"You have searched me, LORD,
and you know me.
You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.
Before a word is on my tongue
you, LORD, know it completely."*

As we learn more about playacting and how fun it is to use our imaginations, we begin to explore the area of drama more. We see in through different eras of time that masks were used to portray a different character- especially in the Greek era. In saying that, one person can be two different people in one set and be part of two different roles.

Sometimes in life, we choose to wear masks that hide who we really are and try and be someone else. It is hard to let others see who we really are and don't want to be judged by the things that we struggle with.

What are few things we choose to mask that we do not want others to see?

Be bold. Take off your mask. Be who you are meant to be and who God will continue to form you to be. There is no need to hide behind a mask anymore.

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Lord, thank you for the gift of the arts. We are so grateful that we can worship you in more than just prayer and song, but also in dramatics. Although it is hard to accept that you know us- even in our bad stuff- we are grateful that you love us regardless of what mask we choose to hide behind of. Help us be freed from the masks of shame, guilt, anger and low self-worth. May we stand bold in the light of your love and be that same light to others through our actions and worship. In Jesus' name, Amen.

*Submitted by:
Krystina Macias
Christian Education Director for Outreach
Territorial Youth Department
USA Western Territory*

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 7:6 (NLT)

"For you are a holy people, who belong to the Lord your God. Of all the people on earth, the Lord your God has chosen you to be His own special treasure."

Take some time to read a treasure related short story during your Reader emblem time.

As you were reading, did you notice all of the details, scenarios and focus on the treasure? Sometimes the treasure is money, gold or jewels. Other times the treasures are love, friends, family or happiness.

What are your treasures?

Everyone has things they treasure. You may treasure your DVD collection, computer, a special necklace that belonged to your grandmother or your favorite pet.

How do you care for your treasures?

How would you feel if something happened to one of your treasure?

What do you think God treasures?

God made so many wonderful things. The mountains, seashores, and beautiful flowers are all blessed by His touch, but there is something more special than those. When you give your heart to God you become His child-- His treasure. Knowing that God treasures you should bring you peace and happiness. Are you His child?

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, thank you for making us your child. Thank you for calling us yours before we were even born. Thank you for treasuring us and giving us value. We ask that you help us treasure the things that matter the most. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Submitted by:
USA Central Territory

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 31:6 (NIRV)

“Be strong and brave. Don’t be afraid... Don’t be terrified.... The LORD your God will go with you. He will never leave you. He’ll never desert you.”

I never understood that idea. One of my favorite things to do is climb up the ladder on a slide and then “WEEEEEEEEEE!”, slide down to the ground. I love the rush of slipping down or spinning around on one of the slides with turns. Not everyone feels like that. Some people are nervous to climb the ladder. They are afraid of going higher and higher. Others may eagerly climb the ladder, reach the top, and then freeze in fear of the fast paced slide back down. They are afraid of the speed, the unknown distance.

Life is like that. We don’t always know what is going to happen. We have up days and down days and all kinds of days in between. Some days we might be afraid of making a choice or of what will happen next. Some days we might be looking down on the future afraid of what is going to happen or excited about that next slide down.

Jesus understands this. He knows that we have good days and bad days, ups and downs. But the scripture tells us something that can make us all feel better every day.

What are some times where God has been there for you?

Jesus promises us that he will never desert us. He will meet us at the top of the ladder or catch us at the bottom of the slide! Isn’t that a great feeling?

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you for always being willing to watch over me. You love me on my good days and my bad days. You watch out for me. I get scared sometimes. I’m afraid sometimes and it is nice to know that you listen to me and hear my prayers. In your name, Amen.

Submitted by:
Cindy Howard
Middletown Corps Girl Guard Leader
SWONEKY
USA Eastern Territory

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 46:1, NIV

*"God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble."*

During this emblem, we learned that in order to handle an emergency, we have to prevent the emergency. Sometimes these situations can be avoided and other times, it is out of our reach. Either way, learning about safety procedures and avoiding harm is very important.

Prevention can be present in areas such as your home, your school, your church, or other surroundings. Let's focus specifically on your home. What are some ways an accident can occur there?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Now, in turn, how can these accidents be prevented from happening?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

In the scripture above, David is explaining what God is for Him. He does not base it off of what He's already done, but simply because He is. David trusts in God and knows that in time of trouble, God is already in the midst- protecting and loving.

WRITE OUT YOUR PRAYER

*Submitted by:
Krystina Macias
Christian Education Director for Outreach
Territorial Youth Department
USA Western Territory*

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 6:13

“Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm”.

The Salvation Army has been part of my life for as long as I can remember. Through its programs and help for others, it has shown me what it means to care for those in need and to serve them wholeheartedly. The Salvation Army has helped hundreds of thousands of people around the world, serving in 127 countries. Isn't it awesome that we get to be a part of this universal church that proclaims Jesus and loves others?

As you took some time to learn more about William and Catherine Booth and the fire they had to start a revolution, what are some ways that you can continue to live out this mission in your community?

Being part of The Salvation Army is a true blessing. It allows you to be a part of this group- Sunbeams! It is such a great program that helps you learn and build your character to be solid in Christ and have well-rounded education of the world around you.

While thinking about the verse above and being true soldiers of Christ, we need to remember that God gives us the courage to invite other to be part of our Army. Think about a friend who you can invite to church. Maybe she is going through something and learning about God's love might change her life. Write this friend's name down below and pray for her. Build a plan to make this happen.

SHARE THIS PRAYER WITH A LEADER & PRAY FOR THEM TOGETHER

*Submitted by:
Krystina Macias
Christian Education Director for Outreach
Territorial Youth Department
USA Western Territory*

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 6:7, NIV

“Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people”.

Think back to the last time that you did something kind for someone without them asking you. Maybe it was for an elderly person. Maybe it was for your mom. Or maybe it was for a friend. Think about their reaction once they realized what you had done for them, big or small. Then think about the feeling you received when you realized how much that meant for them. Now, reverse it, and think about a time when someone did something this for you. How did you feel about the willing act of service?

In Ephesians, we see the instruction Paul gives to the church of Ephesus. Serve with your whole heart. Not with some of it. Not with half of it. Serve with your **WHOLE** heart. Then the second part hits like a ton of bricks. As if serving the Lord, not people. Serve others as if you are serving God Himself. What if you had the opportunity to serve God Himself? I'm sure many of us would want to do it and more than willingly. Now here comes, the challenge. Do it as if you're doing it for Him. With anyone you meet. Whether they are kind to you or not. Whether you know them or not. Serve them wholeheartedly.

The best example of service we see in the Bible is no other than Jesus Christ. The Son of God comes to Earth in form of a man, to teach and live like one of us, die for our sins, and rise again to defeat death. He didn't need to know what your sins were or who you are or what your name is. He chose to serve willingly and without getting anything in return.

So, let's put this service thing to action! List 3 ways you can serve someone around you.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

CLOSE IN PRAYER WITH A FRIEND

Submitted by:
Krystina Macias
Christian Education Director for Outreach
Territorial Youth Department
USA Western Territory

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 24:1 & Matthew 16:27

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."

"For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done."

When you get money, as a gift or for a job you may have done, how do you feel? Do you like to save money or spend it as soon as you get it? Do you like shopping?

What do you think God wants us to do with money? Our verses for today remind us that everything belongs to the Lord but he gives it to us. We will have to account for what we did with the things that God has entrusted us with. God would want us to use those things to take care of ourselves. He also wants us to help others. One way we do this is to give to our church and the church helps others with that money.

In the movie *Confessions of a Shopaholic*, the main character doesn't know how to use her money responsibly. She is not a good steward of her financial resources. What is a steward? It's someone who protects or is responsible for money, property or other possessions. Our first verse told us that everything belongs to the Lord. But he gives it to us to use and take care of in this world. If it belongs to God and we're using it, doesn't that mean that we have to do the best we can with it, that we need to make smart choices with the resources that God gives to us?

We learned in this emblem about shopping, about budgeting, about ways to save money. All of these things help us to be responsible with our money, to be a good steward of the Lord's things that he's allowed us to use. We can't get so caught up in the material things of the world that we waste what we have. God wants us to be happy and allows us to have things we want sometimes but it can't control our lives as it does with Rebecca in this movie. Material things and money do not define who you are, they are used to help us live our lives and they belong to God. So we need to take good care of those financial resources. Ask God to help you make good choices with money. Think less about what I can get with this money and instead ask what I can do with this money that would make God happy.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, thank you for the resources you give to us to help us in life. Thank you for our parents and the work they do to provide for us. I pray you'd help all of us to take good care of the things you give us. Help us to make good decisions when it comes to money. Lead us in your way instead of the world's way. Remind us every day that everything we have is yours; you've given it to us. Help us to thank you every day. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 96:1 (NIV)

"Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth."

In Psalm 96, the Psalmist is singing his prayers to God and he is teaching us a few things about how we should approach God.

Consider this:

We are instructed to sing! In times of joy and sadness, singing can be a good way of communicating with God. Our praises are expressed in lovely singing when we are happy and our prayers of need when we are sad. He loves to hear us, no matter what.

Our song should always be new! Let's face it, our lives today look differently than it did yesterday and tomorrow will look differently than today. God is always with us but our relationship grows constantly. Our song should change as well. It should always reflect the newness of our relationship to Him.

Take some time to write your personal song to God.

As we sing our new song, we should draw others to sing with us! We want others to experience God as we have. We don't want to always sing a solo. Bring others with you! Sing to the Lord a new song! Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Lord, thank you for the simple gift of voice. Thank you for allowing us to learn more about singing and how that can be done for your glory. Help us understand that we sing out is meaningful and should be pure and centered to you. We love you, and want a new relationship with you every day! In Jesus' name, Amen.

Submitted by:
Connie Barrington
Oklahoma City, OK
USA Southern Territory

SCRIPTURE: Philippians 3:14, NIV

"I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Skating sounds like it is easy- I mean what is hard about pushing yourself with wheels on your feet? Finding balance to hold yourself upright is a challenge that can come easy to some and not so easy for others. Standing up with skates is the first challenge. Taking the first step is the second. But just like anything else- practice is key. Now, there will be times where you can fall or scrape your knee in a bad turn- but stay positive and get up and try again!

Not only does practice help with becoming better at skating, but also, having the right equipment will make the process easier. As you get closer to competing in a sport like this, you can begin learning the rules and how you can win with integrity. Everything is a process, but it is never impossible as long as you are prepared mentally, physically, and emotionally.

In the same way, our Christian life depends on a process like this. It is important to surround ourselves with influence that will encourage us to be good followers. On this journey, there will be times where we may make mistakes and not do what God requires us to do- but just like skating, get up and try again! Lastly, get ready to press toward the goal for the prize! God calls us all to be a part of this race and take up our calling as daughters and followers of His.

Do you want to receive the prize of the upward call of God in Jesus Christ? What can you do to press forward and not fall?

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Lord, thank you for teaching us more about this race that you call us to be a part of. We are so blessed to be called by you to be your followers and press towards this prize that is only found in you. Be with us as we carry on in this race and forgive us for the times we may fall away from your commands. We trust that you are by our side, every step of the way. We love you Lord, Amen.

Submitted by:
Krystina Macias
Christian Education Director for Outreach
Territorial Youth Department
USA Western Territory

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 8:3-4, Isaiah 40:26, Psalm 19:1 (ESV)

“When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?”

“Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name, by the greatness of his might, and because he is strong in power not one is missing.”

“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.”

Have you ever stepped outside at night and looked up at the stars? If you live in the city they might be hard to see sometimes. But if you do have a chance to check out the sky and see the stars you can't help but admire God's creation! Can you believe God placed each star in its place?! How amazing is it that he knows them all by name?! He knows the exact location of each one!!!

Share a bit about a place that displays the stars in an amazing way.

The Bible says that the heavens declare God's glory. They give testimony of God's power and handiwork. We can do the same. Just like the stars in space shine down on us and show us how awesome God is, we can in turn BE shining stars for those around us and be proclaimers of God's good work in us!

CLOSING PRAYER

God, when I look up at the stars I'm amazed by your creation. You have made amazing things. Let me shine like the stars in the skies and be a testimony of your work! AMEN.

*Submitted by:
Erick Rodriguez
Territorial Youth Department
USA Western Territory*

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:105 (NIV)

"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."

Have you ever looked up at the night sky and tried to count the stars or connect them like dot to dots to make pictures? Pictures made from the stars are called constellations. Today, there are 88 official constellations. In ancient times sailors used the stars like a map to help them navigate the ocean and when the stars were clouded over they had to use their memories to help guide them. We can think of the scriptures like the stars in the sky. The Bible is our map, our guide. God's word helps us to know which way we should go just like the stars helped the sailors get from one place to the other.

Memorizing scripture is important for us because we may not always have a bible handy when we need it and knowing God's word by heart helps us to make the right choices and stay on the right path. Just like the stars lit the way for ancient sailors, God's word lights the way for us. The next time you're out at night, look up at the sky. When you see the stars, I hope they remind you of God's word and that He loves you very much. God has a plan for you and His word will help guide you in the direction he would have you to go.

Take some time to practice memorizing the scripture verse with a friend.

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father,
Thank you for your creation and for the stars in the sky that remind us of your love. Thank you for the Bible and the guidance it gives. Please help us to remember that you have a plan for us, and knowing your Word will help us get to where you want us to be. Thank you for the fun we've had today at Sunbeams. Help us to be good girls throughout the week and keep us safe until we meet again. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Submitted by:
Lt. Christin Fankhauser
Petersburg, Alaska Division
USA Western Territory

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 17:1-7 (NIV)

"The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?" ³ But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?" ⁴ Then Moses cried out to the LORD, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵ The LORD answered Moses, "Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ And he called the place Massah^[a] and Meribah^[b] because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Have you ever been so thirsty but couldn't get anything to drink because there was nothing to drink or because you drank all of your drink? Have you ever wanted to have something to eat or drink and complained to your mom or dad because there was no "food" in the house that you wanted?

When the Israelites fled from Egypt they had to go through the desert to reach the Promised Land. As you can imagine there is not a lot of water in the desert. The Israelites were very thirsty and they started to complain to Moses and question why did God drag them all the way out to the desert to die of thirst and hunger saying they were better off in Egypt as slaves. They did not trust God to provide for their needs to survive and began to question God and complain about what He instructed them to do. So, God instructed Moses to go to a rock and strike it with his staff. When he did this water flowed from it to provide for all the Israelites and quench their thirst. In spite of their lack of trust, grumbling and complaining God still provided for them and took care of their needs. God will do this for you as well. He will always provide for you what you need. You have wants and needs. God provides what you need not necessarily what you want. Sometimes our needs are more important than our wants and God always knows what is best for us. God knows what you need and will always be your provider.

CLOSE IN PRAYER WITH A FRIEND

Submitted by:
Wanda Newton
Territorial Character Building Director
USA Southern Territory

SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:38-42

“As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!”

“Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

Some of the best parts in music are when the music gets really loud, or really soft. Most of the time, music stays at just the right level, you can hear it very easily without working hard but it also doesn't hurt your ears. These changes are some of what makes music so pretty to listen to. While a song would still be nice to hear if it were all at the same level, mixing up the volume keeps us interested. While it is fun to make a lot of noise and move around with our timbrels and it can be a great way to praise God, the Bible says it is also important to be still.

In Luke 10:38-42, we meet Martha and her sister Mary. Martha was always moving, concerned things wouldn't get done if she didn't do them. So she was really upset when her sister was sitting down listening to Jesus instead of helping her. But Jesus told Martha that listening to Jesus was more important. Can you get distracted by moving too much that you forget to be still and listen to God?

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Lord,

We thank you for music and the ability you give us to play. Thank you for the reminder that we need to be still and listen to you sometimes. Help us to do that every day and make our ears open to hearing you. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Submitted by:

Capt. Nancy Halverson and Jessica Zielinski

DYS and Youth Program Aide

Del Oro Division

USA Western Territory

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 13:4 (NIV)

"You shall follow the LORD your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him."

Many times we get lost and don't know how to find our way. Have you ever taken a trip and there is a detour not letting you go down the street you need to? Or what about made a left when there should've been a right? It doesn't take long to get off track. One wrong move and everything gets all messed up.

Our lives are very much just like that. If we don't stay on the straight path and we tend to follow others they may lead us off the path. Once we get sidetracked it is hard to find our way back. There is one leader we can know that will always keep us on the right track if we follow Him. Jesus!

Jesus will lead us where we need to go and stay with us the entire time. Did you know that He doesn't want us to get lost and will direct all of our steps? Let's look at some verses together that share with us how Jesus is our leader on the path.

1 Peter 2:21	Psalm 23:3
Jeremiah 10:23	1 John 3:7
Psalm 119:105	Matthew 16:24

See our directions, or our compass, our roadmap so to say is right in the scriptures. God will lead us. He will never let us go astray and He wants what is very best for us. We need to follow Him throughout and we will stay on the right path.

CHORUS: Where He Leads Me

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, thank you for leading us into righteous paths. Teach us to keep your commandments and listen to your voice. Help us to not follow others, nor make decisions that don't have You at the center. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Submitted by:
Capt. Kim DeLong
Barre, VT
USA Eastern Territory

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:11 & Romans 5:3-4 (NIV)

"I have hidden Your word in my heart so that I might not sin against You."

"- but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope."

During the first years of life, a White Oak Tree barley grows above ground. That is because the majority of its energy is spent on growing its roots below the surface. What this tree is doing is giving itself the best chance to survive by investing in what is going to get it through the time times.

That is the same message that the author of Psalms is trying to get across to the reader. Reading the Bible and believing in the strength and power of the words written inside of it is what is going to get us through the hard times in life. It is through the Bible that we learn about Jesus and His sacrifice for us. We also learn that God loves us and protects us.

By knowing the promises that God gave us we are able to have hope, even when we are going through hard times. In fact, the Bible tells us to be thankful for the hard times. Romans 5:3-4 *"- but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope."* NIV

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear God, we pray that Your words live in our heart. That we can recall and use the promises given to us in the Bible not only during the hard times, but also in the happy times. That we are always thankful for the blessings you give us. We pray that our roots are firmly developed in the Bible and our eyes are securely focused on your Son, Jesus. We love you, God.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

*Submitted by:
Dustin Rowe, DYS
Golden State Division
USA Western Territory*

SCRIPTURE: Mark 16:15 (NIV)

"He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.'"

We know that God loved the world so much that He sent His Son to die for us – that means that God wants us to remember how much He loved so we could love all of the people He loves.

Not only that, but He made each of us special so that we could discover and appreciate all of the wonderful things He has made all around the world. The Bible says that God wants us to love one another as He loved us, and what better way can we do that than to bring God's messages of love to the whole world?

In what ways can we share God's love to others?

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, help us to show how much we love your world by bringing your love to others no matter where we go. Thank you for everything that you have made that we get to learn about. Amen.

*Submitted by:
Aleen Bradley
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Southern California Division
USA Western Territory*

