



God is seen
WHEN WE ARE
ONE
TERRITORIAL PRAYER FOCUS

Prayer. *guide*





God promises us in his Word that he hears every word we speak to him in prayer. In Revelation 5:8 there is a powerful verse that talks about all the prayers of the saints rising up to the very throne of God and being collected in golden bowls, filling Heaven with a sweet aroma. What a lovely and encouraging image.

We believe in the power of prayer! It is so much more than a mental exercise or a vocal performance. It is a deep connection with the Creator of Heaven and Earth. One significant aspect, and outcome, of prayer is the aligning of ourselves with God's purpose and mission for our lives.

With this in mind, we are calling The Salvation Army Australia to a season of prayer, but not just gentle prayer – a season of significant, fervent, effectual, untiring wrestling with God on behalf of our Movement – and our world.

The Scripture God has given us for this prayer focus is the High Priestly prayer of Jesus, as recorded in John 17. The key verse is verse 23: ***“I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them as you loved me” (ESV).***

This prayer of Jesus is a prayer for unity (oneness) within the Body of Believers. The emphasis we want to place on this season of prayer is that we, as an Army, will be a unified Movement, working in harmony as we seek to serve God's purposes, and that – because of our oneness with the Father and our unity as believers – others will see God in and through us.

We invite you to join with us over the next 22 days as we seek the heart of God together, for the benefit of the Kingdom.

We pray, expectantly – and wait with anticipation to see what God will do as we call upon him during these days.

“Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the one who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference.” – Max Lucado

Blessings,

Janine and Robert Donaldson
Commissioners



WEEK 1

Sunday 22 to Saturday 28 August 2021

KEY THEME:

One... in heart and mind

(John 17:9-16)

TOPICS:

Unity of the body
Overflowing with joy
Out of the heart | Guard your heart/s
Surrender



Unity of the body

Holy Father, I am about to leave this world to return and be with you, but my disciples will remain here. Holy Father, each one that you have given me, keep them in your name so that they will be united as one, even as we are one.

John 17:11 (TPT)

REFLECTION

"If we do not make formation in Christ the priority, then we're just going to keep on producing Christians that are indistinguishable in their character from many non-Christians" (Dallas Willard).

Firstly, genuine Christian unity begins with God's *agape* love for us.

Unity is the outworking of the cross and God's work in Christ. It is not something that can be aimed at.

Unity is of the Spirit. It is a unity that we can never produce. It is a unity that starts within and works outward through organic life like we see in a human body.

Unity of the Church is organic in character. It is not a collection of parts. It is a new creation, a spiritual body created by God in Christ. The old has been done away with in this body.

Unity is diversity. There is diversity in unity, not a uniformity. The parts do not look alike, they do not function alike, yet they are all important, needed, interdependent, and all work toward the same end. Each member functioning as part of the body, and in line with God's purposes.

PRAYER POINTS:

- Praise God for his unconditional love and gentle promptings. May I/we/The Salvation Army exhibit that same *agape* love of God toward both our fellow believers and all people.
- Praise God for creating me to be uniquely who I am as an individual and yet a valued part of the 'Body of Christ'.
- Pray for a continued renewal of heart and mind within our movement, both individually and corporately as the Body of Christ.
- Pray against division based on human biases or preferences, but rather on the outworking and love of Christ and through the Spirit of God in our lives.
- Give me/us/The Salvation Army obedient hearts to God's commands/leadings/promptings.
- May I/we/The Salvation Army continue to depend and act in God's power.
- May I/we/The Salvation Army act as we ought and to be response-able – able to respond with appropriate power to do what needs to be done when it needs to be done.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Ephesians 4:15-16 (NET)

But practicing the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Christ, who is the head. From him the whole body grows, fitted and held together through every supporting ligament. As each one does its part, the body builds itself up in love.

Ephesians 4:1-6 (ESV) - Unity in the Body of Christ

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Colossians 3:14 (NLT)

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.



Overflowing with joy

But now I am returning to you so Father, I pray that they will experience and enter into my joyous delight in you so that it is fulfilled in them and overflows.

John 17:13 (TPT)

REFLECTION

Joy is not the mere sensation of pleasure – it is a pervasive, constant and unending sense of wellbeing that flows from vision, peace, righteousness and hope. True joy is robust – even including outright hilarity! We can experience the joy of being in God’s kingdom even in the midst of suffering and loss.

God is the happiest, most joyful being in the universe. *God is not mean*, but he is dangerous. (Obviously God is a lot more! He is omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent and eternal. He is holy and he is love. He is the creator of life, the saviour of sinners and the judge of all. But for many people Dallas Willard’s descriptions of God as *supremely happy* and *not mean* are startling!)

Celebration completes worship because we enjoy ourselves, our life, our world, *in conjunction with* our faith and confidence in God’s greatness, beauty and goodness. Typically, this means that we come together with others who know God, to eat and drink, to sing and dance, and to relate stories of God’s action in our lives (*Dallas Willard*).

PRAYER POINTS:

- Celebrate and thank God for the diversity of gifts within The Salvation Army. May we build a culture of inclusion, recognising the priesthood of all believers, and the uniqueness of all individuals/groups as they experience God’s grace in their lives.
- May I/we/The Salvation Army experience the joy that comes from God alone and express it in ways that edify, unify and bring glory to God, so that others are drawn to him by our behaviours and actions.
- Pray against discouragement, remembering where our hope lies.
- May I/we/The Salvation Army ‘put on’ a garment of praise, instead of a spirit of heaviness or despair (Isaiah 61:3).
- May I/we/The Salvation Army do everything without complaining and arguing, so that we may be blameless and pure, children of God without blemish (Philippians 2:14-15, EHV).

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Psalm 37:4-5 (ESV)

Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.

Philippians 4:4 (TPT)

Be cheerful with joyous celebration in every season of life. Let your joy overflow!

Isaiah 61:3 (NET)

to strengthen those who mourn in Zion, by giving them a turban, instead of ashes, oil symbolising joy, instead of mourning, a garment symbolising praise, instead of discouragement. They will be called oaks of righteousness, trees planted by the LORD to reveal his splendour.

Psalm 51:12 (NIV)

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.



Out of the heart | Guard your heart/s

I am not asking that you remove them from the world, but I ask that you guard their hearts from evil, for they no longer belong to this world any more than I do.

John 17:15-16 (TPT)

REFLECTION

“The revolution of Jesus is in the first place, and continuously, a revolution of the human heart or spirit ... His is a revolution of character, which proceeds by changing people from the inside through ongoing personal relationship to God in Christ and to one another. It is one that changes their ideas, beliefs, feelings, and habits of choice, as well as their bodily tendencies and social relations. It penetrates to the deepest layers of their soul.”

– Dallas Willard, *Renovation of the Heart: Putting On the Character of Christ*

“Put your heart in your mouth: For me, the simplest definition of prayer is putting your heart in your mouth. From deep within, some plea or question or gladness geysers up to address a presence or power beyond our human limitations. There is an unadorned urgency, honesty, and immediacy about it. It puts your heart in your mouth.”

– *My Heart in My Mouth*, Ted Loder.

PRAYER POINTS:

- Let the words of my/our mouth and the meditation of my/our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my/our rock, and my redeemer (Psalm 19:14, ESV).
- Pray that my/our/The Salvation Army hearts will be pliable and open to receive what God’s Spirit has to impart on me/us/The Salvation Army.
- God break our hearts for the things that break yours.
- Keep our hearts and minds in tune with you, Lord. Open the eyes of our heart!
- Pray for our officers/leaders: that God’s Shalom (peace) would guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Psalm 51:10 (ESV)

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me

Proverbs 4:23-26 (NLT)

Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life. Avoid all perverse talk; stay away from corrupt speech. Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you. Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path.

Proverbs 27:19 (NET)

As in water the face is reflected as a face, so a person’s heart reflects the person.



Surrender

For all who belong to me now belong to you. And all who belong to you now belong to me as well, and my glory is revealed through their surrendered lives.

John 17:10 (TPT)

REFLECTION

In spiritual surrender we give up our attachment to specific beliefs and desired outcomes; we let go of our preconceived ideas about how things should be and rest in the wisdom of a greater divine knowledge – God himself.

PRAYER POINTS:

- Pray for not only the submission but surrendering of The Salvation Army to the empowering presence and authority of the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for a willingness for all Salvos to surrender their own thoughts on how we 'do church', and submit to 'being' the church, through discipling and faith pathways.
- Pray for a willingness to submit and surrender to the pruning process – putting off/cutting back, in order to promote further growth in ways that will impact Australia "one life at a time with the love of Jesus".
- Pray for a willingness to surrender unforgiveness in a response to God's love.
- Prayer for a willingness to submit and surrender to the sharing of resources within The Salvation Army, in these financially challenging times.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

John 15:5b (TPT)

As you live in union with me as your source, fruitfulness will stream from within you – but when you live separated from me you are powerless.

Proverbs 3:5 (TPT)

Trust in the Lord completely, and do not rely on your own opinions. With all your heart rely on him to guide you, and he will lead you in every decision you make

Romans 12:1 (NRSV)

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

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Footnote:

Recommended reading:

- *Enemies of the Heart*, Andy Stanley and free leader's guide: <https://medianorthpoint-a.akamaihd.net/resources/documents/Enemies-of-the-Heart-Leaders-Guide.pdf>
- *Renovation of the Heart*, Dallas Willard
- "Personal Soul Care", Dallas Willard: <https://dwillard.org/articles/personal-soul-care>
- *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*, Richard J Foster
- *Invitation to Solitude and Silence and Sacred Rhythms*, Ruth Haley Barton
- *Arranging Our Lives for Spiritual Transformation*, M Robert Mulholland Jr and Ruth Haley Barton
- *Way of the Heart*, Henri Nouwen
- *The Practice of the Presence of God*, Brother Lawrence
- *Life Together and The Cost of Discipleship*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer



WEEK 2

Sunday 29 August to Saturday 4 September 2021

KEY THEME:

One... in purpose and mission

(John 17:17-19)

TOPICS:

Truth consecrated
Sanctify
Standing on the word
Aligning with God's anointed mission
A unity of calling and purpose



Truth consecrated

In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world. I'm consecrating myself for their sakes so they'll be truth-consecrated in their mission.

John 17:17-19 (The Message)

REFLECTION

St. Augustine said, **"Our hearts are restless until they rest in thee."**

Our restless human hearts can search widely for truth, but only when we encounter it in the person of Jesus Christ will we come to understand that we are dedicated to a higher purpose. We are made holy by encountering Jesus Christ. In him, we are truly consecrated in truth and that changes everything.

True consecration to Christ simplifies life, for it leaves the management to him. - J. Sidlow Baxter

John states that genuine Christian love is fundamentally coupled with truth.

Grace and truth are paired together and used in the Old Testament to attend to covenantal fidelity – that is, a readiness to **act faithfully** according to one's covenantal commitment.

PRAYER POINTS:

- Thank God because he has shown us "the way, the truth and the life" through Jesus' life and ministry.
- Thank God for the evidence of the faithfulness of so many followers of Jesus who have gone before me/us/within The Salvation Army and have had a huge influence as 'truth' bearers.
- Pray for a fresh commitment and consecration to a position of grace and truth.
- Pray that I/we/The Salvation Army as 'covenanted people' will respond and act faithfully by exhibiting grace and truth in our relationships with one another.
- May this same spirit be carried into our everyday lives and relationships.
- Pray I/we/The Salvation Army will be willing to continually be brought back and reminded of our covenanted relationship with God through Jesus, so my/our/The Salvation Army response to others will be through grace and truth.
- Pray for transparency and authenticity/genuineness in our interactions with one another, which will in turn impact our decision making and actions.
- I/we/The Salvation Army long for others to experience God's grace and truth.
- We consecrate ourselves for 'their' sakes.
- May we be truth consecrated in our mission.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

1 John 3:18-19 (TPT)

Beloved children, our love can't be an abstract theory we only talk about, but a way of life demonstrated through our loving deeds. We know that the truth lives within us because we demonstrate love in action, which will reassure our hearts in his presence.

Psalm 145:18 (ESV)

The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in **truth**.

John 8:31-32 (NRSV) - True Disciples

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."



Sanctify

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

John 17:17 (NRSV)

REFLECTION

“Holiness is not ‘holier than thou’ or religious perfectionism – it is simply a life that works well because we’re rooted in another world, the Kingdom of God. Holiness is the power to act as we ought, to be response-able, able to respond with appropriate power to do what needs to be done when it needs to be done,”

– Dallas Willard.

“Sanctification is the work of the Holy Spirit in us whereby our inner being is progressively changed, freeing us more and more from sinful traits and developing within us over time the virtues of Christlike character,”

– Jerry Bridges.

PRAYER POINTS:

- Praise God for his amazing grace offered to all people, and for the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in me/us/The Salvation Army.
- Pray for a deepening of intimacy with Christ.
- Deepening of trust and faith in God and dependence on God’s Holy Spirit to continually guide, empower and renew me/us/The Salvation Army.
- Pray for a renewed intentional focus on Christ, and his transformational work. The sharing of his truth rather than focussing on what The Salvation Army may look like.
- May we be a holy people. Pray that we/The Salvation Army will be anointed and empowered because we are grounded in the Word of God.
- Thank God for the evidence in his Church – of individuals and communities – engaged in spiritual formation, practicing spiritual discipline, exercising their gifts, and exhibiting the fruits of the Spirit of God.
- Pray for more evidence of the above within The Salvation Army and our communities.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

John 17:17 (TPT)

Your Word is truth! So make them holy by the truth.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (ESV)

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.



Standing on the word

Set them apart in the truth; your word is truth.

John 17:17 (NET)

REFLECTION

“Genuine Christian unity is based on facts, not feelings. Emotion is not our authority, God’s Word is. Yes, there is an emotional element in agape love, but those emotions are the result of love, not the basis of love. There is a great difference between emotion and emotionalism,” – Dallas Willard.

Biblical love is not something Christians are to practice only if and when we feel like it, or based upon any feeling we may experience, or regardless of considerations of sound doctrine. We are to love one another as God’s Word commands us to do it.

PRAYER POINTS:

- We will be intentional and choose to love one another out of obedience to God’s word, and in response to God’s love for us.
- Help us to stand on/in God’s word and the power and authority of it, instead of relying on our own understanding (logic), perceived wisdom or emotions.
- Give us your wisdom God.
- May we be good stewards of God’s word, so the next generation, and the next, will see it lived out as we interact with one another.
- May the words of the prophet Joel 2:28 quoted in Acts 2:17 become a reality within our movement:
“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.” .

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Psalms 119:105 (NIV)

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

Matthew 7:24 (NLT)

Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock.



Aligning with God's anointed mission

In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world. I'm consecrating myself for their sakes so they'll be truth-consecrated in their mission.

John 17:17-19 (The Message)

REFLECTION

Alignment: A position of agreement or alliance.

"What if instead of asking God to do something on our behalf, we dared to ask God to use us on his behalf?"
– Craig Groeschel (*Dangerous Prayers*)

The words of Thomas Merton challenge us: **"Ask me not where I live or what I like to eat ... Ask me what I am living for and what I think is keeping me from living fully for that."**

Our mission statement:

The Salvation Army Australia is a Christian movement dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus. We share the love of Jesus by:

- Caring for people
- Building healthy communities
- Creating faith pathways
- Working for justice.

PRAYER POINTS:

- Thank God for those who are 'sold out' for Jesus.
- May we stand in agreement with one another, because, as his people, we daily align ourselves with God's anointed mission.
- Expressed by our actions, there will be a consistent and continued 'building on' the four mission objectives of:
 - Caring for people
 - Creating faith pathways
 - Building healthy communities
 - Working for justice
- Break our hearts for what breaks yours, God.
- May we/The Salvation Army help build healthy communities within our neighbourhoods by sharing the love of Jesus.
- Release us from all that would 'get in the way' of doing what God is asking of me/us/The Salvation Army.
- Each mission expression of The Salvation Army will be actively aligning to the purposes for which God has called us.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Philippians 2:2 (TPT)

So I'm asking you, my friends, that you be joined together in perfect unity—with one heart, one passion, and united in one love. Walk together with one harmonious purpose and you will fill my heart with unbounded joy.

Colossians 2:8 (NLT)

Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

1 Corinthians 1:10 (NRSV)

Divisions in the Church

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose.



A unity of calling and purpose

Dedicate them to yourself by means of the truth; your word is truth. I sent them into the world, just as you sent me into the world. And for their sake I dedicate myself to you, in order that they, too, may be truly dedicated to you.

John 17:17-19 (GNT)

REFLECTION

Every believer has been called to be Jesus' disciple and to serve in the Body of Christ – his Church.

Thematically, Ephesians 4 moves from 'one's calling to unity' to 'one's calling to ministry'. All are called to ministry. Christ has given many gifts of grace for ministry (diversity) which come together in one common goal of maturity in Christ.

The word 'together' or 'with' appears in Paul's writing to express our joint life and calling, and the impossibility of life outside of this unity.

Our unity is a unity or oneness that exists not in spite of diversity, but because of it. It is the wonderful differences themselves which, when properly equipped, contribute to the function of the body and out of this function, attain an even deeper unity of maturity. Only as each part does its work can the body grow.

The ultimate goal is Christ-likeness, or spiritual maturity according to the standard of Christ. This is the primary goal of the equipping and the unity desired. The more we possess his character and mind, the more we will experience the unity of the Spirit (*excerpts from bible.org/article/unity-spirit-ephesians-41-6*).

PRAYER POINTS:

- Celebrate and praise God for Jesus who holds "all things together" (Colossians 1:17).
- Thank him for his calling on your life, and for the unity of calling and purpose you experience as part of God's family.
- Pray for unity so that the world will see God displayed in and through us.
- Help us, Lord, to value and 'spur' one another on as we embrace our differences, recognising they are a gift from you, and serve your purposes.
- Give me/us/The Salvation Army teachable hearts and spirits. We will be committed and open to learning and equipped in using our gifts and abilities to grow your kingdom here on Earth.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Ephesians 4:11-13 (NIV)

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Ephesians 4:15-16 (NIV)

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Col 1:17 (Amplified Bible)

And he himself existed and is before all things, and in him all things hold together. [His is the controlling, cohesive force of the universe.]

2 Chronicles 7:14 (ESV)

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.



WEEK 3

Sunday 5 to Sunday 12 September 2021

KEY THEME:

*One... in unity and reconciliation
= outward focus*

(John 17:20-23)

TOPICS:

The fruit of our unity evidenced by:

A missional focus: A ministry of reconciliation

Authenticity/genuineness

Loving deeply

Mutual respect for all people/nations/generations/gender

Our connection to the one true vine

Final blessing



The fruit of our unity evidenced by a missional focus: A ministry of reconciliation

[I pray] also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one.
John 17:20-21 (ESV)

REFLECTION

Reconciling the world. A restoration to favour between God and humanity. To be reconciled means to be made “at one” with God. **Reconciliation** is atonement (at-one-ment).

In the end, reconciliation is a spiritual process, which requires more than just a legal framework. It has to happen in the hearts and minds of people. – Nelson Mandela

We must not only speak about forgiveness and reconciliation, we must act on these principles. – Desmond Tutu

True reconciliation is never cheap, for it is based on forgiveness which is costly. Forgiveness in turn depends on repentance, which has to be based on an acknowledgment of what was done wrong, and therefore on disclosure of the truth. You cannot forgive what you do not know.

– Desmond Tutu

Missio Dei is a Latin Christian theological term that can be translated as the “mission of God”, or the “sending of God”. It articulates the belief that mission is God’s mission and we are God’s instruments in that mission.

PRAYER POINTS:

- Pray for a unity of purpose: “fixing our eyes” on Jesus, abiding in Christ and bearing fruit for his kingdom – in love honouring one another (Romans 12:10).
- Pray that I/we/The Salvation Army continue to be a place/presence of safety and grace – so that the “whosoever” may find acceptance and a place of belonging.
- Through COVID, God has shown us (The Salvation Army) we can respond quickly and appropriately to significant, changing circumstances. Pray that we keep being nimble, agile and flexible while holding firmly to our faith and missional purpose.
- Pray against being diverted from the main game, for example, division based upon ‘personal preferences’ in styles of worship and other ‘sacred cows’.
- Today, take a moment to lament on the pain and suffering that COVID has brought to our world.
 - Pray for those who are experiencing grief and loss, unemployment, sickness, financial hardship, stress and mental health issues
 - Pray for those who are at risk around the world due to insufficient medical resources
- Pray for those who live in our community who need faith, hope and connection like never before. Isolation highlights how much people need to connect with others..

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Mark 16:15-16 (ESV)

And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”

Luke 4:18-20 (ESV)

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.

2 Corinthians 5:18-21 (NIV)

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.



The fruit of our unity evidenced by: Authenticity/genuineness

I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

John 17:23 (ESV)

REFLECTION

Authenticity: What we say must be congruent with what we do.

How we live must reflect the heart of God as seen in Jesus.

Authenticity requires vulnerability, transparency and integrity.

– Janette Louise Stephenson

Never perfect, always genuine.

Authenticity is when you say and do the things that you actually believe. – Simon Sinek.

PRAYER POINTS:

- Pray that my/our/The Salvation Army actions reflect who I/we are in Christ.
- May the “words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight” (Psalm 19:14, ESV).
- Give me a genuine desire to care deeply for those who do not know you.
- May others see and experience authenticity and genuineness in their interactions with me/us/The Salvation Army.
- May our children and youth see exhibited within us a genuineness of faith, trust, inclusion and love in action.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

1 Timothy 1:5 (ESV)

The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

1 Peter 1:7 (ESV)

So that the tested genuineness of your faith – more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire – may be found to result in praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

James 1:26 (NRSV)

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless.

Titus 2:7 (NIV)

In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness ...



The fruit of our unity evidenced by: Loving deeply

I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

John 17:23 (ESV)

REFLECTION

Peace will only reign if we can learn to love. Love destroys pursuit of self, pursuit of power, pursuit of wealth, and so many other desires that can so easily be foundations of violence and conflict.

– St Teresa of Avila

We can be sure of one thing: Christ would never command us to do what is impossible for us to do. The secret, of course, is that we are to love, he says, “as I have loved you.” This kind of love is to arise out of the same kind of relationship that he has with the Father that made it possible for him to love us. In this same manner, and from the same source, we are to love one another with the same quality of love. He loved us because God is love, and he was indwelt by the Father.

– Ray Stedman

PRAYER POINTS:

- Pray this same love would flow through me/us/The Salvation Army to others.
- Pray for the expression of this love in practice by me/us/The Salvation Army – the loving kindness and compassion of God towards the poor, the oppressed and the marginalised.
- Pray for the expression of love in practice by me/us/The Salvation Army towards those within our communities of faith (mission expressions) for each generation – each generation valuing one another.
- Pray for the expression of deep love in practice by me/us/The Salvation Army towards youth and children. Discipling, investing and nurturing them in faith. Valuing their insights and leadership contribution.
- Pray for the expression of deep love in practice by me/us/The Salvation Army towards parents as they navigate their way in raising their children.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

John 3:16 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 13:34-35 (The Message)

Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognise that you are my disciples – when they see the love you have for each other.

1 Corinthians 13: 4-7 (TPT)

Love is large and incredibly patient. Love is gentle and consistently kind to all. It refuses to be jealous when blessing comes to someone else. Love does not brag about one's achievements nor inflate its own importance. Love does not traffic in shame and disrespect, nor selfishly seek its own honour. Love is not easily irritated or quick to take offense. Love joyfully celebrates honesty and finds no delight in what is wrong. Love is a safe place of shelter, for it never stops believing the best for others. Love never takes failure as defeat, for it never gives up.



The fruit of our unity evidenced by: Mutual respect for all people/nations/generations/gender

I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

John 17:23 (ESV)

REFLECTION

The word *respect* is a translation of the Greek word *timēsate*, meaning “honour or value”. It literally means “to place a great value or high price on something”. Showing proper regard for the dignity of a person or position.

PRAYER POINTS:

- Show us how to be the church for ‘all nations’.
- Lord, give us a ‘big picture’ view: eyes to see as you see.
- May I/we actively increase my/our awareness, acceptance and inclusion of other cultures.
- May I/we listen to understand. “Most people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply.” – Stephen Covey.
- Lord, I/we ‘stand’ in agreement with the commitment The Salvation Army has made to:
 - Support the voices of First Nations peoples for a better future, based on justice and self-determination
 - Support the provision of accessible, responsive and culturally safe services and spaces for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across The Salvation Army in Australia
 - Provide cultural education and resources to equip and empower The Salvation Army in Australia to be appropriately responsive to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
 - Advocate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ministry as a key strategic imperative to transform through holistic mission
 - Show and guide me/us, as to how I/we can engage and do my/our part as we unite in ensuring Australia is a place of diversity and inclusion
- Lord may I/we exhibit value and respect towards one another as we seek gender equity within The Salvation Army.
- We pray for those within our community who have a disability. May our places of worship/mission expressions be a safe, inclusive and belonging space, so all feel valued and respected.
- Pray for those within our communities who find themselves victimised and judged.
- Pray we will be an inclusive church community where members of the LGBTIQ+ community are welcomed, embraced and encouraged to develop their relationship with God.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

1 Peter 2:17 (TPT)

Recognise the value of every person and continually show love to every believer. Live your lives with great reverence and in holy awe of God. Honour your rulers.

Psalms 86:9 (NIV)

All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, Lord; they will bring glory to your name.

Romans 12:10 (TPT)

Be devoted to tenderly loving your fellow believers as members of one family. Try to outdo yourselves in respect and honour of one another.

Mark 10:14-15 (NIV)

Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the Kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.

Matthew 7:12 (The Message)

Here is a simple, rule-of-thumb guide for behaviour: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you, then grab the initiative and do it for them. Add up God’s Law and Prophets and this is what you get.



The fruit of our unity evidenced by: Our connection to the one true vine

I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

John 17:23 (ESV)

REFLECTION

There are many vines that can give life, but there is only one **true** vine.

"*I am the **true vine**,*" says Jesus (John 15:1, NIV).

Before we can even think about cutting, pruning, remaining or producing fruit, we must stop and check which vine we are connected to. Where does your life come from? What, or who, is your true source of life?

PRAYER POINTS:

- Pray that we will remain connected to "the true vine", the source of life.
- Pray for our officers/leaders: that God's Shalom (peace) would guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
- Pray that the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) will have pre-eminence in the way I/we/The Salvation Army behave and interact with all people.
- Pray that I/we/The Salvation Army will be known "by our fruits" (Matthew 7:16) of faith, hope, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, virtue and strength.
- Pray that the words we speak and the actions we display will not be words and actions that would destroy trust and relationships, for example, gossip, prejudice, bias, malice, arrogance, jealousy (Mark 7:21-23).

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

John 15:5 (TPT)

As you live in union with me as your source, fruitfulness will stream from within you ...

Galatians 5:22-23 (TPT)

But the fruit produced by the Holy Spirit within you is divine love in all its varied expressions: joy that overflows, peace that subdues, patience that endures, kindness in action, a life full of virtue, faith that prevails, gentleness of heart, and strength of spirit.

Ephesians 3:14,19 (The Message)

My response is to get down on my knees before the Father, this magnificent Father who parcels out all Heaven and Earth ... Reach out and experience the breadth! Test its length! Plumb the depths! Rise to the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God.



Final blessing

I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.

John 17:26 (ESV)

BLESSING

In Hebrew scriptures, a blessing is perceived to be something that communicates divine life. With this life comes strength, stamina, and inner peace. Whenever God blesses, there emerges bounteous life and abundance of goodness. To bless is to bring the touch of God – the touch of love and goodness, to another.

– Joyce Rupp (The Cup of our Life)

PRAYER POINTS:

- Thank God for and pray a blessing upon Salvation Army leaders, spiritual influencers, role models, grandparents, parents, singles, teenagers and our children.
- Pray for our officers/leaders: reigniting energy and passion for Jesus and for engaging in new Kingdom of God mission in their community.
- Pray a blessing upon our nation: our leaders in government and communities.
- Pray for our officers/leaders: they will continue to seek creative ways to grow and deepen their relationship with God; and an openness to the Holy Spirit's wisdom to discern and recognise new opportunities in their ministry context.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

John 15:7 (TPT)

But if you live in life-union with me and if my words live powerfully within you – then you can ask whatever you desire, and it will be done.

Ephesians 3:15-16 (The Message)

I ask him to strengthen you by his Spirit – not a brute strength but a glorious inner strength – that Christ will live in you as you open the door and invite him in.

Jude 24,25 (NRSV)

Now to him who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Love and prayer¹

– Leo Tolstoy

I believe in this: I believe in God, whom I understand as Spirit, as Love, as the Source of all. I believe that he is in me and I in him ... I believe that a person's true welfare lies in fulfilling God's will, and his will is that people should love one another and should consequently do to others as they wish others to do to them – which it is said in the Gospels that in this is the law and the prophets.

I believe therefore that the meaning of the life of every person is to be found only in increasing the love that is within them; that this increase of love leads, even in this life to ever greater and greater blessedness, and after death gives the more blessedness, and the more love the person has, and helps more than anything else toward the establishment of the Kingdom of God on Earth: that is, to the establishment of an order of life in which the discord, deception, and violence that now rule will be replaced by free accord, by truth, and by the brotherly (and sisterly) love of one for another.

I believe that to obtain progress in love there is only one means: prayer ... private prayer, like the sample given us by Jesus, consisting of the renewing and strengthening in our consciousness of the meaning of our life and of our complete dependence on the will of God.

Please note: changed references to 'him, his, man' to gender neutral language.

1. *The Book of Uncommon Prayer* pg 157, by Pollock, Constance [Editor]; Pollock, Daniel [Editor]. Publisher: Word

The Examen²

The Examen is a method of reviewing your day in the presence of God. It's actually an attitude more than a method, a time set aside for thankful reflection on where God is in your everyday life. It has five steps, which most people take more or less in order, and it usually takes 15-20 minutes per day. Here it is in a nutshell:

1. Ask God for light.

I want to look at my day with God's eyes, not merely my own

2. Give thanks.

The day I have just lived is a gift from God. Be grateful for it.

3. Review the day.

I carefully look back on the day just completed, being guided by the Holy Spirit.

4. Face your shortcomings.

I face up to what is wrong – in my life and in me.

5. Look toward the day to come.

I ask where I need God in the day to come.

² www.ignatianspirituality.com

Version of the Examen from *A Simple, Life-Changing Prayer* by Jim Manney © Loyola Press

A daily prayer

Good morning, dear Father. It is my joy to stand in your presence in the name of Jesus today, as I come to be clothed in your armour. According to Ephesians 6:10-20, I now put on the **Helmet of Salvation** and I cover my mind, my will and my intellect with your helmet. I bring every thought into captivity and place myself under the covering of the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ – whose I am and whom I serve.

I put on **The Breastplate of Righteousness**, your righteousness that covers my heart and my spirit.

I put on **The Belt of Truth** and pull it tight. Father, let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be absolutely acceptable in your sight – Oh Lord, for you are my Strength and my Redeemer.

I encase my feet in **The Shoes of the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace** and determine that wherever I tread today, I will leave a trail of your peace.

I hold in my hand your **Shield of Faith**, by which your word says I can quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

I hold in my right hand **The Sword of the Spirit**, your word, the word of God to use as you direct me.

Now dear Father, I stand clothed in your armour. I stand in your might. I plead the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ over me and my family this day and I thank you for covering me.

Author Anon.

The cup of life

a simple container
has spoken
in my solitude,
a teacher
and bringer of wisdom

whispering truths
of an indwelling God
in the container
of my soul

hearkening to
my hidden ability
to be filled
and to pour
from a life
of abundance

reminding me
of necessary boundaries
for nurturing
the sacred space
within me

inviting me
to sip often from
the Divine wellspring,
source that slakes
my spiritual thirst

calling to me
like a seed
in the soil:

believe believe believe
in the power
that is present
in the life
that is possible

– Joyce Rupp, *The Cup of Our Life*

Prayer for unity:

John 17

Prayer of petition

(John 17)

Lord Jesus Christ,
who prayed for your disciples that they might be one,
even as you are one with the Father;
draw us to yourself,
that in common love and obedience to you
we may be united to one another,
in the fellowship of the one Spirit,
that the world may believe that you are Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

— Written by William Temple (1881-1944)

Families and children's *resources*

Children's prayers

Thank you, God, for loving us.

5-year-old

Thank you, God, for wiping us clean.

11-year-old

Thank you for your sacrifice.

12-year-old

Dear God, I love my friends.

6-year-old

Dear God, I pray my friends have a good week.

5-year-old

Thank you, God, for giving us clothes.

8-year-old

Thank you, God that you are big and you can do anything.

6-year-old

God, please help me with my tests at school this week.

Thank you for always being with me.

10-year-old

Dear God, I love you. I love animals.

3-year-old

Dear God, I think about you sometimes even when I'm not praying

Elliott

Dear God, in bible times did they really talk that fancy?

Jennifer

Dear God, I bet it is very hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it.

Nan

Dear God, instead of letting people die and having to make new ones why don't you just keep the ones you got now?

Jane



Children's books:

- *Children, Can You Hear Me? How to Hear and See God* by Brad Jersak
- *Loved: The Lord's Prayer* by Sally Lloyd-Jones
- *Pray By Number: A Doodle & Draw Prayer Primer For Kids* by publisher, Barbour
- *What Every Child Should Know About Prayer (A Child Should Know Series)* by Nancy Guthrie, Jenny Brake (illustrator)
- Further suggestions: here2stay.org.au/readinglist

Online prayer and devotional resources for children and their families

- **The Salvation Army – JRev episodes 19-23** feature a focus on prayer. Videos are available here: youtube.com/channel/UCAPSxfwkiH5875lJR_vjqFA (or search Ingle Farm Salvos on YouTube)
 - Access curriculum, including run sheets to use in a face-to-face program and take home sheets for families, here: sarahgreen42.wixsite.com/jrev/curriculum
- **The Salvation Army – Pass the Salt** – kid's version salvationarmy.org.au/passthesalt
- **Here2Stay** is a great resource for families where the whole family knows and is following Jesus. Their research reinforces what we know – young people are more likely to have a lifelong relationship with Jesus if they are growing up in an environment where they are being intentionally disciplined at home. Their website is: here2stay.org.au
 - Conversational placemat: there is a family version and an adult version, which is good for families with older children/adult children living at home, as well as a guide for using the ChatMat. The mat is available in a range of languages. Find it here: here2stay.org.au/chatmatters/
- **Life Church Open Network resources** – Life Church have an online resource bank that is free and absolutely amazing! It includes full curriculum for all ages, individual resources, and more:
 - A four-week resource for preschool/early childhood children and their families to experience how God can speak to us anytime: open.life.church/resources/2204-a-voice-in-the-night-unit-23?search_id=26168273
 - A four-week series on what prayer is, how it works and why it's important: open.life.church/resources/1518-pray?search_id=26168269
 - A series for preteens on how we can bring our worries and concerns to God: open.life.church/resources/4731-loop-show-likes-you-chopsticks?search_id=26168273
 - Download other resources for kids from their site here: open.life.church/categories/314-kids
- **North Point Community Church**
 - Free printable 31day devotional (on landing page click on UpStreet's 31-Day Devotional): northpoint.org/jump-start
 - A family prayer app that is lots of fun: northpoint.org/family-prayer-app

