



SPECIAL OBSERVANCE SUNDAY

CANDIDATES' SUNDAY

Discovering
Your story is the result of God's love for you
Your Story

FALL 2020



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MISSION STATEMENT

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

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AIM OR INTENT OF MATERIALS:

The aim of these materials is: to develop prospective and accepted candidates as well as other young people with leadership skills within the corps; to encourage the congregation to pray for and support any prospective or accepted candidates from the corps; and to challenge everyone to consider whether being an officer is something God wants them to do.

Have a variety of people participate in the program, especially any prospective and accepted candidates.

WORSHIP PROGRAM OUTLINE

Welcome and Announcements

Responsive Reading: "This is Our Redemptive Story"

Congregational Song #455 Blessed Assurance

Tithes and Offering

Praise and Worship with Testimonies

(choose from list, three songs with assigned testimonies between songs)

Special Presentation Video

Scripture Reading: Philippians 1:3-6

Message: Discovering Your Story

Challenge/Invitation/Response

Closing Song #960 I'll Stand for Christ

Benediction: Romans 11:33-36

RESPONSIVE READING:

THIS IS OUR REDEMPTIVE STORY! - EPHESIANS 1:3-10 (NIV)

LEADER: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

RESPONSE: For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight.

LEADER: In love He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will— to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the One He loves.

RESPONSE: In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that He lavished on us.

LEADER: With all wisdom and understanding, He made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—

ALL: To bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.



TESTIMONIES

Invite 1-3 people to share a testimony using this question.

Acts 20:22-24:

“And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.”

We are charged with testifying to the good news of God’s grace. With this perspective, what does His grace mean to your story?

SONG SUGGESTIONS

- This is Amazing Grace
- 10,00 Reasons
- Build Your Kingdom Here
- Your Grace Is Enough
- The Stand
- King of Heaven
- SASB 321 I Dare to be Different
- SASB 355 Beautiful Lord, Wonderful Savior
- SASB 397 This is my Desire, to Honor You
- **SASB 455 Blessed Assurance**
- SASB 518 Reign in me
- SASB 566 All my Days and All my Hours
- SASB 567 All my Heart I Give to Thee
- SASB 568 All that I am
- SASB 569 All there is of me, Lord
- **SASB 960 I’ll Stand for Christ**

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL FOR SPECIAL PRESENTATION

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvbAXGupCU8>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/iamsecondHQ/videos>



HOLINESS MEETING MESSAGE:

DISCOVERING YOUR STORY

Big Idea: God is a master storyteller and He wants to continue His amazing story in your life.

Key Verse: Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:6, NIV)

Opening Illustration: We live in a Netflix world. There is no longer the need to wait until the next week to watch most of our favorite shows. Binge watching and seeing a whole season is not uncommon in our society. We get to see the beginning, middle and ending all in one evening. Sometimes we jump ahead to skip episodes others told us we wouldn't like.

Transition: In the story of our lives, there are times when we wish that we could see the next episode before its time, or possibly skip an episode that we don't like and move on to one that we might enjoy better. However, when we discover our story and all that it entails, we can get a better understanding of God's plan for our lives in light of His love, hope and holiness.

Your Story is the Result of God's Love for You

His Love Gives

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." (John 3:16-17, NIV)

His Love Demonstrates

We see our story differently when we see it through the lens of love and grace.

"Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!" (Romans 5:7-9, NIV)

His Love Empowers

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (Galatians 2:20, NIV)

Illustration: GPS Most of us use a GPS on our cell phones to help us get from one location to another. It's amazing that it can calculate traffic, tolls and even where police are located. You can choose an accent for your GPS. You can even download a famous voice to give you directions. Then, when you take a wrong turn, the GPS (in whatever voice you have chosen) says: "Recalculating, recalculating, recalculating." No big deal! The GPS knows where you are going and how to get you there from your detour. It may add some time, but you'll still get there.

We often take detours and try to write our own life story. We think we understand the direction of our lives and what's best for us. I am grateful that God is always with us and His voice is able to lead us back to the right path. This is what His love does for us! It continues to seek after us and guide us. This should give us hope on our journey of life.



Your Story is Filled with Hope

Hope That Stands

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.” (Romans 5:1-2, NIV)

Hope That Overflows

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13, NIV)

Hope That Sees

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people.” (Ephesians 1:18, NIV)

Your Story is Rooted in Holiness

Called to Holiness

“He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time.” (2 Timothy 1:9, NIV)

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” (Colossians 2:6-7, NIV)

Committed to Holiness

“Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.” (2 Corinthians 7:1, NIV)

“It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.” (1 Corinthians 1:30, NIV)

“I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.” (Ephesians 3:16-18, NIV)

Illustration: “A spark from the fire is like the fire. The tiniest twig on the giant oak, or the smallest branch of the vine, has the nature of the oak or the vine, and is in that respect like the oak or the vine. A drop of water on the end of your finger from the ocean is like the ocean: not in its size, of course, for the big ships cannot float upon it, nor the big fishes swim in it; but it is like the ocean in its essence, in its character, in its nature. Just so, a holy person is like God. Not that he is infinite as God is; he does not know everything; he has not all power and wisdom as God has; but he is like God in his nature. He is good and pure, and loving and just, in the same way that God is.”

“Holiness, then, is conformity to the nature of God. It is likeness to God, as He is revealed in Jesus.” (*The Way of Holiness* by Colonel Samuel Logan Brengle)

Your Story is: To Be Continued

Continued in Confidence

“Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 1:6, NIV)



“Being confident of this...” (Philippians 1:6a, NIV)

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

Continued in Christ

“...That he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 1:6b, NIV)

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” (Colossians 2:6-7)

The phrases, “In Christ,” “in Him,” or “in Christ Jesus” appear 85 times in the New Testament. There is something powerful about this. This speaks of our continued relationship with Jesus. We can have confidence in Christ because He never lets us down. While we will certainly face both mountain tops and valleys, we can be confident that His grace is sufficient.

God will finish what He began. God never starts something that He cannot finish. We start things we can't finish, but God never does.

Illustration: Personal story of starting something and not finishing it.

How about you? Do you always finish what you start? Thank God that He didn't quit what He started!

Aren't you glad that Jesus didn't quit halfway to the cross? Thank God He didn't decide that living a good life and doing a few miracles was enough. We didn't need a good man or a miracle worker. We needed a Savior — a perfect sacrifice for sin. When Jesus, on the cross, said, “It is finished,” He revealed that He had finishing power. God will finish what He started. You can count on it.

Paul said he was confident of this. In 2 Timothy 1:12 (NAS), Paul wrote: “For I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.” Paul was convinced. He had been persuaded by his experience of God that God could be trusted. And isn't this what faith is? Isn't faith trusting God? We can trust that God will do what He says.

You see, we not only have people who are with us and for us, we have a God who is with us and for us! Again, we are not alone. God is on our side! Listen to what Paul says in Romans 8:31-32 (NIV): “What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?”

William Booth said, “I will tell you the secret: God has had all that there was of me. There have been men with greater brains than I, even with greater opportunities, but from the day I got the poor of London on my heart and caught a vision of what Jesus Christ could do with me and them, on that day I made up my mind that God should have all of William Booth there was. And if there is anything of power in the Salvation Army, it is because God has had all the adoration of my heart, all the power of my will, and all the influence of my life.”

Conclusion

Our story is a result of God's love that can be filled with hope and rooted in holiness. As we sit here today, the upcoming pages of our story are blank to us but filled with promises of God.

Reflection Questions:

- Have you responded to God's love, hope and holiness and what it means to your story?
- Are you confident that He who began a good work will carry it on to completion in Christ?
- In what way has God called you to best use your story for His Kingdom?

