



SPECIAL OBSERVANCE SUNDAY

# "Longing for God"

## Corps Cadet Sunday



SPRING 2021



## **SPECIAL OBSERVANCE SUNDAY • 2020-2021**

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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.

### **TERRITORY ADDRESSES:**

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1424 Northeast Expressway  
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The Salvation Army Western Territory  
30840 Hawthorne Blvd.  
Ranchos Palos Verdes, CA 90275

# CORPS CADET SUNDAY

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## AIM OR INTENT OF MATERIALS:

The purpose of Corps Cadet Sunday is to encourage our young people and to recruit other young people for membership in the Corps Cadet program. Corps Cadet Sunday provides an opportunity for the corps cadets to use their leadership skills and show their talents.

## WORSHIP PROGRAM OUTLINE

### Welcome & Announcements

#### Call to worship

*As a desert wanderer longs for springs of cool water,  
so my thirsty soul reaches out for You, O God.  
How I long for a deeper sense of Your presence,  
for a faith that will embrace You  
without fear or doubt!*

#### Praise and worship

Song suggestions:

“Guardian” by Ben Cantelon

“Reckless Love” by Cory Asbury

#### Corps Cadet Testimony

#### Special music or performance

*Our Corps Cadet brigades are filled with young people with amazing and diverse talent.  
Invite one to share their God-given ability on this Sunday.*

\*Painting during the sermon

\*Dance

\*Solo performance

(voice or instrument)

\*Drama

**Congregational Song:** “As the Deer” (74/559)

#### Offertory

*Invite corps cadets to lead and pray for the offering.*

**Scripture Reading:** Psalm 42

**Sermon/Message:** Longing for God

**Response Time and Closing Song:** “Knowing You” (565/725)

**Closing Prayer**



## **CREATIVE/RELEVANT RESOURCES:**

Dance song suggestion: "Rescue" by Lauren Daigle at <https://youtu.be/3U4Q2R7ZZAE>

Drama inspired by <https://billygrahamlibrary.org/in-his-own-words-longing-for-god/>

## **Graphics:**

PowerPoint slides and poster/program cover available.



# HOLINESS MEETING MESSAGE:

## “LONGING FOR GOD”

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There are some key Scripture verses and Bible stories that anyone who's been coming to the corps for a while has heard. I like to call them “the classics.”

You know the ones...

- Story of Moses and the Israelites leaving Egypt
- Story of David and Goliath
- Story of Noah and the big boat
- Story of Jonah and the big fish
- Story of Jesus's birth
- Story of the last supper
- “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 I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord.”
- “As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants you, my God.”
- And so-o-o-o many others

We're going to look at one of those familiar verses. Take a minute and imagine with me. Picture a beautiful blue sky, green pastures, giant trees, and cold water flowing from a stream. Now imagine a deer drinking from the stream. Peaceful, right? The deer is calm and satisfied. It has what it needs. Now imagine the grass is shriveled, the trees are brown, and the stream is dried up. No water is flowing. Picture the deer, thirsty, coming for water.

Psalm 42:1 says, “**As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God.**” What word jumps out at you from this verse? In school I was told that if something is repeated it probably means it's important. What word gets repeated in this verse? **Pants.**

I don't know about you, but pants or panting doesn't sound peaceful to me. The definition of panting is “breathing with short, quick breaths, to be out of breath.” This is an overwhelming longing for water. This is DESPERATION. This is an urgent need. I find it so powerful that the imagery used is water, not food.

In case you didn't know, at least 60 per cent of the adult body is made of water. Every living cell in the body needs it to keep functioning. Water acts as a lubricant for our joints, regulates our body temperature through sweating and respiration, and helps to flush out waste. People can go without food for 30-40 days—like Jesus in the wilderness. People can only last 3-4 days without water. That time would be shorted in difficult conditions, like broiling heat.

We can all somewhat relate to this overwhelming longing for water. If you've ever been to camp or done any strenuous activity outside during the summer months, you know what it's like to be urgently thirsty. To be desperate for a tall glass of iced water. When nothing else can satisfy, no soda, no Gatorade, no ice pop, nothing else, only water.



This Scripture portrays a powerful image – a deer aching with thirst. Maybe the thirst came from drought or from heated pursuit; either way, the deer *longed for* and *needed* water. In the same way, the psalmist's soul *longed for* and *needed* God. This is the kind of desperation that the psalmist is trying to convey to the reader: a deep longing for God and a desperate need for Him. Do we long for this sort of fellowship with God? Or do we just take a sip as we pass by out of habit?

This psalmist's unfilled longing to worship in God's house suggests he was a Temple singer who was prevented, for some unknown reason, from returning to the Temple in Jerusalem. He was oppressed by those around him who saw his exile in the wilderness as evidence that Yahweh was powerless. This son of Korah prayed to return to Jerusalem and the Temple. His prayer begins with a powerful word picture which compares his desire to be in God's house to a deer audibly panting for streams of water. Streams is the translation of a Hebrew word used for channels which sometimes flow with water, but which are only ravines in the dry season. The deer, who has come to this valley for a drink, has found only dust.

In the midst of a desperate, perhaps even a crisis, situation, you have two choices. You can shrivel in despair, trying to resolve the situation on your own, with your own strength and your own abilities. You can try to satisfy your heart's needs with the many things this world has to offer. Or, you can be like this psalmist who, in the midst of his desperation, longed for God as his life source.

We can thirst or have a longing for many things. But as this worship song shows, God is the only One who can truly satisfy.

*As the deer panteth for the water  
So my soul longs after You  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship You  
You alone are my strength, my shield  
To You alone may my spirit yield  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship You  
I want You more than gold or silver  
Only You can satisfy  
You alone are the real joy giver  
And the apple of my eye*

Is knowing the Lord an absolute necessity in your life? Is it your heart's cry? Are you desperate for His Spirit's leading on your life?

