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online soldiership lessons

DOCTRINE 2: ONE GOD

We believe that there is only one God, who is infinitely perfect, the Creator, Preserver, and Governor of all things, and who is the only proper object of religious worship.

Ready:

Read before Lesson 2: God. CLICK on the link. (links online)

*OR Print out hardcopy: Lesson 2-Reading Handout

Set:

Within this lesson we want to look at God, His character, role and our response as worship.

- 1) After prayer and a welcome, gather to creatively brainstorm attributes of God.
- 2) Write them out-Visually displaying His names and characteristics.



Action:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ighpk8Dlwz4> "I'm in His Hands Ditmer / Laeger
[I'm In His Hands - YouTube](#). (*click on link)

Go!

Lesson 2: One God Worthy of Worship

In this lesson we are learning about a doctrine of faith which is so vast...it causes us to ask ourselves the question, "How can we even know such a God?" For the skeptic seeking scientific proof there might need to be an adjustment of how they perceive or measure to make a decision of this size- "beyond reasonable doubt". At the most basic level God's existence cannot be proved or disproved. Hebrews 11:16 tells us that "...without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him." In his last days of ministry on Earth, Jesus told those who followed Him that "Because you have seen me, you have believed; but blessed are those who have not seen and believed (John 20:29). Faith is the "stuff" of miracles!

Still, we are not without proofs- they are all around us. We see Him in creation ("The heaven's declare the glory of God; and the skies proclaim the work of His hands" Psalm 19:4), and our own hearts have confirmed His presence. I love Ecclesiastes 3:11 which tells us that "He (God) has set eternity in the hearts of mankind." There is a profound sense that there is more than what we can see, taste, feel or comprehend in this universe. In every culture throughout time there has always been a longing for God which has expressed itself in art, psychology, science, theology, literature, architecture...and this inner calling to mankind is ongoing and passionate.

The response to God however is individual. We each decide, don't we?

Once a person acknowledges God in our world they must also realize that they are in need of forgiveness (Romans 3:23), 6:23). It is in this most holy place that our lives are transformed as we reach out in acceptance and respond back to our Savior in worship.

This was at the heart of William Booth's vision- to step into the lives of the poorest and most forgotten of society with the truth of God's presence and saving power combined with the meeting of basic needs, skills and a plan for "their way out". True mission begins with the One, true God- who is infinitely perfect, the Creator, Preserver, and Governor of all things, and who is the only proper object of religious worship.

FYI / CK IT OUT this week:

Look at Handouts 1 & 2. Discuss how The Salvation Army's Vision today captures the essence of God's Mission in Rescuing Mankind.

Watch: "Dreaming": https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3iAXP_bKsv0

Or click: [Salvation Army 30-second animated TV spot showcases the simple dreams of a young girl in need - YouTube.](#)

From the following scriptures, what characteristics of God do you see?

Genesis 1:1

Exodus 15:18

Leviticus 19:2

Psalm 86:5

Psalms 67:4

Psalm 90:2

Malachi 3:6a

Our Vision

Empowered by God, Called by Jesus Christ and Impassioned by the Holy Spirit. The Salvation Army in the Western Territory will be a church that is...

A. Biblically Authentic in Motive & Mission

Compelled by God's love and sincerely seeking to do God's will, we will be consumed by a total commitment to mission. As a people of God, our priority will be fulfillment of the Great Commission, beginning right in the community where he has placed us. We will boldly seek the lost, making disciples and striving to enlist soldiers who publicly commit to radical obedience to Christ.

We will be a worshiping community, known for our commitment to prayer, holy living and service to others.

We will be a people committed to worldwide missions, willing to share with the worldwide Salvation Army our resources of people and money in order to win the world for Jesus.

B. A Relevant & Vibrant Expression of Christianity

While being uncompromising in the basics of our faith, we will seek to be attuned to the time, to the place and to the people.

We will be competent in the use of new technologies to effectively further the aims of the Gospel, adopting new methods and styles of ministry that are productive. We will use what works. We will discard whatever proves to be ineffective.

We will promote a lifelong learning commitment among our people, helping them identify and use their gifts in service. Identification of leaders and potential leaders will be a high priority.

Our primary aim always, and in all we do, will be to radiate Christ.

Our unwavering commitment will be to maintain a standard of excellence in our work and our service.

C. Culturally Diverse in Methods & Ministry

We will at all times seek to be knowledgeable of, sensitive to, and discerning of the differences in the cultures and subcultures we serve.

We will strive to break down the walls and overcome the barriers that separate our people, promoting an understanding of the unity of all peoples in Christ.

We will intentionally reach out in service and ministry to people of every generation, within all races and cultures.

We will recognize, respect and celebrate our cultural distinctives.

Such action will be reflected in the placement of personnel, in styles of Christian worship, in delivery of services, and in communications.

D. Compassionately Active in Serving Humanity

Our ministry will continue to be to the whole person. We – soldiers, adherents, recruits, employees, volunteers and advisory organization members alike – will be a people who see ourselves as catalysts for meeting the spiritual and social needs of our community.

To this end we will continually seek to determine the unmet needs in that community. We will identify and access resources, both human and material, from within and outside of our communities in order to meet such needs.

Above all else, we will be people who care. Wherever we minister we will accept responsibility for the care of all God's creation. We will lovingly care for each other. We will demonstrate our unwavering love for God by loving our neighbors...helping the helpless, offering hope to the hopeless and bringing healing to the hurting in Christ's name.

SAVING SOULS

“We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has, by his suffering and death, made an atonement for the whole world so that whosoever will may be saved.” **Salvation Army Doctrine #6**

The central word of the name of this 21st century fighting force for the Lord is *salvation!* It's what we're all about. Salvation Army soldiers know that they are saved – to save! Every soldier is an individual agent of the Lord Jesus, and in signing the Soldier's Covenant commits himself to win new people for Christ.

William Booth charged early day Salvationists to “go for souls – and go for the worst.” His primary passion was for people. When we, The Salvation Army, look at the physical, geographic world spinning in space, we have always seen and still see people who need the chance to hear the *Good News* of a Heavenly Father who created them and loves them with all his heart!

We are passionate people and we are passionate about people; we love what we do and we love the people we serve. It is one of the hallmarks of our service and our ministry.



“To save a soul is better than to command an army, to win a battle, to rule an empire or to sit upon a throne.”

Samuel Logan Brengle
The Way of Holiness

We're an Army Fighting For a Glorious King •

**We're an Army fighting for a glorious King;
We will make the world with hallelujahs ring;
With victorious voices we will ever sing:
There's salvation for the world.**

*For the world, for the world, Jesus died, Jesus died,
For the world, for the world, there is room in Jesus' side.
All the world to save, to battle we will go,
And we ever will our colors boldly show,
With a trumpet voice we'll let the millions know
There's salvation for the world.*

**We're an Army brave, arrayed in armor bright;
We will turn the world from darkness into light;
As we march along we'll shout with all our might:
There's salvation for the world.**

**We're an Army saved, by blood and fire made strong;
And with righteousness we mean to conquer wrong;
This shall be our universal battle song:
There's salvation for the world.**

William James Pearson (1832-92)
Salvation Army Songbook #821

John 4:24
II Corinthians 6:18
I Corinthians 13:14
Hebrews 4:13
I John 4:8

QUESTION:

How do we respond in light of the character and presence of God
(Either personally, or as a community of faith: corps)?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yBulbOv-NNk>
or click on link: [Doctrine 2 - The Salvation Army - YouTube](#).

Boots on the Ground:

A Prayerful Act of Commitment- (Activity)

Pause: Pray for one another...Ponder His presence.

As people go:

Each person is challenged to place a part of their lives in God's hands this week.

What will you place in God's hands this week?

How will you worship the One True God in your daily life