

you have been chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God. 1 Peter 2v9



## CORPS OFFICERS, CHILDREN'S MINISTRY WORKERS

Thank you each week for showing children that Jesus is the most important part of your life. You are impacting a generation to become fully alive to God's spirit.

I've noticed that many kids know about Jesus, but have they been given the opportunity to respond to Him? Ah!! That's why we have...

# Decision Weeks

salvos.org.au/2020

1army mission 2020  
doing whatever it takes

5. The Territory  
passionate  
about bringing children to Jesus.

*I was speaking with some teenagers a few weeks ago. They all had become Christians while they were children. A few of them had become Christians out of a sense of crisis – but most of them out of a **growing understanding** that what they had learned about God needed to become personal to them.*

We need to give kids these opportunities to respond to God. Children respond to God in different ways, just as adults do.

**Max Lucardo** speaking about himself says “in 1965 a red-headed **10year old** with a tornado of freckles sits in a Bible class on Wednesday night. What I remember of the class are scenes – school desks with initials carved in them. A blackboard. A dozen or so kids. Some listening, some not. A teacher wearing a suit coat too tight to button around his robust belly.

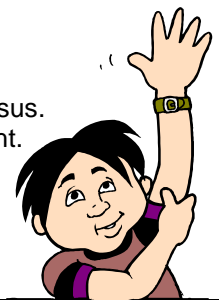
He is talking about Jesus. He is explaining the cross. I know I had heard it before, but that night I heard it for sure. “You can’t save yourself, you need a Saviour”.

**I can't explain why it connected that night as opposed to another, but it did.**

He simply articulated what I was beginning to understand – I was lost – and he explained what I needed – a redeemer. From that night on, my heart belonged to Jesus. Many would argue that a ten-year old is too young for such a decision. And they may be right.

**All I know is that I never made a more earnest decision in my life.**

*Ok - I know that was 40 years ago..... God is still doing it! Changing kids lives for eternity.*



The Salvation Army at **Forest Lake** joined with the angels in celebration as 8 children re-affirmed their faith in Jesus and 2 children for the first time gave their hearts to Jesus, asking him to be their special friend. The children were given opportunity to respond to Jesus during Fun Fridays (kid's club).

Kids Club at **Hannam Vale** and **Moorland** is an after-school time of fun, games and Bible teaching for Primary School children. On Friday, after talking about Jesus dying on the cross, the leaders asked the children if any of them would like to ask Jesus into their hearts and lives. Five children said yes! Now to disciple them.

Ask your corps folk to pray that the kids will respond to Jesus.

Major I

***Here's some ideas that you might find helpful. Choose what is appropriate for your kids. God will also give you inspiration, listen to him.***

You will need – 3 separate t shirts, already prepared,

- Someone comes in looking very smart wearing a jacket and white T- shirt. However it's very hot and so the jacket is removed.
- When this is done – gasp, horror!- there is revealed written on the back of the T-shirt all sorts of sins that the wearer has committed – “lying, swearing, cheating etc
- He is sent off to get himself clean.
- When he returns, however, he is in a worse state. The words are still on the T shirt but are now smudged and messy, through the unsuccessful attempts to remove them.
- Yet again the wearer is sent off to sort it out, and finally returns looking great in a clean white T shirt. This is found not to be the original one, but a brand new shirt that someone has given him.
- Sometimes when we try to make things better when we've done something wrong, it gets worse, like the t shirt.

**Hold up the different shirts at the appropriate time as these verses are read and explained.**

1 <sup>st</sup> shirt	Read Romans 3v 23	We have all sinned
2 <sup>nd</sup> shirt	Read Ephesians 2v 8-9.	Nothing we do – can remove our sin
3 <sup>rd</sup> shirt	1 Peter 3v 18	Christ died to remove our sin
	2 Corinthians 5v 17	The old is gone, the new has come.



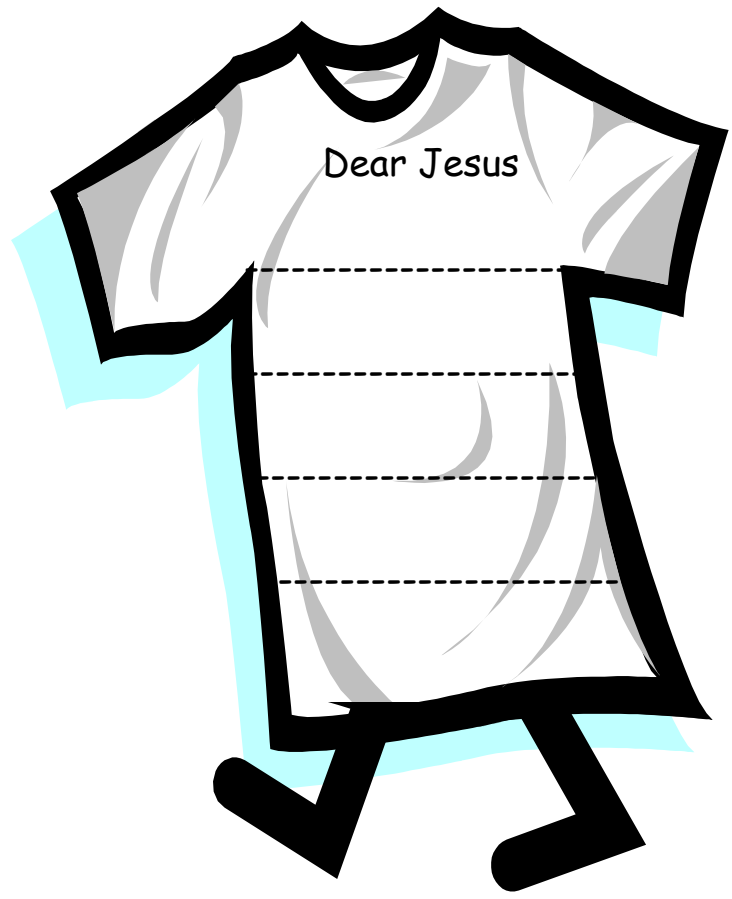
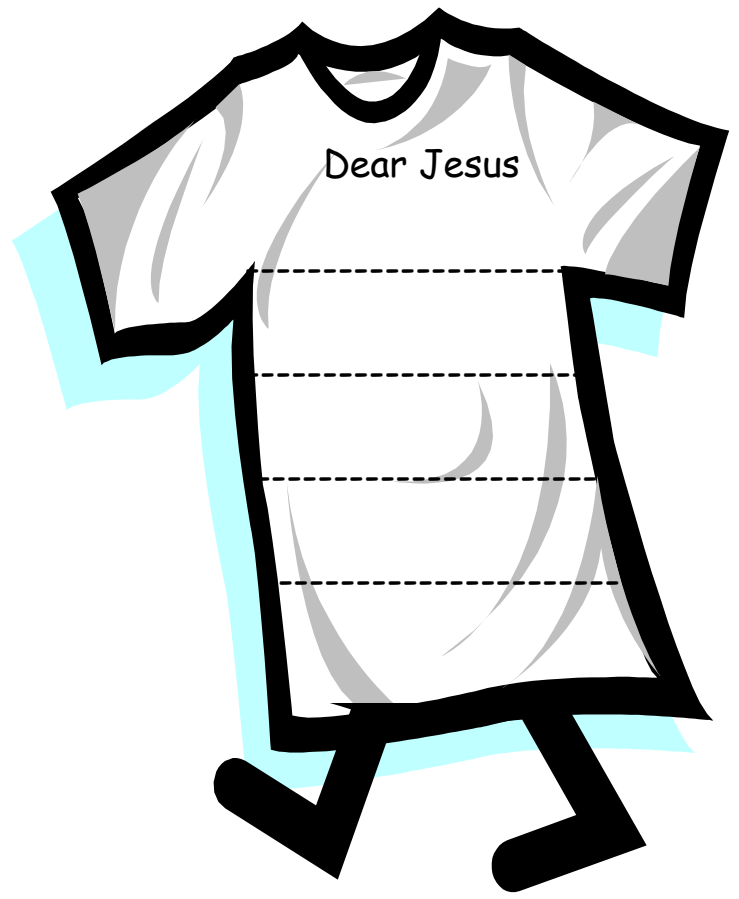
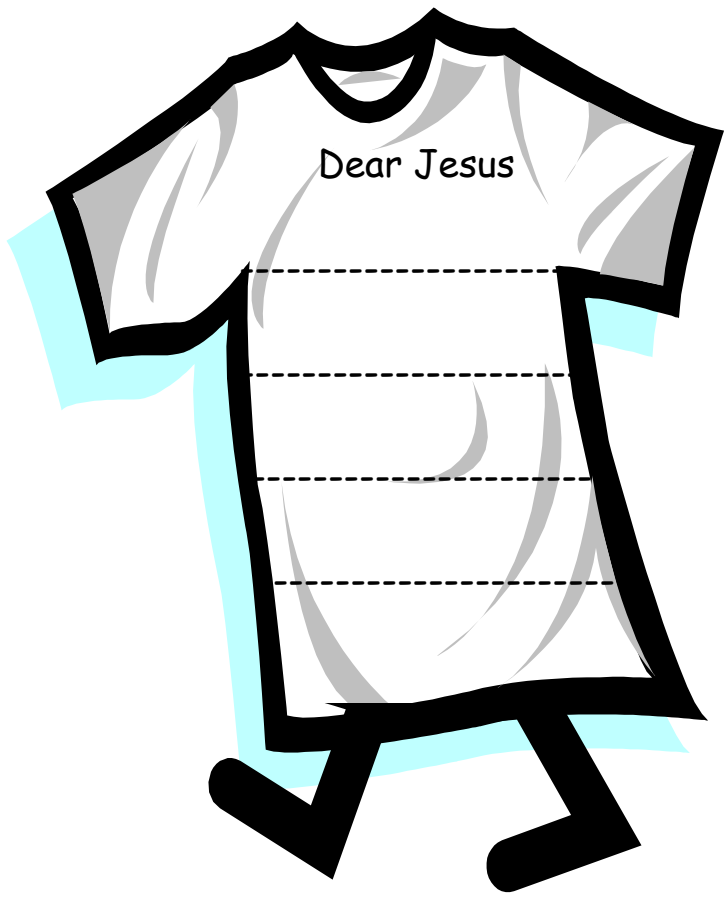
Ask the children if they would like to pray asking God to remove their sin. Suggest they talk with a specific leader. On the following pages you will find some pages that can be copied and given to the children to write their own prayer, or colour in.

Any response is part of a process. Children respond in different ways.

- ✓ Some might want to pray asking God to remove their sin.
- ✓ Some might take a small step towards Jesus – a part of a process
- ✓ Some might not connect at all this time, but this reminder might be part of their journey.
- ✓ Some kids might respond in surprising ways depending on their circumstances.
- ✓ Every move towards Jesus is important.
- ✓ Take any opportunity to chat with parents, about steps their children have taken.

Here's some questions to help your everyday conversation with the kids in your Corps.





Colour in the bear, make him as bright and colourful as possible. Cut out the t-shirt, blu-tak or sticky tape the shirt on the bear. Lift up the t-shirt - **what does it say?**

