

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



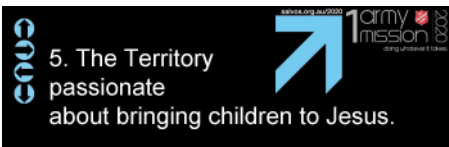
**CORPS OFFICERS,  
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY WORKERS  
Pre-schoolers, Sagala, Kid's Club, Kid's Church,**

### Why do we have 'decision week'?

Offering these 'commitment times' is a way of supporting children on their journey towards faith. It gives children a chance to respond to what they have learnt and understand from their spiritual journey to date. This journey never ends.

Don't worry when children make many decisions to follow Jesus. Each one is important, but it doesn't invalidate any earlier decisions. They build on each other. The important thing is to give them the opportunities to respond to God as these 'decisions' really make a difference.

# Decision Week August, 2011



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

*The story is suitable for all ages. Each age group responds differently so there is appropriate age responses below.*

### Through the Roof – Mark 2v 1-5

Read 'Through the Roof' (Lost Sheep Story) available from *Koorong* or *the Lost Sheep website* ([www.lostsheep.com.au](http://www.lostsheep.com.au)) or they have stories that you can download from the website to use on the big screen along with a PDF manual, these cost \$10.

- Read the story : During the story you might like to get the children involved, e.g. some to knock and everyone to join in with the '**Yee-ha! Woo-hoo! It's healing time**'.
- After the story, say "When Jesus sees that the man's friends really believe in him, Jesus says to the man 'Your sins are forgiven, The things you have done wrong are forgiven.'"
- To forgive sins means to forget about them and not to worry about them anymore.
- Some of the people in the house think that Jesus cannot forgive people for the things they have done wrong.
- Jesus knows that some people are thinking this so he tells the people that he is God's Son and so he can forgive people for the wrong things they have done.

- To prove this, he tells the man on the mat. "Get up, grab your bed and go home."
- The man stands up and does what Jesus tells him to.
- Everyone is amazed at what Jesus has done.
- Tell the children about the time you became a Christian, or ask someone else to come and tell them, especially if friends invited them.
- Tell them of the amazing things God is doing in your life now.
- *Say to the children*
  - *Jesus invites you to be God's friend and join his family*
  - *Do you believe that Jesus can forgive the wrong things you do?*
  - *Are you sorry for the wrong things you do?*
  - *If you are, come and see me.*
- Find a quiet place, not out of sight, but away from distracting noise.
- Use the child's name to make it more personal.
- Allow time for children to think about the invitation and how they want to respond.
- Affirm children for coming to talk, and for giving such an important matter some thought.
- Use open-ended questions that allow them to answer truthfully.
- Let them know that you respect their decision, whatever it may be.
- Give the group another activity as a distractor when you offer an invitation to talk individually with an adult about a faith response.
- Remember that all responses toward God are a work of the Holy Spirit.
- Our task is to listen, answer questions, encourage, explain and provide understanding and an opportunity to respond.
- Ask the child to pray their own prayer to God. – Help them if they ask.
- Continue to pray for and with the child during the week. Next week ask them what sort of week they had and what they've been praying about.



*Be ready to tell kids how & when you became a Christian & the difference it makes to you. Try & say it in 3 or 4 sentences*

- 1. Before Christ*
- 2. The cross - conversion*
- 3. Your life now*

Our kids need to be out in the world experiencing that being a Christian is an active, living, everyday thing. **We have the best news in the world!** Jesus died for us to provide a way for us to be with God forever!

It's good for them to tell others. Here are some other ways they can do this.

- Invite someone to an activity or event sponsored by the church.
- E-mail a friend and tell him/her how Jesus became your special friend and why that is important.
- Txt a friend and tell them about Jesus.



## Note for leaders of Pre-schoolers

- *You could look at the pictures in the story book or PowerPoint again and ask the children to tell you the story again.*
- *Answer questions that they ask.*
- *Live a godly life in front of them.*
- *Naturally and as normal as possible let them know God is real and He loves them and wants to be their friend.*
- *God's Holy Spirit will guide you in conversations with the children.*
- *Ask them if they want to pray or sit in a circle and pray after you.*

*Hi Jesus, thank you for loving me  
I'm sorry for not always doing what's right  
Please help me to be your friend and part of your family.*

## Other ideas and suggestions

**You'll need a box (copypaper box size is good) and some pipecleaners**

Use the box as a house, each person makes a pipe cleaner person of themselves.

**Where are you?**

- In the crowd outside: not particularly interested in Jesus, but I don't mind him.
- Going through the door: I want to find out more about Jesus.
- On the roof: I'm really keen to get closer to Jesus and have him as my friend.
- Inside: Lying on the floor: I know Jesus can help me.

Invite them to place the pipecleaner person somewhere in or around the house, to indicate what they are thinking/feeling about Jesus right now.

Have a conversation about



# Family Time

*Today's Bible story was from Mark 2v 1-5. This story is about 4 friends who brought their friend to Jesus. Ask your child to read it to you.*

*This man was sad before he met Jesus.*

*Think about some sad people you know – pray for them.*

*Jesus forgave this man and healed him and gave him new life and hope for the future.*

*Do you see a future of hope for yourself? How are you portraying a future of hope to your child/children.*

*We encourage you to talk to your child/children about:-*

- *how Jesus forgives us for the wrong things we do. Do you believe this?*
- *What sort of future do you hope for your family?*
- *What sort of future do your children want?*
- *How Jesus wants to meet with us no matter what – just like He did with the paralysed man..*
- *You can pray together.*

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# DECISION WEEK REPORT

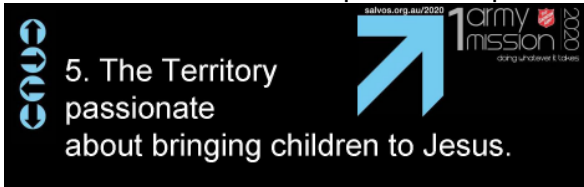
*"SAVING SOULS"*

CORPS \_\_\_\_\_ QUARTER August 2011

Thank you for giving the children in your care the opportunity to respond to Jesus.

It's good for us to hear about these –  
We need to know about these, please complete this form.....

Recognising that children and young people make decisions at times during the year, please record first time and other positive responses made in the quarter prior to Decision Week.



	Was Decision Week held?	DECISION WEEK		DURING QUARTER	
		1st Time	Other Responses	1st Time	Other Responses
Sunday School Under 8's	YES / NO				
Sunday School Over 8's	YES / NO				
Kids Club	YES / NO				
Junior Soldiers	YES / NO				
Moonbeams	YES / NO				
Explorers	YES / NO				
Adventurers	YES / NO				
Sunbeams	YES / NO				
Guards	YES / NO				
Rangers	YES / NO				
Youth Group	YES / NO				
Adult worship					
Home					
TOTALS					

Corps Officer \_\_\_\_\_ Date / / 2011

**PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN  
THIS REPORT TO DHQ who will forward it to THQ**