Junior Soldier Renewal Service

Living a Life That is Clean in Thought, Word and Deed.

Purpose:
Why are we doing this worship meeting?

Junior Soldiers will assist in the preparation and running of the Junior Soldier Renewal service as a component of their Award work. All levels will work together and Junior Soldiers will have an opportunity to review their promise and be supported by the wider church family in their discipleship journey.

You may like to change Big Buds at this time for some or all of your Junior Soldiers.

What is the key phrase or understanding that you want a church attender to explore and go away with from this meeting?

Junior Soldiers promise to try to live a life that is clean in thought, word and deed. The service is an opportunity for the whole faith community to explore what that means.

For the leaders to Consider & Prepare

As a Junior Soldier group, join together in planning and preparation for the renewal day service at your corps. For individuals and small groups you might like to include Big Buds and choose some other people to be involved in this preparation and planning for the service. In the preparation and planning you will need to work and consult with the Corps Officer and Junior Soldier leaders.

Before Renewal Day – important info for leaders

Before your Renewal Day Service you will need to meet together as a Junior Soldier group to read and explore the Scripture, discuss how you will put your service together, choose songs, decide who will participate and how, purchase and gather together all the resources you need etc.

It is also important to schedule a meeting with the Corps Officer to ensure they are a part of the discussions and planning for the service. The level of involvement by the Corps Officer will vary depending on the individual circumstances at each corps.

Send information about renewal day to parents/carers and Big Buds well in advance of the date and prepare extra invitations to the service for friends and family your Junior Soldiers might like to invite.

Discuss ‘renewal’ and the Promise as part of the planning for your Renewal Day Service. Remember that renewal is not an automatic assumption. Children are asked to consider the promise they have made and recommit to it each year at their current level of understanding. Each year children grow in the intellectual, emotional and spiritual understanding of what it means and what is required to be a disciple of Jesus. Renewal Day is their opportunity to assess where they are at in their spiritual journey.

Fix your Thoughts – Philippians 4:8

I know that Jesus is my Saviour from sin.
I have asked Him to forgive my sins, and I will trust Him to keep me good.
By His help, I will be His loving and obedient child, and will help others to follow Him.
I promise to pray, to read my Bible, and to lead a life that is clean in thought, word and deed.
I will not use anything that may injure my body or my mind, including harmful drugs, alcohol and tobacco.
Dear Jesus, today I promise that I will keep on trying, with your help, to keep my mind on thoughts that are true, pure, right, holy, friendly and proper.
and to decide if they can continue to commit to the promise of a Junior Soldier in The Salvation Army. Do not be too concerned if you have children, particularly those moving into the high school years who do not wish to recommit.

They should still come out the front to the Mercy Seat and pray with their Big Bud at the Renewal Day service and if they choose not to sign the card at that point let them know (and make sure their Big Bud understands) that this is ok. They can still continue to be a part of your group and let them know that they are welcome to sign the re-commitment card at any time throughout the year if they change their mind.

Renewal Day commitments express a sincere desire to continue to keep the Junior Soldier Promise. If children are not able to do this we have to be ok with that. Questioning and exploring issues of faith and how we live that out is a necessary part of growing. For some children this journey will be harder than for others. Our role is to continue to journey with them. It is critical to ensure that young people feel supported and do not feel judged for their decisions. If we allow them to travel their own faith journey, supported and encouraged by us, they will be more likely to develop a real and stronger faith that will see them through the years ahead.

We need to take a long term rather than a short term view with regards to spiritual outcomes.

**RENEWAL CARDS**

There are two types of Renewal Cards. One card contains the Junior Soldier promise and a Renewal prayer. The second may be used by everyone else in the congregation. It contains the key verse for this service and a renewal prayer.

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**Gift for Junior Soldiers and other children**

This Renewal service is accompanied by a gift for each child. The gift this year is a photo clip holder that reminds the children of the key verse. These can be given to all children (not just the Junior Soldiers). Please contact Robyn Prussing from the THQ Mission and Resource Team to order these.

robyn.prussing@aeu.salvationarmy.org

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**PREPARING FOR THE RENEWAL DAY SERVICE**

The Junior Soldiers will need to explore the Scripture passages before they can lead the Renewal Service. The following outline will help the Junior Soldier's to construct the service

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**FOR THE PLANING DAY YOU WILL NEED**

- Bibles – CEV, NIV, NLT and Good News
- Poster paper
- Textas
- Dictionary
- Highlighters

**CONNECTING IN**

Read Philippians 4:8 in 3 or 4 different translations as suggested above.

As a group make a list of the words that are used to describe what we should keep/fix our minds on e.g. **CEV** – true, pure, right, holy, friendly and proper. Look the words up in a Dictionary.

- Discuss/write or draw what you think these words mean. How do these words help us to live a life that is clean in thought, word and deed?
- How does this verse help you to understand this part of the Junior Soldier Promise?

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**THE MAIN THING Organising the Renewal Day Service**

Decide on the options for each activity. Think about what will work best for your corps. Highlight your choice of options and the resources that correspond.

Look at the song suggestions and don't forget to talk to the person who organises music for worship at your corps.

Put together your meeting plan.

**Things that you will need to include in your service:**

- Welcome
- Announcements
- Worship Songs (some suggestions are included in this outline)
- Prayer (you might like to use the responsive prayer your group has written)
- An introduction of the theme
- Scripture (in this service the scripture readings are included as part of the Activities)
- Offering
- Bible Message
- Reflection/decision time/Junior Soldier renewal
- Benediction

**TYING IN**

Write a responsive prayer using the words on your list from Philippians 4:8. You might like to use the prayer/s you write in your
Renewal Day Service.

(In a responsive prayer a verse or sentence is read aloud by the leader and is followed by a verse or sentence read aloud by the congregation. Or the leader and congregation read passages aloud alternatively.)

**SONG SUGGESTIONS**

- Holiness (take my life) – Scott Underwood ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHeEytojVY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHeEytojVY))
- Holy Holy Holy – SASB ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=414dGtEdPm](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=414dGtEdPm) or [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQEKdWdv5RI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQEKdWdv5RI))
- Agnus Dei (Worthy is the Lamb) – Michael W Smith ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTlMRd9ubas](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTlMRd9ubas))
- Open the eyes of my heart – Michael W Smith ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fadU7b9aa78](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fadU7b9aa78)) or there is a version of this song on Here I am to Worship for Kids that is available on ITunes
- You are holy; Lord there is none like you - Hillsong
- I want dear Lord a heart that's true and clean - SASB

**FOR THE JUNIOR SOLDIER**

**RENEWAL**

**YOU WILL NEED**

- For Introducing the theme
  - PPT slide of the Junior Soldier Promise (optional)
- For Activity 1 Part A – Scripture reading
  - Printed words (from CEV as above) around the room – make sure they are big enough to be easily seen (option 1a)
  - PPT with words (from CEV as above) (option 1b)
  - Poster Paper (option 2)
  - Bibles in different translations (option 2b)
  - Blu tac
  - Post-it notes (if using this option)

- For Activity 1 Part B – Posters or Discussion
  - Textas (option 1 - 0.6mm are great for both posters and post-it notes)
  - Post-it notes (option 1a)
  - Questions of PPT slide or printed to handout (option 2)

_A tip if using post-it notes: Make a ‘sticky wall’ by spraying the sheets of poster paper with adhesive prior to the service (its best to do this outside or in a well-ventilated area). The spray dries clear but it will help the post-it notes stay up and still allow them to be moved around if needed. Adhesive spray can be purchased at hardware or craft stores._

- For Activity 2 – Paper Scrunch
  - Paper with statements (options 1 & 3)
  - Blank paper (options 2 & 3)

- For Activity 3 – Reflection/Decision time
  - Water
  - Filter paper
  - Sand
  - Bottles of water (enough for everyone)

- Print off 'Fix Your Thoughts' cards (enough for everyone)
- Pens

- For Junior Soldier Renewal
  - Renewal Cards
  - Pens
  - Renewal Day item – Paper Clip
THE RENEWAL SERVICE
INTRODUCTION / CALL TO WORSHIP
Introduce the theme, “Living a life that is clean in thought, word and deed”, and explain that this is part of the Promise that Junior Soldiers make. You might like to have the Junior Soldier Promise on a PPT slide. You might like to say the Junior Soldier Promise together.

ACTIVITY 1 Part A
Scripture Reading
Read Philippians 4:8

“Finally, my friends keep your minds on whatever is true, pure, right, holy, friendly and proper. Don’t ever stop thinking about what is truly worthwhile and worthy of praise.” (CEV)

Options
1. Use the CEV translation only.
   a. Have the words printed out and put up around the room as visual reminders
   OR
   b. put onto a PPT that loops (ie words keep appearing)
2. Use a number of different translations and see what words are used the most often. Have someone write each different word at the top of a sheet of poster paper (one word per sheet) then put the sheets of poster paper up around the worship space.
   a. Ask different groups to look up the different translations from whatever Bibles are in your congregation that morning
   OR
   b. Bring some different translations to hand out.

“What do you understand by those words? What do they mean? How/what do you feel about those words? Think about your answers then write or draw in the appropriate space. Please help anyone who needs assistance with writing while we do this activity.”

2. Talk to (you will need a PPT slide with the questions or sheets to hand out)
   a. the person next to you
   OR
   b. in small multi-age or family groups

“What do you understand by those words? What do they mean? How/what do you feel about those words? Talk to the person next to you or get into groups to discuss this. Try to have a mix of ages in your group.”

Read Mark 7:20-23

“Then Jesus said: What comes from your heart is what makes you unclean. Out of your heart come evil thoughts, vulgar deeds, stealing, murder, unfaithfulness in marriage, greed, meanness, deceit, indecency, envy, insults, pride, and foolishness. All of these come from your heart, and they are what make you unfit to worship God.” (CEV)

ACTIVITY 1 Part B
Posters or Discussion
Options
1. Use poster paper with the words from the scripture passage as headings.
   a. Write on post-it notes then add to poster under the correct heading (best for large congregations)
   b. Write with texta on the paper (make sure they won’t mark the wall if you have put the paper up).

“Good people do good things because of the good in their hearts. Bad people do bad things because of the evil in their hearts. Your words show what is in your heart.” (CEV)

“It is important for us to keep our minds on whatever is true, pure, right, holy, friendly, and proper and never stop thinking about what is truly worthwhile and worthy of praise. That means we will not want to keep the thoughts that are not true, pure, right, holy, friendly, and proper. Sometimes it is necessary to let go of things that come into our minds so that those thoughts do not influence what we say and what we do. We need to do this on an ongoing basis. We need to practice letting go of or getting rid of the thoughts that lead us to speak words that are not true, not pure, not friendly. We need to practice not acting on thoughts that lead us to act in ways that are not right, holy and proper. We are going to practice that this morning.

We are going to look at some statements that are praiseworthy thoughts and some that are not. We are going to turn our statements into paper balls that we can throw around so that everyone gets a variety of
different statements to look at.

Each time you catch a ball of paper, open it, read it and decide if you want to keep it, drop it or bin it. Keep the praiseworthy thoughts, drop the thoughts that are not helpful to you, bin the thoughts that are damaging to you and could lead to unpraiseworthy words and deeds.

If you think you might need some help with this, or that someone else might need your help then go ahead and find a partner.

**ACTIVITY 2**

**Paper Scrunch – Keep it, Drop it, Bin It**

*(You could also do this activity with fairly small soft balls)*

**Options**

1. Have statements and pictures on paper (see appendix A for ideas but come up with some of your own as well)
2. Have people write their own words or draw their own pictures in the meeting
3. Do a combination of the above

You will need multiples of at least 5 per person to ensure everyone has an opportunity to receive a number of different statements during this activity.

Hand out sheets of paper (and pens for options 2 & 3).

- Ask everyone to write statements that describe some praiseworthy and not so praiseworthy thoughts. *(Options 1 & 3)*
- Ask everyone to scrunch up their paper.

- Once the papers are scrunched up they can throw it to someone else.
- Remind everyone that there will be some non-readers who will need assistance in this activity. You might like to make sure they have a reading buddy before you start.

“We need to remember to ask God to help us, with the help of His Holy Spirit, to practice keeping our thoughts on what is true, pure, right, holy, friendly, and proper *(point to each of these words around the room as you say them)*. The thoughts that we have affect what we say and what we do. The Holy Spirit helps us sort those thoughts before we speak or act on them. We do this so that we can check that our thoughts, our words and our actions are pleasing to God.

It’s a bit like this….”

**DEMONSTRATION**

*(See Appendix B for instructions – if you have a large congregation you may want to set up more than one station where people can do this.)*

**ACTIVITY 3**

**Reflection / Decision Time**

It would be helpful to speak to the music team and their Big Buds / Prayer Pals about the reflection prior to the meeting. This will allow them to participate in the activity before the remainder of the congregation comes forward.

“Just as we have seen the water filtered this morning when we make mistakes we ask God to forgive us and to help us.

It is always good for us to do something that helps us to remember what we have been learning so please come and pour a little of the impure water through the filter as a reminder to bring your thoughts, your words and your actions to God every day. When you have done this take a bottle of clean water. The water reminds us what God does for us. You might like to take a drink from your water bottle to signify what God has done for you.”

**JUNIOR SOLDIER RENEWAL**

Big Buds / Prayer Pals and Junior Soldiers have an opportunity to pray at the Mercy Seat and sign their Renewal Cards during the reflection time.

**REFLECTION:**

Give everyone else an opportunity to come forward and sign a “Fix Your Thoughts” card and pray.

**BENEDICTION**

**Philippians 1:9-11**

“I pray that your love will keep on growing and that you will fully know and understand how to make the right choices. Then you will still be pure and innocent when Christ returns. And until that day, Jesus Christ will keep you busy doing good deeds that bring glory and praise to God.” *(CEV)*

**OR**

You might like to use the Junior Soldiers Benediction on the PowerPoint included.
APPENDIX A

My annoying brother never helps with the dishes – sometimes I want to punch him.

I am loved and unique.

Someone has offended me – they apologised but I can't let it go.

I am not going to try and be friendly to that person who is nasty to me.

It’s a new day and I get to start all over again.

I don't want to help clean up – maybe I can sneak off and no one will notice.

Our leaders are doing a great job – I wonder how I can encourage them.

I think I will surprise my mum with flowers – I really love her.

I can't wait to tell everyone the juicy gossip I found out.

I know my mum is super busy this week – I think I will help her out as much as I can.

I can't stand that girl who brags about having a TV in her room when I don't.

There isn't anything wrong with illegally downloading movies from the internet – it doesn't hurt anyone.

She/he's hot – she/he's not.

That kid is always on his/her own – I wonder if he/she needs a friend.

I heard someone from our church is sick – I think I will make them a get well card.

If I get up earlier I will have time to pray and read my Bible – I am going to make a plan to do that.

I think my wife/husband/housemate is looking tired this week – I will get dinner and do the dishes so he/she can have a rest.

My friend is so kind and generous to people – I am so glad he/she is my friend.

God blesses me in so many ways – I need to thank him more.

I am really hopeless – no wonder I don't have friends.

I never do anything right – no wonder I am always in trouble.

Jesus loves me.

There is nothing special about me.

I wish people would leave me alone – they are so annoying.

Today is going to be the best day.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

I love the world God created – it’s so beautiful.

Also see Appendix C which contains some pictures you could use
APPENDIX B

NB Try this experiment before the day!

Things You'll Need

- 2 glasses or glass jars (one filled with water, one empty)
- Funnel (that will sit on top of the jug/jar)
- Cotton balls, enough to tightly pack the spout of your funnel
- 1 spoon or paddle pop stick
- Water
- A handful of dirt or soil

You can make a funnel for this experiment by cutting a 2 litre bottle in half crosswise. Place the top half that includes the neck and mouth of the bottle upside down inside the bottom half. The top half of the bottle should look like a funnel inserted into the bottom half of the bottle.

Instructions

1. Place cotton balls into the “spout” of the funnel, the cotton balls will filter out the soil.
2. Place the funnel into the top of the empty glass or jar.
3. Add the soil to the water and stir it in.
4. Pour the water into the top of the funnel device. The water will pass through the cotton balls, filtering out all of the soil. The clean and clear water will come out the spout into the bottom half of the glass/jar.
I can’t wait to tell everyone the juicy gossip I found out.
Ahh!! I don't want you coming near me!!

The world is a beautiful place from this angle.
APPENDIX (contd.)

This is fun I’m glad to be able to share my things.

Why am I so sad?
This is fun I'm glad to be able to share my things.

I like to share!!
APPENDIX C (contd.)

Give me a hug.

Give me a hug.
APPENDIX (contd.)

Why are you here, I thought I told you to stay away!!

I am not going to try and be friendly to that person who is nasty to me.
Ideas on how to use your clip

- Put this clip somewhere that you will see it often
- Put the ‘Fix Your Thoughts’ card on the clip and keep reading it every day until you can remember it
- Write other verses on cards and put these on your clip
- Use your clip to hold photos, pictures or words that remind you of things that are true, pure, rights, holy, friendly and proper.

**Fix Your Thoughts – Philippians 4:8**

I know that Jesus is my Saviour from sin.
I have asked Him to forgive my sins, and I will trust Him to keep me good.
By His help, I will be His loving and obedient child, and will help others to follow Him.
I promise to pray, to read my Bible, and to lead a life that is clean in thought, word and deed.
I will not use anything that may injure my body or my mind, including harmful drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

Dear Jesus, today I promise that I will keep on trying, with your help, to keep my mind on thoughts that are true, pure, right, holy, friendly and proper.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Junior Soldier’s Signature</th>
<th>Big Buddy Prayer Pal Signature</th>
<th>Date</th>
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‘Fix your thoughts’
Phil 4:8
“Finally, my friends keep your minds on whatever is true, pure, right, holy, friendly and proper. Don’t ever stop thinking about what is truly worthwhile and worthy of praise.” (CEV)

Dear Jesus, today I promise that I will keep on trying, with your help, to keep my mind on thoughts that are true, pure, right, holy, friendly and proper. Amen.

Signature
Date

“Finally, my friends keep your minds on whatever is true, pure, right, holy, friendly and proper. Don’t ever stop thinking about what is truly worthwhile and worthy of praise.” (CEV)

Dear Jesus, today I promise that I will keep on trying, with your help, to keep my mind on thoughts that are true, pure, right, holy, friendly and proper. Amen.

Signature
Date