

ENROLLMENT SUNDAY

PURPOSE

Junior Soldier Enrollment Sunday is an incredible opportunity to remind the congregation to rejoice in the goodness of God and to follow Him because of His goodness; enroll new Junior Soldiers, focusing on their commitment to follow God.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

"Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care." (Psalm 95:1-7a)

HOLINESS MEETING

PRELIMINARY WORSHIP

YP Band

CALL TO WORSHIP

Selected New Junior Soldier
See the attached Call to Worship.

OPENING CONGREGATIONAL SONG & ENTRANCE OF NEW JUNIOR SOLDIERS

"Soldiers of Our God, Arise" (SASB #696)

WELCOME & FAMILY GREETINGS

Take time for the Corps Family to greet each other. This is also an intentional time to be sure new visitors are welcomed as they may be there for the first time with the new Junior Soldiers being enrolled.

ENROLLMENT OF JUNIOR SOLDIERS

See the attached sample Junior Soldier Enrollment Ceremony.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR THE LEADER

SUGGESTED HOLINESS MEETING:

Everything is Awesome!
(November)

ENROLLMENT SUNDAY MATERIAL:

Junior Soldier Enrollment Sunday materials is based on materials submitted by the USA Western Territory of The Salvation Army.



GIVING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

Use the newly enrolled Junior Soldiers through special music and/or collecting the offering.

SCRIPTURE READING: PSALM 95:1-7a

Selected New Junior Soldier

MESSAGE

EVERYTHING IS AWESOME!

TIME OF REFLECTION & ALTAR CALL

CLOSING SONG

"Onward, Christian Soldiers" (SASB #690)

BENEDICTION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Have the Junior Soldier (JS) read the first line, followed by the congregation (C) in a united reading of the second line, either in the bulletin or on the screen. The reading is based on Psalm 66:1-2, 5, 8-9.

JS: Shout with joy to God, all the earth!

C: Sing to the glory of His name; offer Him glory and praise!

JS: Come and see what God has done.

C: How awesome His works on humankind's behalf!

JS: Praise our God; let the sounds of His praise be heard.

C: He has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping.



SERMON OUTLINE
EVERYTHING IS AWESOME!
PSALM 95:1-7a

INTRODUCTION

Have you seen the *The LEGO® Movie* that came out this year? Its theme song is titled, “Everything is Awesome!” The lyrics to the chorus state: *Everything is awesome; Everything is cool when you’re part of a team; Everything is awesome, when we’re living our dream.* It’s a bit like saying, “Everything in life is great if you’re on God’s side.” Well...yes and no.

MAIN POINTS

- I. **Difficult Journey:** We are actually promised that we will not have an easy life if we’re on God’s team. (James 1:2-4; 2 Thessalonians 1:4; Mark 8:34; Ephesians 6:13)
- II. **Joy in the Journey:** However, we can still find joy in the difficult journey. (Philippians 4:4-9; Psalm 9:2; Psalm 33:21; Matthew 5:12)
- III. **A Journey of Gratitude:** And the main way to find joy is by gratitude—or by counting our blessings. (Psalm 69:30; 1 Corinthians 10:16; Philippians 4:6; 1 Timothy 4:4)

CONCLUSION

Some more of the “Everything is Awesome” lyrics go like this: *Life is good ‘cause everything’s awesome; Lost my job, it’s a new opportunity; More free time for my awesome community...Stepped in mud, got new brown shoes... Blue skies, bouncy springs; We just named two awesome things; A Nobel prize, a piece of string; You know what’s awesome? EVERYTHING!*

That’s definitely an optimist’s song right there! Everything isn’t always awesome, but we can find joy through gratitude along the journey. Psalm 95:1-2 is a good outline for us to find what is awesome in our lives: we sing for joy to the Lord, we focus on our Rock, and we give Him thanks. Then, with all of that, just as these new Junior Soldiers have done today, we commit our lives to serving and worshipping Him as our God (Psalm 95:6-7).



SAMPLE ENROLLMENT CEREMONY

Flag bearers should make their way to the front. The names of those being enrolled should be announced clearly, and they should be invited by name to the platform.

OFFICER:

God, in His great mercy, has entered into a Covenant relation with man. This relationship included children! It is the desire of God that we all partake in mission, whether we be mature in age or very young. Jesus said: "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Children are important to Jesus and to His father, and it is His desire that children should know Christ and follow Him. (*Face the Junior Soldiers.*) Each of you has heard this call from God and you have responded by making certain promises to Him today. You stand before the Soldiers of this Corps and the believers in our congregation prepared to declare your faith in God. You have declared that you have been saved from your sins and have chosen to follow Jesus and live for Him. Do you declare that you are saved today and that you are committed to living for Jesus?

JUNIOR SOLDIERS:

I do.

OFFICER:

You desire to become Junior Soldiers in The Salvation Army. As Junior Soldiers, will you be faithful people, loyal to God and loyal to The Salvation Army?

JUNIOR SOLDIERS:

I will.

OFFICER:

Do you promise to pray, to read your Bible, and live a life that is clean in thought, word, and deed?

JUNIOR SOLDIERS:

I do.

OFFICER:

Do you promise to live in such a way that other's will desire to come to know Christ more personally?

JUNIOR SOLDIERS:

I do.



ENROLLMENT SUNDAY

OFFICER:

(Have the children read the Junior Soldier Promise to the congregation. Ask them if they agree to all of these promises.) On behalf of the General of The Salvation Army, I accept you as Junior Soldiers of the (name of corps) Corps and welcome you into the fellowship of Salvationists. I present you with this signed statement of your Declaration of Faith. May God bless you and help you to be good, true, and faithful.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

Our Heavenly Father, we thank You that children are given a place in Your kingdom. We thank You that they are loved and that they have value and purpose to You. We pray Your blessing upon these Junior Soldiers who have entered the Christian fellowship. Help them to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Give them the guidance of Your Spirit and grace to live as Christians—through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



