

CREATIVE FAMILY WORSHIP



PREPARATION

- Read the 'Introduction to the Theme' below
- Look at some pictures of the Philippines (use your phone, computer or look in books at the library)
- Read the definition of human trafficking from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: *The act of recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.*
- Have a definition ready to help younger people understand the issue, eg, a trafficker is someone who illegally transports items across countries. Some see people as commodities (items to trade and sell) and their motivation is selfish greed. The session will help you explore what The Salvation Army is doing to protect and empower vulnerable people in the Philippines and what you can do to help.
- Look through the activities to see what you might like to try. What you will need for each activity is listed there. You can do as many or as few as you like and might want to make up your own activities too. You will definitely need the following items, as these activities are not optional:
 - Access to the Helping-Hand 2020 video clips, something to view them on, a speaker to be able to hear the content, and a comfy area for people to sit and watch
 - An empty milk bottle or any container that you might be able to make into a Helping-Hand money box

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME – UNSEEN PROMISE

The promise of a better life is a tempting offer.

For those living in poverty, in even the most beautiful parts of the world, the dream of providing for your family becomes a constant pressure – is there enough food, is our home safe from intruders and weather?

In the Philippines – a sun-kissed paradise of more than 7,000 tropical islands - one in five people live in poverty and worry about having enough food and a safe place to live, and the luscious setting hides an ugliness which lies beneath the surface. People are desperate to support those they love, and so become vulnerable to traffickers and believe the lies and false promises of a better life. They accept opportunities to journey away from home, hoping that their dreams will come true, but unaware of the reality which awaits them.

The promises remain unseen and the dreams remain unrealised.

Traffickers see people merely as commodities, things, ignoring the truth of who they are – children of God, full of promise and dearly loved by the One who created them.

The Salvation Army is raising awareness of the reality of trafficking, mobilising communities to protect themselves, supporting survivors and helping to improve opportunities at home so that the need to leave is reduced.

Through prevention, protection and partnership we are supporting people to reclaim the promise that exists within them and rebuild their lives.



[SALVATIONARMY.ORG.UK/UNSEENPROMISE](https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/unseenpromise)

**UNSEEN
PROMISE**

RELATED BIBLE VERSES



'See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!'
(1 John 3:1a).

'...and he has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first instalment that guarantees everything he has promised us' (2 Corinthians 1:22 NLT).

ACTIVITIES

'Would I Lie to You?' True or False game

Everyone is given time to write or think about a story they will share about themselves – it can be true or false. Each person takes turns to tell their story and the others have to guess if it is the truth or a lie. You'll need to be convincing to make people believe you.

Traffickers can be very convincing, making people think that what they are promising them (a better life) is true, but it never is. The promise is always unseen and the truth is sometimes worse than you might imagine.

I Promise

Make a scroll containing a promise from the Bible.

You will need:

- A5 paper – white or cream coloured
- Pens and pencils
- Glue and/or glue dots
- Copies of these Bible verses to either copy on to your paper or cut out and stick on

'See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!'
(1 John 3:1a NIV)

'...and he has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first instalment that guarantees everything he has promised us' (2 Corinthians 1:22 NLT).

- Some wooden dowelling cut slightly longer than the short edge of the A5 paper
- Some string or ribbon to wrap around the scroll

Instructions:

- Glue two lengths of dowelling on to the two short edges of the A5 paper (as near to the edge as you can). Give the

glue time to dry while you are completing the rest of the activity.

- Decide if you want your scroll to be landscape or portrait.
- Choose one or both of the Bible verses and copy them on to your scroll – try to keep your writing really neat – take your time. (If you struggle with writing, you can stick print-outs of the verses on the scroll.)
- When the glue is dry, completely roll up your scroll using the dowelling at both ends, so it looks like you are holding two straws together.
- Take a length of string or ribbon and, using a glue dot, stick it on to the outside of the scroll and tie it round.
- You now have a beautiful reminder that God's promises are safe and true and you can open your scroll to see them whenever you like.

Don't Worry – creating a Prayer Notebook

You will need:

- A small note book (A6 or A7 sized) to decorate and use to write your worries in – you can use it as a prayer diary
- Coloured pens and pencils
- Stickers, jewels, colourful shapes for decoration
- Glue

Decorate your notebook and then use it to make a note of the things you are worried about. Maybe you are not sure if there is enough food to eat, or perhaps your house needs some fixing up, maybe someone you know is ill, or perhaps you are being bullied. Things like these can make us feel worried and upset and even make us feel we might want to run away. Ask God to help you with your worries, and if you are really scared about something, then tell someone that you trust about it.

Your prayers are precious to God – your notebook will be like a treasure chest. You can also make a note of when your prayers have been answered.

ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)



Best or Better

Can you tell the difference?

You will need:

- At least five branded food items and five supermarket 'own brand' versions (eg supermarket digestives and McVities, supermarket crisps and Walkers, etc)
- A few cups, plates and bowls
- Hygienic gloves if you need to handle the food
- Tablecloth to cover the items or containers under the table
- Cloth or blindfold
- Awareness of food safety rules

Set up the different items ready to invite people to see if they can taste and tell the difference between the branded items and the supermarket ones.

Traffickers rely on people falling for a fake promise and sometimes it can be really hard to see what is best, especially if you are feeling very worried, desperate and afraid.

Will you join us?

You will need:

- Empty, clean milk bottles, cartons or other containers that you can easily make into money boxes
- Money Box Wrapper – download from www.salvationarmy.org.uk/unseenpromise and print out
- Stickers, jewels, coloured shapes
- Glue
- Scissors – to make a slit large enough for coins to slip in (but not out!)
- Find some ideas here: www.coolcrafts.com/cool-diy-piggy-banks/

During 2020, individuals, corps and groups throughout the UK will be raising money to support the Helping-Hand Appeal *Unseen Promise*. During this time, you are invited to collect change and pop it into your money box.

You can decorate your container however you like, to remind you that everyone is precious to God and full of amazing promise and potential.

At the end of this year, invite everyone to bring their money boxes and have a counting session to see how much you have all raised to support this Appeal. There are fundraising ideas on the website too, so there are plenty of things you can do together if you want to.



STORYTIME

You will need:

- Laptop and means to show the *Unseen Promise* video clips. Download from www.salvationarmy.org.uk/unseenpromise

Create a space to show some of the stories of people that have been helped by The Salvation Army (eg Mercy), and those who are helping (eg Cecilia or the Tulon group).

PRAYER TIME

Reflection on the four areas of prevention, protection, partnership and promise.

You will need:

- Print-outs of four images illustrating prevention, protection, partnership and promise (below).

Options for engagement:

- Give each person a copy of the sheet and invite them to write prayers around the four different areas.
- Cut up the sheet and invite people to choose which word/image they would like to focus their pray time on.
- Create a prayer zone focused on each word.
- Make the images available for people to use in response after they have watched the Unseen Promise video(s) OR incorporate the videos into the prayer time.

A suggested prayer:

Father God,

Thank you that your promises are true and that we can trust that you know what is best for us.

Protect those who are in danger of being tricked by people who do not want what is best for them. Protect those who currently are living a life which does not allow them to realise their own promise.

Help us to respond to the need, and help The Salvation Army as we work together to prevent more people being separated from their communities and families.

Help us as we work together as partners to support the work in the Philippines.

Amen.

SONG SUGGESTIONS

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|----------|---|
| SASB 29 | 'Have you ever stopped to think how God loves you?' |
| SASB 492 | 'God will make a way' |
| SoF 2152 | 'Wonderful Lord, Wonderful God' (Doug Horley) |
| | 'He's got the whole world in his hands' |



This session was created by Liz Hall.



PROTECT



PROMISE



PREVENT



PARTNER

