

# study GUIDE

4-WEEK SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Army Essentials for an Essential Army  
4-week Study Guide

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## Army Essentials For An Essential Army Study Guide

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GENERAL LINDA BOND

R. STEVEN HEDGREN  
TERRITORIAL COMMANDER



OFFICE OF  
THE TERRITORIAL COMMANDER

## THE SALVATION ARMY

FOUNDED IN 1865 BY WILLIAM AND CATHERINE BOOTH

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Greetings Fellow Salvationists,

Army Essentials for an Essential Army is a vision for growing as God's people in these days. The opportunity to meet together in small groups is a vital part of growing in our walk with the Lord. Proverbs 27:17 reminds us,

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

Allow the Holy Spirit and the members of your group to speak into your life as you gather to study over the next four weeks. The scriptural truths presented in this guide and the practical application of them will be blessed by God in your group, corps, and community.

Sincerely,

Commissioner R. Steven Hedgren

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Hebrews 10:24-25

# Army Essential Overview

Army Essentials—birthed in blood and fire revival, rooted in Scripture and tradition, and tested through reason and experience—are the best starting point for the development of a mission strategy that seeks the glory of God and the salvation of the world.

At the genesis moment of Salvationism, the Christian Mission War Congress in 1877, the Lord birthed through William and Catherine Booth the movement we now know as The Salvation Army. In their report, they declared:

The Christian Mission has organized a Salvation Army to carry the Blood of Christ and the Fire of the Holy Ghost into every corner of the world... The Christian Mission Congress has prepared for a war that shall bring true peace into the hearts and homes of the vilest and roughest of the people, and shall shake the Kingdom of the Devil everywhere.

And to the four corners of the earth The Salvation Army certainly went forward, declaring war on sin and misery with aggressive speed and spiritually induced fervor! Seventy years later in the USA East, Territorial Evangelist Lt. Colonel Charles Mehling would pen the words, "On we march with the blood and the fire, To the ends of the earth we will go..." and today that march continues forward to the future—or does it?

In Commissioner Steve Hedgren's book, Mapping Our Salvationist DNA: Beliefs, Values & Behaviors, he asks, "Is it possible for us ... to not only identify our DNA but also to trace our DNA back to our Founders, William and Catherine Booth—or even to Christ Jesus?" If there was a test to identify the core, underlying motives that are the source of our ministry, what would these be? Would our deepest of ambitions be aligned to the spirit of Jesus, who shed His blood for our salvation? If one were to open the engine-room of our hearts, would the same sacred fuel that set the apostles, Wesley, Finney, and the Booths ablaze be what keeps us marching onward?

Or have we grown distant from grace? Given up stoking the fires and slowed down to a cold, static form of religion that grows weary in well-doing? Are we driven to masking these absences with forced smiles of compassion, ambition for recognition, and sanctimoniousness to cover secret sin? Do we find ourselves off-center, warped, straining to make it to one - more - day?

Army Essential/Essential Army brings us to a time to go back to the "old wells" and be rekindled by our first love. This is a time to lay down the cynical shards of brokenness and to allow the eternal fire to break us, melt us and recast us into that Army of salvation. It is a time for realignment—to the purpose each of us was created for. It is a time for recalibration to the principles that spread salvation to the nations. It is a time for us to dream imaginative dreams and see missional visions of the possibilities that come when men and women lay down their own agendas, their own ambitions, their own afflictions,

their own accolades and become an army forged together against the raging fury of an enemy bent on capturing and destroying this generation. Victory is in our sights when we embrace Army Essentials and become an Essential Army!

EVANGELISM	LEADERSHIP	SOLDIERSHIP	ARMY DISTINCTIVES	HOLINESS	STEWARDSHIP
"Go into the world ..:' Matthew 28:19	"Brothers and sisters, choose seven ...from among you..." Acts 6:3	"And the Lord added to their number daily..." Acts 2:47	"Sing to the Lord a new Song ...:' Psalm 149:1	"Be ye holy ..." I Peter 3:15	"Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way:' I Corinthians 14:40

Look at this. Clear your vision. Halt, stand still ... and afresh and more fully apprehend and comprehend your calling. You are to be a worker together with God for the salvation of your fellow—men... So wake up all the powers of your being and consecrate every awakened power to the great end of saving them. BE A SALVATIONIST!  
—General William Booth

## WHAT IS A SMALL GROUP?

A small group seeks to live out true biblical community by balancing the five purposes below that come from the New Testament description of the church as found in Acts 2:42-47. For more information, I encourage you to watch the video included in the back of the study guide that explains what a small group truly does for people.

### Five Purposes of A Healthy Small Group

- Discipleship Acts 2:42
- Fellowship Acts 2:46
- Worship Acts 2:43
- Ministry Acts 2:45
- Evangelism Acts 2:47

Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching (discipleship) and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup>Everyone was filled with awe (worship) at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup>They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need (ministry). <sup>46</sup>Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts (fellowship), <sup>47</sup>praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved (evangelism).



# session one

Army Essential: Holiness

The cherubim stretched forth their wings above the mercy-seat,  
And guarded well the place where souls with God were wont to meet.  
-Irena Arnold, More Poems of a Salvationist

God's original design was to be present with His people. This is demonstrated at the very beginning of Genesis (3:8 NIV): The man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day. Even after that first community was fractured, God sought to be involved in people's everyday lives. In Genesis 12, God speaks with Abram and establishes an intimate relationship with him. The pattern continues throughout Scripture, and God's desire has not changed. Hebrews 13:8 reminds us, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

As you spend time together talking about God's desire to be involved in our lives, may He move by His Spirit among your group, blessing your discussion and your study of His Word.

### Opening Questions..... 10 MIN

- Do you remember your first experience at the mercy seat?
- Why do you think we have a mercy seat in our corps?
- What is your understanding of the mercy seat?

### Group Discussion ..... 20 MIN

God wanted to be in community with the people of Israel, and He made covenant with them. In Exodus 25:1–9, God talks with Moses about what His people should bring to decorate and furnish the Tabernacle where He is to be worshiped.

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>"Tell the people of Israel to bring me their sacred offerings. Accept the contributions from all whose hearts are moved to offer them. <sup>3</sup> Here is a list of sacred offerings you may accept from them: gold, silver, and bronze; <sup>4</sup> blue, purple, and scarlet thread; fine linen and goat hair for cloth; <sup>5</sup> tanned ram skins and fine goatskin leather; acacia wood; <sup>6</sup> olive oil for the lamps; spices for the anointing oil and the fragrant incense; <sup>7</sup> onyx stones, and other gemstones to be set in the ephod and the priest's chestpiece. <sup>8</sup> "Have the people of Israel build me a holy sanctuary so I can live among them. <sup>9</sup> You must build this Tabernacle and its furnishings exactly according to the pattern I will show you."

1. Was it customary for the Israelites to bring their leftovers or second best to God? Reference Genesis 4:1–5 for God's expectation.

Exodus 25:10–22 continues with instructions for the Ark of the Covenant.

<sup>10</sup> "Have the people make an Ark of acacia wood—a sacred chest 45 inches long, 27 inches wide, and 27 inches high. <sup>11</sup> Overlay it inside and outside with pure gold, and run a molding of gold all around it. <sup>12</sup> Cast four gold rings and attach them to its four feet, two rings on each side. <sup>13</sup> Make poles from acacia wood, and overlay them with gold. <sup>14</sup> Insert the poles into the rings at the sides of the Ark to carry it. <sup>15</sup> These carrying poles must stay inside the rings; never remove them. <sup>16</sup> When the Ark is finished, place inside it the stone tablets inscribed with the terms of the covenant, which I will give to you.

<sup>17</sup> "Then make the Ark's cover—the place of atonement—from pure gold. It must be 45 inches long and 27 inches wide. <sup>18</sup> Then make two cherubim from hammered gold, and place them on the two ends of the atonement cover. <sup>19</sup> Mold the cherubim on each end of the atonement cover, making it all of one piece of gold. <sup>20</sup> The cherubim will face each other and look down on the atonement cover. With their wings spread above it, they will protect it. <sup>21</sup> Place inside the Ark the stone tablets inscribed with the terms of the covenant, which I will give to you. Then put the atonement cover on top of the Ark. <sup>22</sup> I will meet with you there and talk to you from above the atonement cover between the gold cherubim that hover over the Ark of the Covenant. From there I will give you my commands for the people of Israel."

2. What does God promise to do in this passage?
3. What important elements do you see here in the relationship between God and His people?

Beginning with Moses and for generations afterward, only one person could approach God on behalf of the Israelites. In the New Testament, God introduces a new high priest of a different order in the person of Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 7:26–28 states:

<sup>26</sup> He is the kind of high priest we need because he is holy and blameless, unstained by sin. He has been set apart from sinners and has been given the highest place of honor in heaven. <sup>27</sup> Unlike those other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices every day. They did this for their own sins first and then for the sins of the people. But Jesus did this once for all when he offered himself as the sacrifice for the people's sins. <sup>28</sup> The law appointed high priests who were limited by human weakness. But after the law was given, God appointed his Son with an oath, and his Son has been made the perfect High Priest forever.

### 4. How does this change the dynamic in how we approach God?

The promise of a new covenant administered by this great high priest had been proclaimed by God's prophets over a period of hundreds of years and then, last of all, by a great forerunner.

Matthew 3:1–2, 11b says:

In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching. His message was, "Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near. ... But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not worthy even to be his slave and carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

Part of John's message underlines the importance of the attitude with which we approach the mercy seat today. Matthew 3:8 reads: Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God.

### 5. What are the two main purposes for the mercy seat?

### 6. How should we view the mercy seat and its place in The Salvation Army today?

### Application ..... 15 MIN

Public use of the mercy seat has been a hot topic of debate throughout Salvation Army history. At the 1876 annual conference of The Christian Mission, Catherine Booth responded to those who felt seekers should be ushered into a separate room: "No; I have tried it and whomsoever it may offend or please, I am going to have a penitent form."

General Albert Orsborn stated in the Australian War Cry for August 8, 1936: "There are those who tell us that the hope of The Salvation Army for the future is in its young people. I do not agree with that. The hope of the Army is in the penitent form."

Stephen Court, an Australian Salvationist writes: "The mercy seat and holiness table are important and effective. ... Likewise, any decrease in their use is probably indicative of a wandering from our theology and mission."

### 7. What is your view of the public use of the mercy seat in The Salvation Army? What do you think of the statements above as related to the mission of The Salvation Army?

As a holiness movement, we believe that the mercy seat is essential to our understanding of how God meets with His people. Nigel Bovey states in his book, *The Mercy Seat Revisited*, that "It is at the mercy seat that the benefits of God's promise, provision, and protection are received."

Statistics regarding the number of seekers at the mercy seat in Salvation Army corps reveal an interesting picture. From 1881–1885, in the United Kingdom, a nation with a population of approximately 35 million, that number averaged about 50,000 per year. By comparison:

- In 1981, when the population of the USA Eastern Territory was 63.5 million, the number of first-time seekers in our corps was 8,195.
- We saw a three-fold increase 20 years later, in 2001, when there were 24,962 first-time seekers; during that same period, the population of the territory had increased by only five million.
- In the last 10 years, we seem to have hit a plateau. Our latest figures, for 2011, were 25,217—a 15% decrease from 2010. During those 10 years, the population of the territory increased by three million.

### 8. What are some factors to which you might attribute the small number of first-time seekers in our territory by 1981, the significant increase during the next 20 years, and our recent plateau?

In *Twenty-One Years' Salvation Army*, William Booth reflects on his conversion and the importance of the mercy seat: "I saw as clearly, as if a revelation had been made to me from Heaven, that success in spiritual work, was to be accounted for, not on any mere abstract theory of Divine sovereignty, or favoritism, or accident, but on the employment of such methods as were dictated by common sense, the Holy Spirit, and the word of God."

# session one

Since the early years of the Army, Salvationists report, the mercy seat has been used for many purposes, not solely for salvation and sanctification, but also for celebration. These include:

- Junior Soldier enrollments
- Senior Soldier covenant signing
- Marriage vows
- Public restoration
- Focused prayer
- Group prayer
- Sending out of members
- Officer ordination

Consider Booth's statement, quoted above, along with Nigel Bovey's assertion in his book, *The Mercy Seat Revisited*, that "Each generation has interpreted the mercy seat for its own time and culture."

9. How can we respond today to incorporate the use of the mercy seat in our meetings as a place to find salvation, to seek guidance in prayer, and to commune with God? What might this look like in our local corps?

Outline an intentional plan for moving forward with this emphasis. Feel free to reference the Orders & Regulations, Scripture, testimony, and other resources.

Prayer Time ..... 10 MIN

Take some time in your group to pray together.

Share personal prayer requests and lift up others you know are in need of prayer.

Pray for others you would like to see join your small group.

Pray for family and friends who need to see Jesus in their lives.

# session two

Army Essential: Evangelism

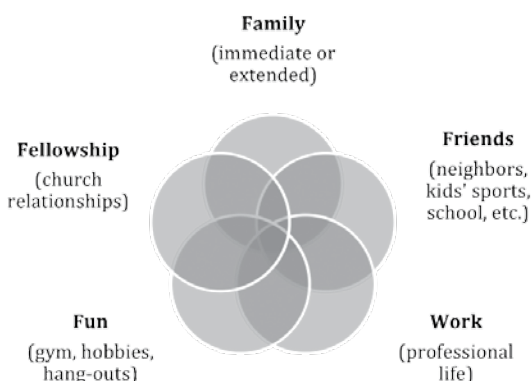
If we would put first things first, we must be ready at any moment to lay aside our books, our music, our studies, our business, our own pleasures and profit, to save souls.  
-Commissioner Samuel Logan Brengle

Life as God intended it is to be in fellowship. We witness in Genesis 1:26, where God says, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us,” that the Triune God is a plurality, and that if we were designed to be like Him we were not designed to be in isolation. He desires relationship with those He has created.

In this session you will spend time looking at what it means to reach others for Christ and how we follow His Spirit to recognize opportunities, both planned and spontaneous, to influence others for the Kingdom.

### Focused Prayer Time ..... 10 MIN

Right now, take a few minutes within your group to think of names of people you know who need to know Jesus. Use the organizer below to help you think of the different circles you influence in your life.



© Gladen, Steve. Wired Conference. Saddleback Church. Atlanta, GA, April 2008.

### Opening Questions..... 10 MIN

- Who first shared Jesus with you? What motivated that person?
- Does sharing your faith come easily to you? If so, why? If not, what obstacles or barriers do you face?

### Group Discussion ..... 20 MIN

We have no hobbies—at least, not that we are aware of—unless it be a hobby to want to save the largest possible number of souls with the highest possible salvation in the quickest space of time by the best imaginable methods. That is the bull’s-eye of our target—the end for which we exist—the sum and substance of our mission.

Frederick Booth–Tucker, *The Officer*, 1892

We have a heritage of soul-saving. Booth-Tucker reminds us that we need to use the best imaginable methods. These are rooted in Scripture and active.

The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it. (Isaiah 55:10–11)

1. What encouragement do you take from this verse?
2. What challenge does this Scripture present to you?

How can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!” (Romans 10:14–15)

One popular version of evangelism says, “If I just live as a consistent Christian, people will see it, figure it out, and come to Christ.” But that approach isn’t biblical, and it doesn’t work. In Romans 10:14 Paul said we have to go and give people the message. We have to initiate conversations and trust the Holy Spirit will work as we bring the message to those we converse with.

Mark Mittelberg, “Not Off the Hook,” *Small Groups and Evangelism*  
An online resource of Christianity Today, October 2, 2008

3. What is the difference between the Holy Spirit’s role and our role when it comes to evangelism?

### Application ..... 15 MIN

I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls. (2 Corinthians 12:15 NKJV)

Jesus has an interest in every soul—bar none. If we have been changed by Him, our interests must reflect that change. But this is a difficult challenge, because some people simply rub us the wrong way.

4. How can I spend and be spent for souls?
5. Are there opportunities God has placed in my path to share with others? Are there moments I have missed due to my own interests?

Our Army is focused on saving souls. Commissioner George Scott Railton lived this out in his life and was quoted as saying: "The life of a soul saver is the grandest, merriest, strangest life that can be lived on earth—the life of Jesus lived over again in us. It will cost you all, but it will be a good bargain at that!"

There are so many opportunities to reach out to those around us. We simply need to be intentional, and in tune with the Spirit's leading. Here is an example of how one corps reached out to those around them during a small group campaign:

Each group was to do an outreach project. Brian's group wanted to find a way to help people who come here for strictly material needs to think about their spiritual needs, so they picked a day when many people gathered at the corps for bread distribution. Many people skip lunch in order to be there at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, so Brian's group fixed hot dogs and set up a table to take prayer requests on a board. A couple of people asked if they would like to share a prayer request and promised that every request would be prayed for that Sunday during worship. Some people wanted to pray right then and there. One said, "I don't need a hot dog, but I sure need prayer!" In fact, more people submitted a prayer request for the board than accepted a hotdog. There was an overwhelming positive response as we simply showed that we cared about people's souls, and they knew that The Salvation Army was there for their deeper needs. On Sunday morning, we had a board filled with over 40 prayer requests—families, relatives, friends, nations, children, and many other needs were represented. During the Holiness Meeting, worshipers came up and chose a prayer request to pray for aloud, and there was a quiet chorus of simultaneous prayer as the congregation helped Brian's group to lift up every name.

No matter what type of outreach event is planned, you need to think of the following:

- Enlist. Recruit a team of volunteers who have the skills needed and will donate their time, resources, and expertise to the event.
- Plan. Host a planning meeting with your team.
- Schedule. Ask a volunteer to set up a schedule, if needed.

Supply. Solicit donations from members to cover the cost of materials. Develop a relationship with a local store that may be willing to provide a discount or free items.

Advertise. Ask your congregation to give invitations to unchurched people they know in the community.

Greet. Have several greeters available to speak with the folks who attend.

6. Is there an event you have on your annual calendar that could be used as a spiritual outreach opportunity?

### Prayer Points

Ask the Holy Spirit to be present in your small group, and to provide courage for group members to initiate evangelistic conversations.

- Pray for an openness to share with others.
- Pray for sensitivity to the right time to share.
- Pray that those to whom they speak will have a responsive spirit and a desire to hear about God.

### Evangelism Resources

Witnessing: Sharing Christ With Others (Session 18) Study by Emery Nester. Available free at [www.bible.org](http://www.bible.org)

Know the ABC's of Salvation. Memorize them.

**A**dmit your need – "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

**B**elieve in Christ – "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).

**C**ommit yourself to Christ – "Yet to all who received Him...He gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12).

Being truly sorry for your sins, and through the power of Christ forsaking them, go forward to live for Christ. He will give forgiveness, power, victory, purpose, the Holy Spirit and life eternal!



# session three

Army Essential: Soldiership

At the risk of stating the obvious, holiness of life does not occur by accident. This gracious gift is not received by those who fail to seek it, or by those who are casual about their own spirituality. Jesus told his disciples that those who "hunger and thirst after righteousness" would be filled, not those who simply take what comes along.  
Commissioner Robert Street, Called to Be God's People  
London: International Headquarters, 1999

It all starts with salvation—often experienced at the mercy seat. Then there begins to stir in us the desire to reach out to others and bring them along on the journey. But to make disciples, we first need to be true disciples ourselves. How deep we go as disciples is determined by how well we imitate the Lord Jesus and practice His teachings, with the Spirit as the holy catalyst in the process. We must be willing to submit and allow God to change us. This process must be intentional. It requires surrender and sacrifice.

### Opening Questions..... 10 MIN

- What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?
- What does this look like for you personally?
- How can you tell whether you are growing in your relationship with the Lord?

### Group Discussion .....20-25 MIN

Discipleship ranks as God's top priority because Jesus practiced it and commanded us to do it, and his followers continued it.

Bill Hull, *The Complete Book of Discipleship*  
Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2006

Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?" (Mark 8:34–36)

1. Why would Jesus choose a cross to represent what it takes to follow him?
2. How was this relevant to the culture of His day?

The mindset reflected in this passage was foundational for General William Booth. When asked the secret of his amazing Christian life, he replied, "I told the Lord that he could have all that there is of William Booth."

From the words of Jesus in Mark 8 and from General Booth's statement, we can draw an important principle of discipleship: The journey begins with a willingness to submit.

3. How easy is it for any of us to submit to someone or something? Why is that the case? Can you think of examples of people who have gained the whole world but lost their soul in the process?
4. What guarantee does Jesus offer in Mark 8 if we do submit to Him?

My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power. (1 Corinthians 2:4–5 NIV)

5. Have there been times in your life when your faith has rested on "human wisdom," and not on the Spirit's power?

Resting on God's power allows us to be filled and used by Him.

Discipleship begins with the individual, and its continuance is dependent on each one of us.

The moment we stop believing in the always-good love of God in an area of life, we effectively choose to end the reformation. We can either choose to believe God is good and loving, or not. We can either receive his love or shut down communion with him. Joel N. and Jason Clark, *The Open Table, Volume 2: An Invitation to Walk With God* Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2010

6. What opportunities do you take to be filled spiritually? Are there other options you would like to see available to you?

In the prayer Jesus taught His disciples we read the familiar words, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven (Matthew 6:10 NIV). From the time Jesus ascended into heaven until He returns, God is counting on us to help Him make His will a reality "on earth as it is in heaven."

7. Why is this an important task?

8. What might this look like in your corner of the world?

Application ..... 15 MIN

A teacher of young children has written:

Early in my career I enjoyed getting to meet the parents or guardians of my students during our conferences in November each year. I was able to see, for the first time, a glimpse of the environment that had shaped them for the first five years of their lives. Together we discussed the children's strengths and weaknesses and how to move forward. Meeting together in this way was transformational. We all walked away different from that encounter.

9. Think of an experience you have walked away from transformed. What changed?

The apostles and everyone present walked away different after Pentecost:

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42–47 NIV)

Notice that everything was done in community. This was the beginning of the New Testament Church.

10. What essentials do you see in this passage that are necessary for growth as disciples of Jesus?

11. What are the results of this growth?

As followers of Christ we should:

- Devote ourselves to sound teaching and to prayer (2:42)
- Be filled with awe at what God is doing (2:43)
- Maintain a spirit of unity (2:44)
- Give to those in need (2:45)
- Eat together and enjoy fellowship (2:46)
- Praise and worship God (2:47)
- Have a good reputation with outsiders (2:47)
- See growth in numbers (2:47)

12. How might you see this become a reality in your neighborhood and corps?

In her launch of "One Army, One Mission, One Message," General Linda Bond said, "We need to explore every way to teach and equip our people for the work God has called us to do." To continue living out the Great Commission and making new disciples, we must embrace the truths found in Scripture and put them to work. This begins with our submission to God, then investing in others one-on-one and in community.

Prayer Points..... 10 MIN

- Pray about next steps in your growth as a disciple.
- Pray about your small group's next steps to grow together in Christ.

### Resources for Discipleship

For New Believers

My New Life in Christ. Long Beach, CA: The Salvation Army USA Western Territory. Available from SA Resource Connection; contact the Eastern Territory Trade Department toll-free at 888.488.4882 or email [use.trade@use.salvationarmy.org](mailto:use.trade@use.salvationarmy.org)

First Steps: One-on-One Discipleship, An Adventure for New and Renewed Believers by Grant Edwards. Springfield, OH: Specificity Publications, 2006. Available by contacting Chip Kelly at [chip.kelly@use.salvationarmy.org](mailto:chip.kelly@use.salvationarmy.org)

## session three

### Formational Discipleship

Discipleship Training by Dr. Charles Lake. Des Plaines, IL: The Salvation Army USA Central Territory. Available from the Eastern Territory toll-free at 888.488.4882 or email [use.trade@use.salvationarmy.org](mailto:use.trade@use.salvationarmy.org)

Additional resources are available for your corps from the Small Groups Lending Library at [www.library.armyconnection.org](http://www.library.armyconnection.org) For more information, contact the officer or staff member at your Divisional Headquarters who is responsible for Lay Leader Development.

## session four

### Army Essential: Army Distinctives

Born into a whirlwind, cradled in a storm, The Salvation Army stands forth today the marvelous creation of this modern Alexander's genius. Its Macedonian phalanx has turned—not to attack the forces of good, but those of evil; not to discourage a single effort for the welfare of mankind, but to make more possible their success. ... Its task is not complete. It is scarcely more than begun.

—Frederick de Lautour Booth-Tucker, William Booth: The General of The Salvation Army New York: The Salvation Army Printing and Publishing House

In 2015, The Salvation Army will commemorate the 150th anniversary of its founding. Frederick Booth-Tucker stated over 100 years ago that "Its [The Salvation Army's] task is not complete. It is scarcely more than begun." These words still ring true today. The task is not complete until Christ returns. It is He who has raised up this Army, as Booth-Tucker proclaimed:

"A fighting force has been created, ... retreat has been turned into advance, defense into vigorous assault, despair into hope, and defeat into victory."

### Opening Questions..... 10 MIN

- The world we live in today looks different from the one in which Booth-Tucker lived. Have the heart issues we face changed?
- Are we still in the business of turning despair into hope? What examples can you think of in your corps or community of this being lived out?
- Are we still an Army that demonstrates vigorous assault or have we taken a defensive position?
- How can we engage the culture we live in today?

### Group Discussion ..... 20 MIN

In October 2011, General Linda Bond launched The Salvation Army's International Vision Plan. To listen to her address, visit <http://vimeo.com/30582426>. In the plan, the general emphasized that we are an Army with One Mission: "Into the world of the hurting, broken, lonely, dispossessed and lost, reaching them in love by all means." (emphasis added)

1. What does reaching them in love by all means say to you?
2. What might that look like in today's society?  
Do you know anyone or any congregation that is living this vision out?

When it comes to engaging with others, we are faced with three options. First, we can reject them entirely. Often this is not a deliberate avoidance, but reflects an attitude like that of the priest and the Levite in the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10, where we simply turn away, walking on the other side of the street to avoid what we don't want to see.

3. Have you ever been guilty of this first approach to engaging with others?

A second option is to receive others as they are. Jesus demonstrated this approach when He spoke with the woman at the well in John 4. He didn't avoid her because she was a woman and a Samaritan. Instead, He identified her as a seeker.

In Mark 4:3–8, Jesus tells a story. Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seed. Everyone listening to Jesus probably nodded, saying, "Yup, I'm with you so far." Some of the seed fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate it. "Been there, had that happen to me too." Other seed fell on shallow soil. "Mmm—hmm." Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they sprouted, grew, and produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, even a hundred times as much as had been planted! "Wow, wish that happened to mine every year." Jesus related to His culture, He contextualized the Gospel.

4. Are there other examples from Jesus' ministry where He met people right where they were? Talk about a few of them.

That brings us to the third option: to redeem what the world offers for God's purposes. An example of this were the early Salvationists who used the melodies of common pub songs of the day to reach out and engage the lost.

5. How does this approach differ from the others?  
What do you think of it?
6. How might this approach be used these days?

As Jesus repeatedly demonstrated, we need to go beyond our comfort zones. He showed love and compassion, thus defining clearly what God expects of us. General Linda Bond says it is "not about religion, but about relationship."

7. Are we guilty at times of putting religion before relationships?

8. How can we guard against this danger?

Application ..... 10–15 MIN

I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people. (Jude 3 NIV)

Reaching others in love requires hard work. As this verse states, we have to contend for the faith.

9. Why might this be difficult in today's culture?

10. How can we resist the temptation to simply keep to ourselves?

People who know their God will display strength and take action. (Daniel 11:32 NASB)

This verse refers to a people walking in God's strength, not their own. It is also a foundational Scripture to the Army Essential/Essential Army focus in the USA Eastern Territory.

11. Where is God calling you to take action in your corps and the community He has placed you in?

12. What might this look like?

13. Who is He laying on your heart to take these action steps with?



ONE ARMY: We see a God—raised, Spirit—filled Army for the 21st century—convinced of our calling, moving forward together.

ONE MISSION: Into the world of the hurting, broken, lonely, dispossessed and lost, reaching them in love by all means.

ONE MESSAGE: With the transforming message of Jesus, bringing freedom, hope and life.

Pray..... 10 MIN

- Where is God calling you to action?
- Who is coming along on this journey with you?
- Pray about how your small group moves forward from here.

## Small Group Host Description

Purpose: To cultivate a healthy group that produces healthy disciples over time.  
Hebrews 10:24-25; Ephesians 2:19; Colossians 1:28

Primary Role:

H = Have a heart for people

O = Open your home or the corps

S = Serve a snack

T = Turn on the video

- Video Curriculum brings the master teacher to them.
- It's a short term experience.
- A baby step to being a small group leader.
- Simple curriculum to lead.
- Follow-up strategy from Host to Leader through the Small Group Training.

## What's Next?

### Take the Spiritual Health Assessment

Your personal and small group spiritual health requires a balance of these purposes: fellowship, discipleship, ministry, evangelism, and worship. Most of us tend to be dominant in one area while disregarding the others. Just like our physical health, our spiritual health needs to be evaluated regularly so we can grow into all that God desires for us.

As a self-assessment tool, The Spiritual Health Assessment is designed to capture how well each person, and the group as a whole, are balancing the five purposes. The goal is not to test and scrutinize spiritual health, but to provide a foundation upon which each person can build a healthier spiritual life. By recognizing any weaknesses and finding a balance among all the purposes, your group can intentionally strengthen their spiritual lives.

### Plan Ahead

The balancing of the five purposes is a process. Now that you have evaluated yourself, it is time to create a plan. One way of doing this is by using a Small Group Curriculum Pathway, or an annual curriculum calendar, to develop a healthy small group diet that balances the purposes.

There are three such pathways: category, purpose, and length of time. As shown below, having curriculum available in these tiers will enable you to pick materials that will lead to a healthier balance of God's five purposes in your life and the lives of your small group members.

\*\*\*\*For information on the Spiritual Health Assessment, please contact the officer or staff member at your Divisional Headquarters who is responsible for Lay Leader Development. For a list of small group resources you can check out from your Divisional Library or from THQ, please visit: <http://www.library.armyconnection.org/>

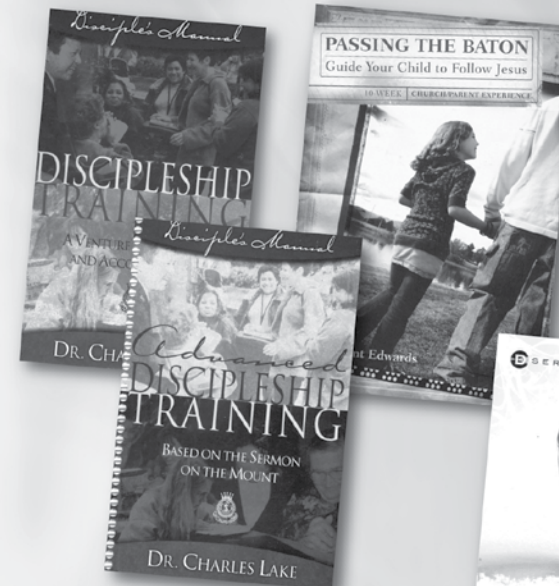
### Three approaches:

1. Category	2. Purpose	3. Year-by-Year Plan
Books of the Bible	Fellowship	1st year
Doctrine	Discipleship	2nd year
Life Skills	Ministry	3rd year
Evangelism/Seeker	Evangelism	4th year
Spiritual Growth	Worship	

Curriculum	Length	Category	Purpose
Choose One: -Living the Questions in Mark -Psalms: Deepening Life Together	10 Weeks 4 Weeks	Books of the Bible Books of the Bible	Ministry Fellowship
-Why I Believe: Finding Answers to Life's Most Difficult Questions	12 Weeks	Doctrine	Evangelism
-When the Game is Over, It All Goes Back in the Box -Mastering Money	6 Weeks 8 Weeks	Life Skills Life Skills	Discipleship Ministry
-Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism	6 Weeks	Evangelism/Seeker	Evangelism
-Holy Conversation: Talking About God in Everyday Life	12 Weeks	Evangelism/Seeker	Evangelism
-When God's Spirit Moves: The Life Changing Power of the Holy Spirit	6 Weeks	Spiritual Growth	Worship

## Excellent Mission Advance Resources

For more Small Group Resources see our e-Catalog:  
[www.armyconnections.org.trade](http://www.armyconnections.org.trade)



### Passing the Baton Guide Your Children to Follow Jesus

by Grant Edwards  
 \$13.75, 0201905

A 10-week Church/Parent Experience. These ten 45 minute sessions can be shared in a small group setting for kids and cement elementary-age children into a deeper relationship with Jesus.

### Discipleship Training Manual by Dr. Charles Lake

**A Venture in Learning and Accountability**

Student - \$17.25, 2400020

Leader - \$27.75, 2400021

The Salvation Army, in partnership with Dr. Lake and Growth Ministries, is offering this Discipleship Training process which develops Christ-like character in ordinary people through time-tested spiritual disciplines of Scripture study and memorization, prayer and accountable Small Group relationships.

### Advanced Discipleship Training

by Dr. Charles Lake

**Based on the Sermon on the Mount**

Student - \$17.75, 2400022

Leader - \$32.25, 2400023

This advanced, second book in partnership with Dr. Charles Lake has already been tried in a number of corps and officers are heartened by the results. Soldiers are growing in grace. It is Biblical and it is do-able!



### The D Series

**Starting a Relationship with God**  
 \$5.95, 0201362

**Living a Holy Life**  
 \$5.95, 0201364

**Finding a Place to Serve**  
 \$5.95, 0201365

**Knowing What Christians Believe**  
 \$5.95, 0201363

Each book offers an intentional, practical pathway for those seeking to live as Jesus lived. You will be challenged by solid Biblical teaching woven into the framework of group learning. Each study is 4 weeks.

# SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES & AGREEMENT

Objective: To communicate shared values, expectations, and commitments to create a foundation for a healthy small group experience. Please use the form below or create your own small group guidelines that best accommodate your group.

WE AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING VALUES	
CLEAR PURPOSE	To grow healthy, spiritual lives by building a healthy small group community.
GROUP ATTENDANCE	To give priority to the group meeting (call if I'm absent or late).
SAFE ENVIRONMENT	To create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved (No quick answers, snap judgments, or simple fixes).
BE CONFIDENTIAL	To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group.
CONFLICT RESOLUTION	To avoid gossip and immediately resolve any concerns by following the principles of Matthew 18:15-17 which begins with going directly to the person with whom you have an issue.
SPIRITUAL HEALTH	To give group members permission to help me live a healthy, balanced life that is pleasing to God.
LIMIT OUR FREEDOM	To limit our freedom by not offering items during small group meetings or events that may cause other members to stumble. 1 Corinthians 8:1-13, Romans 14:19-21
WELCOME NEWCOMERS	To invite our friends who might benefit from this study and warmly welcome newcomers.
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS	To get to know the other members of the group and pray for them regularly.
OTHER	

WE AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS	
REFRESHMENTS / MEALTIMES	
CHILDCARE	
WHEN WE WILL MEET	
WHERE WE WILL MEET	
WE WILL BEGIN AT (TIME)	AND FINISH AT
WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO ATTEND SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES TOGETHER	
REVIEW DATE OF THIS AGREEMENT	

© Gladen, Steve. Wired Conference. Saddleback Church. Atlanta, GA, April 2008.

# ROLES OF A SMALL GROUP

OBJECTIVE- To clearly define the variety of roles that members can fulfill to create a successful small group ministry at a corps level.

<b>FUTURE HOST</b> Purpose: To serve the group host and regularly rotate small group leadership Primary Function: To assist the host and gain on-the-job training with the intent of becoming a Host. Possibilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share weekly leadership within the group with the host (selected questions, opening discussion, closing prayer time, etc.).</li> <li>Regularly rotate the leadership of the group (once or twice a month).</li> <li>Eventually start a new short-term small group.</li> </ul> Profile: Shepherd's heart, servant leadership, spiritual walk and spirit of humility.	<b>MINISTRY ROLE</b> Purpose: To help individual group members discover their spiritual gifts inside the group and around the church. Primary Function: To encourage everyone in the group to discover their ministry and coordinate infrequent group service opportunities (at the church or to other believers). Possibilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To place every member into a group role or "baby step" responsibility.</li> <li>Challenge members to complete a spiritual gifts inventory.</li> <li>Celebrate discovery, development and deployment of next steps.</li> <li>Ministry projects.</li> </ul> Profile: Cheerleader, goal-oriented, loves to see people develop and grow themselves.
<b>FELLOWSHIP ROLE</b> Purpose: To support the fellowship and community building activities within the small group. Primary Function: To encourage the group to discover community and transparency by welcoming newcomers, honoring people and deepen personal sharing. Possibilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate group celebrations and socials (birthdays, dinners, and group activities).</li> <li>Follow up with new or absent people with calls and cards.</li> <li>To manage the group roster and Small Group Guidelines and Agreement.</li> </ul> Profile: Social, fun-loving, encouraging and has hospitality gifts.	<b>EVANGELISM ROLE</b> Purpose: To uphold outreach to the unconnected in your community and around the world. Primary Function: To encourage the sharing of Christ through (personal, local, and global) outreach. Possibilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage members to pray for friends or family members who are nonbelievers.</li> <li>Encourage members to invite their friends or a neighbor to your group.</li> <li>To keep the small group aware of mission prayer requests and/or participate in short term mission projects.</li> <li>Explore mission opportunities.</li> </ul> Profile: Includer and bringer, heart for people, cross-cultural experiences and involvement.
<b>DISCIPLESHIP ROLE</b> Purpose: To establish the spiritual growth and personal next steps of each member in the group. Primary Function: To encourage the overall spiritual formation process of the group by encouraging various spiritual exercises, experiences or practices that will enhance one's spiritual life. Possibilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To encourage people to take the Spiritual Health Assessment &amp; Growth Plan.</li> <li>Share progress about individual time with God in His Word (Spiritual habits).</li> <li>Spiritual Partners</li> </ul> Profile: Loves learning, heart for the Word, desires a growing walk with God.	<b>WORSHIP ROLE</b> Purpose: To encourage the purpose of worship and whole life surrender in your group. Primary Function: To encourage the group to experience worship in a wide variety of ways; understanding that worship is more than music. Possibilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate a weekly praise or prayer list. Encourage members to personally cultivate their individual worship time with God. (Praise and worship CDs or tapes in the home or car)</li> <li>To coordinate your group attending worship services together in the community. (Encourage people to attend in subgroups of two to four if not all together)</li> <li>To host a worship time for your small group (CD, instruments, or acappella)</li> </ul> Profile: Encourager, heart for personal and corporate worship, desires a deeper walk with God through prayer (Enjoys music and singing).

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# Small Group Roster

Corps: \_\_\_\_\_ Division: \_\_\_\_\_

Name	Address	Phone

# Small Group Roster

Email	Last Class Attended	Group Role	Corps Ministry

