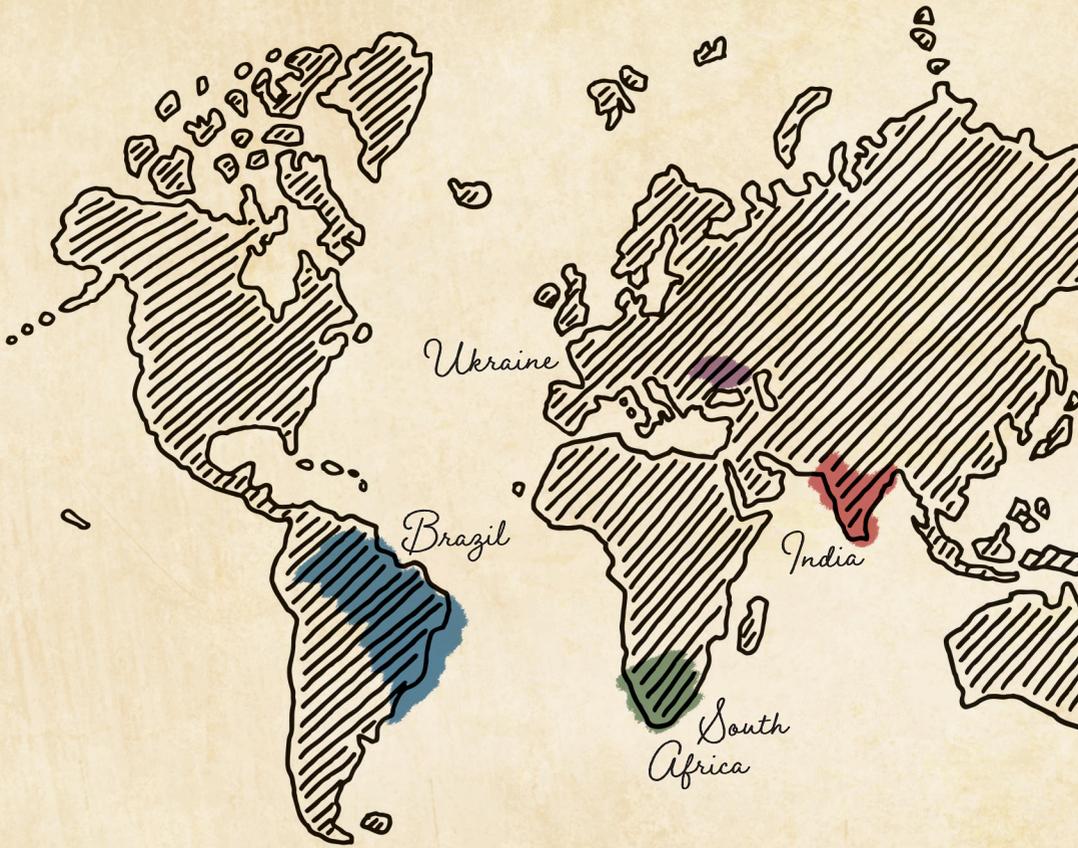




# Family Devotional

Self  
Denial  
Appeal  
2021





*Ukraine*

*Brazil*

*India*

*South  
Africa*

*Bula! Malo e lelei!  
Talofa! Kia ora!*

The Salvation Army is committed to bringing about positive, life-transforming change for people all over the world. Each year we go on an adventure to be part of this work through the Self Denial Appeal. As you have Family Time together over the next six weeks, you will be encouraged to explore the blessings in your lives, to learn about the work of The Salvation Army around the world and to change lives and the future by giving generously and sacrificially.

This booklet contains suggestions for how you could support the Self Denial Appeal and participate with the weekly devotionals and memory verse activity ideas. Over the next six weeks, as you play, create, discuss and pray together, you'll discover that when we work together, our love and generosity changes the futures of people all over the world.

We pray that your family and faith will be strengthened as you support those who need our help.



## Make it

Hey kids—Let's get creative!

This year the Self Denial Appeal wants to see you 'go green' by making your money box using everyday items from your home. You could use an empty clean jar, yoghurt pots, take away containers, cereal boxes or anything else you might recycle.

We will send some awesome stickers to your corps/centre to use in your decoration. But you don't need to only use the stickers; get as creative as you like. Be adventurous and let your imagination run wild!

## Fill it

The most important thing to do with your money box is to fill it, of course! One hundred percent of the money we donate goes straight to helping people in countries like the ones we'll talk about during our Self Denial videos and family devotions.

### Here are some ideas of ways to fill it:

- Ask your parents/caregivers to give you some money for doing extra chores, like emptying and filling the dishwasher, vacuuming, or taking out the recycling/compost.
- Organise a carwash in your street/ neighbourhood—tell your neighbours what you're up to, they'll probably love to help!



- Contribute some of your pocket money.
- Ask people (like neighbours, grandparents or people at church) to sponsor you to do activities like a fun run, giving up TV for a week, or walking to school every day for a month.
- Choose not to stop at the dairy or go to the school canteen and put that money in your money box instead.



## Give it

Our Self Denial Altar Service is when we, by giving our money to God and The Salvation Army, can have the opportunity to bring hope, love and transformation into the lives of people and communities.

Bring your money box or envelope to church on the day and be part of the special time when your generous and sacrificial gifts are received.

Remember, if you can't donate or raise money you can still make a big difference by praying for the Self Denial Appeal. When we ask God to put his might behind the Self Denial Appeal, he does so much more than we can imagine!



*week one*

## Transform a Life—Transform a Future

**‘Don’t copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.’** Romans 12:2 (NLT)

### We’re part of the transformation

Since 1886, every year The Salvation Army has held the Self Denial Appeal. The money raised from these appeals has helped The Salvation Army spread across the world into more than 130 countries. Since our last Self Denial Appeal the world has changed. Covid-19 has impacted each and every one of us.

This year’s videos were filmed at the start of 2020 before the pandemic became global. Since filming finished, the poverty gap has increased in many countries, with higher numbers of unemployed people, and many more needing help from The Salvation Army.

The Salvation Army believes in the transformative power of Christ; that through Jesus we can not only help others through tough times to a better future but also help them discover the love of God. Join us over the next five weeks as we trek around the world to see how we will look at Salvation Army projects that are transforming



communities around the world. We'll also be revisiting the Wash Project in South Africa that featured in the Self Denial Appeal in 2019. The money you raise will help projects like these all over the world.



## Discuss

- Do you know of someone whose life has been transformed by God? Maybe there is someone in your family or community? Or maybe there is someone in the Bible whose transformation has stuck with you?
- Read the memory verse aloud. You can find it on page 9. What do you like best about the verse? What surprised you about it? If anything about it confused you or didn't make sense, discuss what you think it might mean together.
- Have you ever felt that you are different from other people because God is in your life? Share what that felt like.

## Pray

- Thank God for how he has transformed your life.
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- Ask God to give you courage and opportunities to help him transform the lives of others.
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- Invite God to speak to you about how he wants your family to be part of Self Denial this year.

## Plan

While you prayed, God may have told your family how he wants you to be part of Self Denial this year. If he hasn't, that's okay, God talks to different people in different ways. Discuss ways that your family could support the Self Denial Appeal.

### **Here are some ideas to get you started:**

- Help your parents/caregivers make lunches to take to work and school, then put the money they would normally spend on lunch in the money box.

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- Ask your parents/caregivers, family or neighbours if they have any jobs in their house or garden you could do, then ask them to donate to the Self Denial Appeal instead of paying you.

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- Give up a treat (e.g. lollies you enjoy, or takeaways) and put the money you normally spend into the money box.

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- Ask your parents/caregivers for permission to clear out your old toys and clothes, and with their help, sell the items you no longer need online or through a second-hand goods store and donate the proceeds to the Self Denial Appeal.

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- Pray for God to give his might and strength to the Self Denial Appeal, and for the work that The Salvation Army does all around the world.

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- Tell other people about the Self Denial Appeal, let them know what you discover each week watching the Self Denial videos and reading this family devotional.

## Memory Verse

**‘Don’t copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.’** Romans 12:2 (NLT)

Read the memory verse together again. You’ll be learning it over the next six weeks. Check out the ideas below to help you remember our Self Denial memory verse. You’ll be surprised how much you can remember with a little energy, creativity and time!

- Separate the verses out into smaller sections, and learn one extra part each week, slowly building up to the whole three verses.
- Write the verses in a creative way, then take a photo of it and save it as your device’s screensaver or lock screen.
- Put the words of the verses to a family favourite jingle, song or chant. Or maybe even create your own jingle/song/chant!
- Write parts of the memory verse on different pieces of paper. Repeat the verse together, then take a piece of paper away and see if you can still remember the whole thing. Continue repeating and removing pieces of paper until you can say it all off by heart!
- Write the verses on a piece of paper then stick it on the back of the bathroom or shower door, on the back of the car seat in front of you or on the ceiling above your bed.
- Rewrite the verses using pictures or symbols.

## week two

### Brazil

In Brazil children only go to school for half the day. Parents and caregivers need to arrange a lot of after school care for their kids.

Aunty Christina lives in a favela near São Paulo, where houses are built over the river. Aunty Christina knew that she could bring God's hope and love to the children in her community. She started an afterschool programme with The Salvation Army in her living room. She had so many children coming, that her house began to sink into the river.

Aunty Christina's afterschool programme has grown. Two hundred and forty children go to it and there is even a wait list! Kids get to do fun activities like karate, dancing, crafts and they get the chance to meet Jesus. Parents and caregivers are not left out, The Salvation Army visits families at home and runs classes to help with parenting too. Many families know God because Aunty Christina invited people into her home.

### Activity

Make an invitation for someone you know, asking them to come to a service at your corps. It could be your neighbour, someone from school, a family friend or anybody you know. You could design your invite on a computer or make it by hand with craft materials. Leave it in their letterbox or give it to them the next time you see them.





**Tip:** If you stick a magnet on the back, they can stick it somewhere they will see it every day!

## Discuss

Do you remember the first time you were invited to come and learn about Jesus? Who invited you and how did you feel about it? Share your experience of learning about Jesus for the first time. Talk about how different it is learning about him now.

## Pray

- Thank God for the community of faith you belong to.
- Ask God to bless the invitation you have made.
- Pray for the person you are inviting to your corps or centre.

## Memory Verse

Sometimes when we talk to God, we ask him to speak to us. One of the best things God invented to speak to us was the Bible. His words are right there, waiting for us! We can tuck them away in our hearts and minds by learning memory verses. Who has started memorising the memory verse? Kids, ask the adults how they are going! Adults, encourage the kids to give it a go!



## week three

# India

Manjeet lives in the Punjab region of India. In her village, people must work hard every day to feed their families and pay rent. Families don't own the land they work on, and to afford their daily needs families used to send their children to work in the rice fields when they were very

young. Even now, if the parents get sick and miss work, it gets hard to pay their bills. The Salvation Army Community Empowerment programme runs a self-help group for women in Manjeet's village.

Manjeet has been part of the group for many years and it has taught her how important going to school is for her children, ways to keep her family safe and healthy, and it's even helped her start small businesses with her friends making detergent and kitchen utensils. Before she joined the group, Manjeet had only ever worked in her

home, but now she is a businesswoman. Her three daughters all went to school instead of working in the rice fields. The money she earns has transformed her life and transformed her children's future.

There are 152 self-help groups run by The Salvation Army in the Punjab region of India. That's a lot of transformed lives!



## Activity

Make bubbles! Mix 6 parts water with 1 part dishwashing liquid to make bubble mix. You can make an assortment of wands using sticks and string or wire. See how big you can blow your bubbles.



## Discuss

Manjeet told her story before the pandemic; running a small business helps her family pay their bills even if they get sick. A lot of families across the world have found it difficult to make ends meet because of the pandemic.

How would you feel if you knew a sick day meant you couldn't pay your bills that week? Matthew 6:25–26 tells us that God will provide for us; how do you feel knowing the Bible says God will take care of your needs?

## Pray

- Thank God for teachers and free education.

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- Pray that God will bless those who live in poverty with all they need.

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- Ask God to protect those who have struggled to pay their bills because of the pandemic.

## Memory Verse

How is your family getting on memorising the memory verse? Choose another activity from page 9 to help.

week four

## Ukraine



Artem doesn't remember much about his life before moving to the orphanage. He doesn't have a family to look out for him and teach him life skills. Once upon a time, he thought he had found a forever home with a family in Italy, but it was too good to be true. He returned to his hometown, Kropyvnytskyi, disappointed and hurt. His friend invited him to The Salvation Army three times before Artem felt ready to check it out.

When he finally visited, he thought the corps officer, Captain Daniel, was scary. But after getting to know him, Artem realised he was a very kind man. James 2:14–17 tells us that God wants us to show his love by caring for others—which is exactly what Kropyvnytskyi Corps did for Artem. Captain Daniel helped Artem meet Jesus, and others at the corps helped him learn life skills that families normally teach their children. Kropyvnytskyi Corps has become Artem's family, and God gives Artem a forever home.

### Activity

Teach each other a life skill. A member of your family might want to teach everyone a life skill or perhaps you can all learn a new skill together. Here are some ideas of what you could learn:

- How to cook a simple meal or snack
- How to mend a hole in your clothes or reattach a button
- How to change a tyre or check the oil.

## Discuss

Why did you choose to teach your family that skill? How useful was it to learn that skill? How would you feel if you didn't have someone to help you learn life skills? Have you been in a situation like Artem where your friends have become your family? If you feel comfortable, share what that was like.

## Pray

- Thank God for the people who support and care for you.
- Pray for those who are searching for a family to be part of.
- Ask God to help you see those in your life who need to be cared for.

## Memory Verse

There are just a couple of weeks left of the memory verse challenge. It's not too late to start learning if you haven't already! Pick an activity from page 9 to help your family memorise Romans 12:2.



*week five*

## South Africa

Two years ago, the Self Denial Appeal visited the KwaZulu-Natal region of South Africa where people had unreliable access to clean water. It made it hard for children to go to school, and there were lots of stomach bugs and diseases from drinking and washing in contaminated water. The Salvation Army's Wash Project has provided clean water and new sanitation blocks for 11 communities since we last heard from them.

Zama works for the project helping to educate schools and community leaders about sanitation. The new infrastructure and education programmes mean kids don't have to worry about missing lots of school due to illness or lack of clean water. Education numbers have risen, and the community is safe from many illnesses. Providing clean water has transformed the lives of 11 communities and has dramatically transformed their future!



### Activity

Have a water bucket race! You'll want to have two even teams lined up next to each other. Each team should be one metre apart. Every person gets a bucket or bowl. Start each team with a bucket full of water and have one player carefully



carry their bucket to the next team member and pour the liquid into an empty one, trying not to spill any. At the end of the line, whoever has the most water wins.

## Discuss

Wow! The Wash Project has really transformed communities in KwaZulu-Natal. Imagine what your life would be like without clean water. Matthew 25:44–45 says that when we give food or water to someone who needs it, we are giving those things to Jesus too. What do you think Jesus' reaction would be to the sanitation blocks and clean water The Salvation Army has provided in South Africa?

## Pray

- Thank God for meeting our needs and giving us necessities, like clean water.
- Ask God to bless outreach to struggling people in your community.
- Pray for the Wash Project as they continue to transform lives.

## Memory Verse

The Bible is one of the ways that God wants to speak to you. It's a wise idea to keep his promises and reminders in our minds and hearts to help us live like Jesus. Check out the fun and useful ways to help you remember the memory verse on page 9.



## *week six*



### Discuss

Which Self Denial story has stuck with you? Talk together about the stories that you can't stop thinking about. Explain how those stories make you feel. Ask each other where you see God working in each of those stories.

### Activity

From the stories your family discussed, choose one of the communities to pray for; you might like to pray for them for a week, or a month or even a year. As a family, decorate a poster that creatively lists the needs of the community that you will

pray for. Choose a place where you will see it often; perhaps on your fridge or on the back of your bathroom door.

### Pray

Use your wonderful new prayer poster to help you pray for the community you have chosen. Spend time praying together for each of the things you have listed on the poster.

Remember to thank God for the work he is doing in your life, and in the community you are praying for. Invite God to transform your life, and the lives of the people in the Self Denial stories.

You might want to pray together in pairs, aloud or quietly by yourself. You might want to draw, write or sign your prayers. God hears all prayers no matter how you pray!

## Memory Verse

We're at the end of the six weeks; how did you go with the memory verse? If you got it, well done! If not, don't worry, you can still practise.



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