

# BE THE CHANGE

*Self Denial Appeal 2019*



## 01: WE ARE ALL PRECIOUS TO GOD

### MINGLE

If you have regular ice-breakers, feel free to stick with your own. Otherwise, here are some questions you could use.

#### QUESTIONS

If you were going to change your name, what name would you choose, and why?

Would you rather always have to say everything on your mind or never speak again?

What is your dream travel destination?

#### ACTIVITY: QUICK CHANGE

Have the young people sit in a circle, and choose one to be the 'changer'. Let the group study his/her appearance for five seconds, then ask the 'changer' to leave the room (or move somewhere out of sight).

While out of sight they must change something about their appearance, e.g. pull a sock down, change watch from one wrist to another, unbutton a button etc.

When they re-enter, the others must try to figure out what was changed. The first one to figure it out then has a turn being the 'changer'.

**Application:** The theme of this year's Self Denial Appeal and this study is 'Be the Change'. As we ask and allow God to work in our lives, those around us should see a change in us as we become more like Jesus and learn to live in an increasingly loving and generous way.

### INTRO

If you have them, hand out the postcards that were produced for this year's appeal, and read out the blurb on the back. (If you don't have any postcards or need more, you can download and print them at [www.firezone.co.nz](http://www.firezone.co.nz)):

The Salvation Army's annual Self Denial Appeal raises funds for Salvation Army mission and ministry in countries that are unable to financially support themselves.

It's called Self Denial because it's about sacrificing a portion of what we have to give to those in need—it's a call to live simply, so that others may simply live.

The theme of this year's appeal is 'Be the Change', so we encourage you to embrace your role in bringing about positive change in your own community as well as in other countries by giving to the appeal.

God loves it when we give joyfully and generously from what we have, and be encouraged that even a small offering from you could be life-changing to someone else.

Over the next few weeks we'll look at the stories of four of the people who have been helped by The Salvation Army through the Self Denial Appeal, and what their experiences can teach us about God's character.

## THE WORD

Ask someone to read the following passage out loud to your group. You could get a couple of people to read it out if they have different translations.

Luke 12:6-7 (NLT)

“What is the price of five sparrows—two copper coins? Yet God does not forget a single one of them. And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows.”

### ADDITIONAL PASSAGES

Here are some great supporting passages that you could also get people to read out or use to prompt discussion.

Psalm 139:13-16

Romans 5:8

Ephesians 2:4-5

### WHAT DO THESE VERSES REVEAL ABOUT GOD?

*(They show that we are all infinitely precious to God, and no one is of lesser value than anyone else.)*

## VIDEO

Watch the Self Denial video, ‘Week 2: India’. This is available to view and download at [www.selfdenial.info/nzfts](http://www.selfdenial.info/nzfts)

## DISCUSSION

Use the following questions to encourage discussion. Feel free to add your own and ask follow up questions as people share to keep the discussion flowing.

What was the change that took place in Manisha’s story? *(Manisha’s community, even her own parents, devalued her because she was female. Thinking about gender the way God does meant The Salvation Army could challenge and start to change that belief. The programme gives girls the skills, but to run the programme, they had to have faith that God’s love could change deeply ingrained thinking about gender and poverty.)*

Do you know people who are devalued because of gender or for any other reason?

What beliefs in our communities make people doubt their value?

In our Bible passage, Jesus said ‘don’t be afraid’. What role do you think fear has in this?

In what ways could you empower others and show that you value them as God does?

## THIS WEEK

Be conscious of the ways that people are devalued and treated unfairly in your community. Think about ways you could challenge the negative beliefs and behaviours that contribute to this. Let God’s love of all people motivate you to ‘be the change’ where you are.

If you’d like to, you could also decide on an amount you’d like to contribute to this year’s Self Denial Appeal. Think about what you can afford to give and how you’ll save or earn the money over the next few weeks. Is there something you could give up to help others in need?

## PRAYER

Spend some time praying together.

Thank God for his love and that we are all precious in his eyes.

Pray for Manisha and The Salvation Army North India Territory.

Pray for help with this week’s challenges.