

Children's Prayer Revival—2006

## **I'm in the Lord's Army**

### *Service 1*—Red Phase of Basic Prayer Training

**Aim:** To learn how to join the Lord's Army (salvation).

**Scripture Text:** II Timothy 2:1-4

**Key Verse:** "Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might" (Ephesians 6:10).

**POWER line:** I'm in the Lord's Army. Yes, sir!

### **Supplies**

- national flag and Christian flag
- camouflage uniforms, paint
- On the Job Training (OJT) Jar—large pickle jar or other wide-mouthed jar
- OJT prayer slips
- masking tape or sidewalk chalk
- posterboard (5) or banner paper
- large metal pot set upside down on a metal cake pan
- copy of skit for Buddy Bubba
- Bubba's uniform: strainer, garbage can lid, and broom
- prepared index cards
- whistle

### **Getting Ready**

- Advise all teachers to wear camouflage to these services. Borrow from military personnel in your church or check with army/navy supply stores. Not necessary to wear full uniform.

- Hang flags.
- Make a copy of the skit for Buddy Bubba.
- Write words to songs on posterboard or flipchart.
- Write the Bible verse on the board or posterboard.
- Prepare index cards (preferably 4" x 6") for the Energy Outlet. You will need one card per child. On each card, from the list below write one military abbreviation on one side of the card and its meaning on the other side.
  - AD: Active Duty
  - ASAP: As Soon as Possible
  - BAH: Basic Allowance for Housing
  - BLT: Battalion Landing Team
  - Brig: military jail
  - CO: Commanding Officer
  - Comm: communications
  - Commander in Chief: President of the United States
  - Cover: hat
  - DI: Drill Instructor
  - Field day: day set aside for cleaning the office and barracks
  - Hashmark: stripes worn on forearm of dress and service uniforms
  - JOB: “junk on the bunk”; field gear and uniforms displayed on bed for inspection
  - LES: Leave and Earnings Statement

- MARS: Military Affiliated Radio System; used for sending messages to those deployed
- MOQ: Married Officer Quarters
- MOS: Military Occupational Specialty
- MP: Military Police
- Military brat: a term of endearment given to children born and reared in the service
- NCOIC: Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge
- OOD: Officer of the Day
- OJT: On the Job Training
- O-Dark Thirty: after midnight and before working hours
- PFT: Physical Fitness Test
- PT: Physical Training
- Rack: bed
- Recruit: an individual attending boot camp
- SOP: Standard Operating Procedure
- SRB: Service Record Book
- Squared away: prepared, taken care of, sharp looking
- UA: Unauthorized Absence
- XO: Executive Officer (second in command of a unit)

- Label OJT jar in large letters. Copy these lines and cut them apart, filling the jar.  
If you have a lot of children participating, copy the lines two or three times so you will have enough for everyone.
  - Show me how to be a good neighbor.
  - Protect and care for my family.
  - Help me meet people You can help.
  - Thank You, Jesus, for being my special friend.
  - Please help me to understand the needs and feelings of people who are different from me.
  - Show me how to love and help people who have special needs.
  - Thank You for bringing people into my life that love and help me.
  - Help me to be happy to share with others.
  - Please protect me when I am not with my parents.
  - Thank You for loving me and providing for my needs.
  - Help me know when my teasing may hurt someone.
  - Show me how to forgive and love people who do wrong things to my friends or me.
  - Thank You for wanting to forgive my sins.
  - Give me the courage to say no to the temptation to cheat in school.
  - Show me how to bring honor to You in everything I do.
  - Thank You for giving me the Bible and the Holy Ghost to help me live like I should.

- Help me know when to tell an adult when I think someone is doing something wrong.
  - Help me know how to be a good citizen at school, in my neighborhood, and in my country.
  - Show me how to have Your happiness in my heart.
  - Make me aware of the good life I have as a Christian.
  - Thank You that Christians really can have more fun than people who don't know Jesus.
  - Please help me to be a helper to the elderly in our neighborhood.
  - Help me have a happy heart when You do good things for others.
  - Thank You for loving everyone, including me.
  - Please show me why I need a boss.
  - Help me obey those in authority over me: parents, teachers, pastor, and government officials.
  - Help me avoid saying bad words, especially using God's name thoughtlessly.
  - Thank You for loving me like a good shepherd loves his sheep.
  - Help me know in my heart that my parents will never stop loving me.
- Prepare the cadence call. (See Energy Outlet: Cadence Call in this lesson.) Write each of the five lines of the cadence call on separate pieces of posterboard, or computer banners, and post them around the room to prompt students. Practice until you know the words and rhythm.

- Make a huge prayer clock on the floor or sidewalk. Label divisions with index cards.
- Note to Canadian children’s ministry teams: adjust copy to reflect Canadian military customs.

## ***POWER* of Worship**

### **Welcome**

#### **Truth Conductor: (Modified U.S. Army Pledge of Allegiance)**

Welcome students to Basic Training. Explain that for the next three services they will be learning how to fight and to overcome the enemy of their souls. Teach the *POWER* line. Every time you salute the class, they return the salute and say, **I’m in the Lord’s Army. Yes, sir!** Lead them in the Lord’s Army pledge of allegiance as they face the flags.

**We pledge to support and defend souls against the enemy using prayer and the Word of God as our weapons of warfare. We bear true faith and allegiance to one God and obey His orders.**

#### **Introductory Skit: Buddy Bubba Gets Ready to Fight**

These skits use Buddy Bubba, just out of high school and full of enthusiasm, as the main character. Buddy Bubba shows up for class with a trashcan lid as a shield and a silver colander on his head. He is carrying a broom and singing an off-key version of “I’m in the Lord’s Army.”

Buddy Bubba (to the students): **Everybody freeze! I'm in charge here, and I'm going to whip you into shape. We've got to take care of business—God's business. You there, sit up straight!**

Teacher: **Whoa! Buddy Bubba? Is that you under that hat? What has gotten into you? What are you trying to do?**

Buddy Bubba: **I'm getting an army for the Lord. Hup, two, three . . .**

Teacher: **Well, that's interesting. Did you know that the Lord already has an army?**

Buddy Bubba: **No! Really?**

Teacher: **Uh-huh. It's pretty big and pretty wonderful. We have a branch right here in this church. Would you like to join?**

Buddy Bubba: **I sure would. I want to join God's Army. I will be the best soldier ever.**

Teacher: **There are a few requirements. Have you repented of your sins?**

Buddy Bubba: **I've already done that. When I was eight, I prayed and I asked Jesus to forgive me of my sins. Then I asked Him to come into my heart.**

Teacher: **That's a good start, but you're not a baby anymore. Have you been baptized in Jesus' name?**

Buddy Bubba: **Yep, when I was a baby I got baptized. My momma says I cried and cried when they sprinkled that water on me. I don't really like to get wet, you know.**

Teacher: **That's not how the Bible says we are to be baptized. Do you have the Holy Ghost? Did you speak in other tongues after you repented?**

Buddy Bubba: **I can count to five in Spanish.**

Teacher: **Hmmmm . . . all the way to five? That's nice, but that's not receiving the Holy Ghost.**

Buddy Bubba: **Oh, I have just got to be in the Lord's Army so that I can get big muscles!** Flexes his arm.

Teacher: **You don't have to have muscles to be in the Lord's Army, although serving God will make you strong.**

Buddy Bubba: **Strong? My momma says I smell strong—something to do with me not liking to get wet, I think.**

Teacher: **"Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might" is what the Bible says. The more you study the Bible and pray, the stronger you will become. But first, you need to be baptized in Jesus' name and receive the Holy Ghost. Then you will be in the Lord's Army.** Sends him out of the room with a prayer warrior.

**Energy Outlet: Cadence Call**

**Soldiers in the army spend a lot of time marching. As they march they do a sing-song chant called cadence that helps them keep in step and makes marching easier. Let's learn a cadence march for the Lord's Army. This keeps us together and peppy for the long haul!** Go over the words to the cadence call until students are familiar with the rhythm and words. Start marching and clapping. Children yell out the letters from the posters or computer banners posted around the room.

**V.I.C.T.O.R.Y.—That's the Christian's battle cry!**

**S.O.L.D.I.E.R.—That's what the Bible says we are!**

**F.R.E.E.D.O.M.—Jesus died so we would win!**

**A.C.T.S 2:38.—This is one that is so great!**

**Sound off!** (Sound off!) **A.C.T.S.** (big breath) **2:38!**

Make sure children know what Acts 2:38 is. Salute children to elicit the *POWER* line: **I'm in the Lord's Army. Yes, sir!**

**Prayer** (4-6 minutes)

**Truth Conductor—OJT**

**Soldiers in the army get training for different jobs. It's called on-the-job training. Some learn to drive a tank; others learn to fix the tanks. Some soldiers are trained to use radios to communicate with the army in the field. Some learn how to cook. All soldiers are trained to fight.**

**In the Lord’s Army, we learn how to do a lot of different jobs, too. What are some jobs that people in the Lord’s Army do? (pastor, teacher, janitor, etc.). Everybody doesn’t do the same thing, but we all learn to pray. Prayer is our greatest weapon. Show the OJT jar. This is our on-the-job training jar. We are learning how to pray.**

Let each child reach in the OJT jar and get a prayer line. Use these slips of paper for a time of cooperative prayer, with each child reading his line and then adding a thought of his own. For example, the student reads the slip, “Show me how to be a good neighbor.” Then he adds, “And help me be a good neighbor to Mrs. Bossy next door.” Explain to the students what they are to do. Before beginning the cooperative prayer, you say this rhyme:

**When you pray, day by day, here are some things that you can say:**

**Dear God, . . .** (Let the first student begin reading his slip.)

After everyone has participated, collect the slips for next week’s prayer time.

**Offering** (3-5 minutes)

**Target Practice—Joyful Noise Offering**

Place a large metal pot on an upside-down metal cake pan in the center of the room. Students make as much noise as possible throwing change into the pot to make a “joyful noise to the Lord” in their offering to Him. (Do this for all three services. The children will bring change in anticipation of the noise offering.) **Bring lots of change next time to “make a joyful noise unto the Lord” again!**

**Well done, soldiers!** Salute the children to elicit the *POWER* line: **I'm in the Lord's Army! Yes, sir!**

### **Energy Outlet—What Did He Just Say?**

See if you can figure out what this message means. Read the paragraph to the children.

**“I have to leave ASAP. We have a PFT at O-Dark-Thirty and a JOB after PT, so I need to get my gear squared away. I'm the NCOIC and I have a meeting with the CO and XO about an MP who went UA. After my meeting, the troops need to field day the barracks for the BLT next month. I need to stop off at the PX and pick up a set of hashmarks. See you around 1800.”**

**A foreign language? No, military lingo and abbreviations. Try some and you can feel “squared away.”**

Use the prepared index cards for this activity. As you give each child a card, read the abbreviation and its meaning so that all the students can hear you. For example, **Anne, the letters AD mean active duty. Bill, ASAP means as soon as possible.** All the children hear the phrases, but will they remember?

Students should hold the cards with the abbreviations facing outward so the other children can see the abbreviations but not the definitions. At the signal, everyone mingles, asking other children what his abbreviation means. The child who remembers the correct meaning collects the index card. The child without a card sits down. When

children have related all the terms they can remember, the winner is the person holding the most cards.

**Well done, soldiers!** Salute children for the *POWER* line: **I'm in the Lord's Army. Yes, sir!**

### ***POWER* of the Word**

**Energy Outlet—Daily Calisthenics**

**Bible Memorization** (8-10 minutes)

**“Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might” (Ephesians 6:10).**

**Soldiers do PT (physical training) every day, rain or shine. Reading the Bible every day strengthens us and sharpens our fighting skills. The Word of God is called a sword. When we memorize Scripture, we have a mighty weapon to use against the devil.**

Point out the words on the board. Go over the verse until the children can say it. Then lead children in twelve jumping jacks, one for every word of the verse.

**Well done, soldiers.** Salute students for the *POWER* line: **I'm in the Lord's Army. Yes, sir!**

**Praise Generators** (4-6 minutes)

Sing “Onward Christian Soldiers,” “Battle Hymn of the Republic,” or “I’m in the Lord’s Army” as students march around the room. Explain that when the DS (drill sergeant) yells, “Repent,” everyone turns about face and marches the other way. **When we repent, we turn away from our sins and go in a different direction.**

**Sermon** (10-12 minutes)

**Did you know that all U.S. Army soldiers have to go through Basic Training? That's eight weeks of amazingly difficult physical and mental training. It is tough, but the men and women who make it are some of the best soldiers in the world.**

**Basic Training is the program that turns regular people into soldiers. Drill sergeants (DSs) look for individuals who show character, endurance, and teamwork in the face of physical exhaustion and hard discipline.**

**Basic Training is broken down into three phases, Red, White, and Blue. The Red Phase runs from Week I–Week III. Recruits are introduced to their drill sergeants who frown and never laugh. The DS doesn't let anyone skip any rules or steps. The recruits have to follow commands to the letter or do fifty push-ups, run an extra mile, or enjoy some KP (Kitchen Patrol), peeling 800 potatoes or washing nasty, horrible pots.**

**The Red Phase teaches the soldier how to make beds the army way, wear uniforms properly, clean barracks and lockers perfectly, and maintain a rifle and ammunition. Physical training includes a daily two-mile run, one hundred push-ups, one hundred sit-ups, and midnight hikes carrying all sixty-two pounds of equipment. Inspections can happen at any moment and the soldier must be ready.**

**How is that like the Lord's Army? Well, kids and adults who stick with the church become some of the best prayer soldiers in the world.**

**Basic Prayer Training can be broken down into three phases, too. Our Red Phase might include learning to follow all the steps to successful prayer. We start by**

**praising God and asking forgiveness for anything that's hanging around in our hearts. That's called repenting. When your heart is clean, you can ask God for the things you need and also to help your family and friends. You can ask for the Holy Ghost. Is there anyone here who needs to repent and wants to receive the Holy Ghost? Stand up and join the Lord's Army today!**

#### **Invitation and Prayer (5-7 minutes)**

**Let's all gather around the altar and ask God to help us become prayer warriors. First we're going to praise God; then, on my signal, you can ask for forgiveness as you repent of your sins. When your heart is clean, lift your faces and arms high and ask God to give you the Holy Ghost.**

#### **Review**

A great review for all three lessons can be made with tape on a carpeted area. Mask out the round Prayer Clock as big as possible. This can also be done with sidewalk chalk outside. To label each division, tape down an index card with the designation. If possible add colorful art for clues.

1. Praise
2. Forgiveness
3. Confession/Repentance
4. Petition/Things We Need
5. Praying for Others
6. Reading the Bible

7. Thinking about What I've Just Read

8. Thanksgiving

9. Praying the Word (Scriptures)

10. Singing

11. Listening for God

12. Praise

The DS, or teacher, explains the different parts of prayer and then calls out a section. Students jump into that section before the DS blows the whistle. (Yes, it's supposed to be difficult, fun, and wild.) If a student cannot get into that section before the whistle blows, he is out.