

GOD IN ACTION



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

We will...

- deepen our spiritual life
- unite in prayer
- identify and develop leaders
- increase self-support and self-denial

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

We will...

- emphasise our integrated ministry
- reach and involve youth and children
- stand for and serve the marginalised
- encourage innovation in mission

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

We will...

- communicate Christ unashamedly
- reaffirm our belief in transformation
- evangelise and disciple effectively
- provide quality teaching resources

**God in Action Bible Study Manuel produced by Captain Michael Ramsay at the Swift Current Corps of The Salvation Army, September 2012.*

In this Bible Study we will be looking at different ways in which God is active in our world today. We will look at various scriptures and ask ourselves, ‘what are we going to do about it’?

Lesson 4: Luke 1:26-38

We believe that in the person of Jesus Christ the Divine and human natures are united, so that He is truly and properly God and truly and properly man.

Background and context: Luke, the author of the both Luke and Acts, was a 1st century physician. These two short books (letters) that he wrote read like a two-volume set. In the opening chapters of Volume 1, Luke contrasts Jesus Christ and Augustus Caesar, the leader of Rome, which was the paramount Superpower when Jesus was born. Caesar was worshipped as a god. He ruled the most powerful country in the world and was seen as a son of god in that his deceased adopted father Julius Caesar was also revered as a god. This ‘god-king’, ‘son of god’ won a brutal civil war and was arguably the most powerful of all the Roman rulers in history. He achieved a restless peace in the Mediterranean, know as the ‘Pax Romana’ through a series of wars but this wasn’t a real peace as, of course, many subjugated peoples were awaiting their opportunities to seek independence. Luke points out that Jesus, in contrast, truly is God, the Son of God, and the real Prince of Peace. Notice how different Jesus, the real King of Kings, is from Caesar Augustus or any other king or any leader of any superpower either past or present. Luke, in invoking Caesar Augustus’ name in Chapter 2 and this taxation is drawing this parallel and making this contrast for all of us to see for it is only the person of Jesus Christ the Divine and human natures are united, so that He is truly and properly God and truly and properly man.

Luke 1:26-38

1. Why would Mary be troubled by the words, “Greetings you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you”? (Luke 1:28)

2. Why do we think God sends an angel/messenger to Mary? (Luke 1:26)

3. Why do we think Luke repeatedly mentions that Mary is a virgin? (Luke 1:27, 34)

4. What news does Gabriel give Mary? What do we know about her child? (Luke 1:31-33,35)
 - a. What does it mean to be called ‘Son of the Most High’? (Luke 1:32)

 - b. What is the ‘throne of his father David’ to which this pericope refers? (Luke 1:32)

 - c. How can he reign over the house of Jacob *forever*? (Luke 1:33)

5. Read Verse 35 (NIV):*The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God..."*

a. How will Mary become pregnant?

b. What does this mean about the parentage of her son Jesus?

6. What does all of this mean for us here today?

John 3:16 (NKJV):*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

Scriptures for further exploration: Matthew 1:18-25; 4:1-11; Mark 1:41; 11:12; 14:32-42; Luke 2:52; 4:1-21; John 1:1-5, 14-18; 3:16-21; 4:6; 11:35; 14:1-11; 17:1-5; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-3; 2:10-18; 5:1-10

Further Reading:

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Doctrines of The Salvation Army

1. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God; and that they only constitute the Divine rule of Christian faith and practice.
2. We believe that there is only one God, who is infinitely perfect, the Creator, Preserver, and Governor of all things, and who is the only proper object of religious worship.
3. We believe that there are three persons in the Godhead - the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost - undivided in essence and co-equal in power and glory.
4. We believe that in the person of Jesus Christ the Divine and human natures are united, so that He is truly and properly God and truly and properly man.
5. We believe that our first parents were created in a state of innocence, but by their disobedience they lost their purity and happiness; and that in consequence of their fall all men have become sinners, totally depraved, and as such are justly exposed to the wrath of God.
6. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has, by His suffering and death, made an atonement for the whole world so that whosoever will may be saved.
7. We believe that repentance towards God, faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and regeneration by the Holy Spirit are necessary to salvation.
8. We believe that we are justified by grace, through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ; and that he that believeth hath the witness in himself.
9. We believe that continuance in a state of salvation depends upon continued obedient faith in Christ.
10. We believe that it is the privilege of all believers to be wholly sanctified, and that their whole spirit and soul and body may be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
11. We believe in the immortality of the soul; in the resurrection of the body; in the general judgment at the end of the world; in the eternal happiness of the righteous; and in the endless punishment of the wicked.