

# **SALVAGE** your old phone and help save lives

An assembly about The Salvation Army's mobile phone recycling scheme, and about using what we've been given wisely.

Considering how widespread and disposable mobile phones have become in our society, it is likely that lots of pupils (or pupils' family members) have received a new mobile phone recently. Often the old ones are discarded or abandoned, so here's an invitation for everyone to recycle their old phones by donating them to The Salvation Army. This assembly not only encourages pupils to make a positive difference to the planet and to people's lives through recycling, but also challenges them to use their resources wisely and make the most of all the things they have been given. This could also effectively tie in with a collection in your school - posters and envelopes are available for free from The Salvation Army International Development department (please see contact details below if you would like to order some).

## **About SALVageID**

The Salvation Army is working with a company called CM Recycling for the scheme, who recycle mobile phones on its behalf. Each mobile phone is worth, on average, £4 and could be worth up to £50. The money raised will enable The Salvation Army's International Development department to continue to help and support many people in developing countries to build better futures for themselves.

When phones are donated, the working mobiles are sold as second-hand in countries around the world. In developing countries, getting a fixed landline is very expensive and not always possible, so second-hand mobile phones are an affordable means of communication. They can help businesses to run better and families to stay in touch more easily.

Phones that cannot be reused are broken down to their original components and all the parts are recycled. Visit [www.salvationarmy.org.uk/SALVageID](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/SALVageID) to find out more about the scheme and how your class or school can get involved.

## **Resources and preparation**

Accompanying PowerPoint show, projector/screen (optional)  
A range of recycled products (if not using PowerPoint - see below)  
CD player (optional)

For help and advice with any of these resources, or for other teaching resources about The Salvation Army, please call the Schools & Colleges Unit on 020 7367 4706, email [schools@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:schools@salvationarmy.org.uk) or visit [www.salvationarmy.org.uk/schools](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/schools).

To find out more about The Salvation Army International Development (UK) then please call 020 7367 4777, email [id@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:id@salvationarmy.org.uk) or visit [www.salvationarmy.org.uk/id](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/id).

## **Curriculum links**

PSHE, Religious Education, ICT

## Salvage!

*Introduce yourself and the theme for the assembly - 'Salvage' - using the definitions on the first PowerPoint slide.*

I don't know if you've noticed, but over the past few years there has been a growing trend for salvaging or rescuing old, used or unwanted things and transforming them into new and useful things.

*Using the PowerPoint show, display each picture, giving a few moments for pupils to work out what has been used to make the item, before revealing the answer. If you're not able to use PowerPoint in this assembly, collect a range of recycled products (the more unusual the better) and show these instead.*

We're all being taught that recycling things is an important way of preventing our planet from being destroyed. Humans have realised that they need to be much more responsible in the way they use the earth's resources so that there is still an earth left for future generations. The kind of recycling I want to talk about today is not only good for the planet, but it's good news for people too.

The word 'salvage' comes from the French verb *salvage* which means to save. The Salvation Army is in the business of saving people (*show Salvation Army history slide*). Ever since it first started and was given the name 'The Salvation Army' back in 1878, saving people - from all kinds of things, such as homelessness, addictions, poverty, - has been its mission. Today The Salvation Army is a Christian church and charity, not only working in the UK and Ireland, but in 116\* countries around the world. The Salvation Army's International Development Department has a new mobile phone recycling scheme called 'SALVagelD' (Salvage I.D.), which allows you and me to get involved in this mission of saving people - of saving lives. \*as of 30 September 2008

People are constantly getting new mobile phones for Christmas, Birthday's or just because they are due a free upgrade and their old ones are very often put away in a drawer and either lost or eventually thrown away. But mobile phones, like the other things we've seen, can be salvaged or rescued, and put to good use giving people the chance of a better life. First, here are a few facts about mobile phones.

## Mobile phone facts

- In the UK alone, it is estimated that around 74 million mobiles are in circulation - that's more mobiles than people!\*\*

- Over 75% of the population will replace or upgrade their mobiles in the next 18 months.
- 18 million mobiles are bought each year, yet fewer than 5% of unwanted mobiles are recycled\*.
- Also, some mobile phones contain precious metals such as gold and silver, and also toxic substances such as cadmium and mercury. If they end up in landfill, these could leak and pollute the surrounding environment. One mobile phone battery could be powerful enough to pollute 600,000 litres of water.

\*Nokia global consumer survey ; 44% of old mobile phones are left lying in drawers at home and are not being recycled. For further information visit [www.Nokia.com](http://www.Nokia.com)

\*\*Ofcom communications market 2008 survey [www.ofcom.org.uk](http://www.ofcom.org.uk)

If all of the 74 million mobile phones in circulation in the UK were recycled when people no longer needed them, not only would it prevent further damage to the environment, but it could also provide £296m worth of aid - just imagine what that money could do.

### Where does the money go?

The Salvation Army works in communities all around the world to end poverty and injustice. Its projects include clean water and sanitation, small loans to help people set up businesses, anti human-trafficking, disaster relief, care for orphans and vulnerable children, HIV/AIDS work, and lots more besides this. The Salvation Army International Development Department exists to give people and communities the 'hand-up' that they need to work themselves out of poverty and focuses on long-term solutions, as well as campaigning against all the injustices which cause poverty.

*If you have time you could show a short film of some of The Salvation Army's International Development work. A recommended film is "Jamie and Junior" which was produced for our Embrace programme which compares a day in the life of a child in the UK with a child in Africa (contact us for free resources or download films on our various programmes from [www.salvationarmy.org.uk/id](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/id)).*

So what could your old mobile phones be transformed into? *Show slide.*

- **1 phone** will buy a fruit tree for a community - generating income for the community but helping the environment too.
- **3 phones** can provide a family with clean water for life.
- **4 phones** can provide a home and education for a child for a month.
- **5 phones** will help resource a team to educate and campaign against human trafficking and provide care for victims.

- **15 phones** will provide psychosocial support for orphans and vulnerable people affected by HIV/AIDS.
- **40 phones** will provide a solidarity group with a loan to start their own business through The Salvation Army's MUSTARD SEEDS programme.
- **175 phones** can fund the building of a well in India.

\* based on an average of £4 per phone

An unused phone is a waste of precious resources which could easily be used to make a real difference to the lives of people living in developing countries, empowering them to build a better future.

Perhaps this is something which you, as an individual, or as a class or school, would like to get involved in, to see how much difference you could make, just by collecting unwanted mobile phones from friends and family - with their permission, of course! You can find out more about the scheme and how it works by visiting: [www.salvationarmy.org.uk/SALVagelD](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/SALVagelD)

### **The parable of the talents (Matthew 25: 14-30)**

A long time ago Jesus told a parable - a story to teach people something important - about a man, his three servants and some talents (a talent was a weight of silver, or a large amount of money). In the story the man gives his three servants different amounts of talents to look after whilst he goes away. He wants them to use the money wisely. The first servant, who is given the most, begins to invest the money and doubles the amount he has been given. The second is given slightly less money but he still doubles the amount by going to work and earning more. However, the third servant is so nervous about losing the money that he buries it in the ground and hides it. When the man returns he is pleased with the efforts of the first two servants and decides to give them more responsibility. However, when he hears that the third servant has done nothing with the money the king is angry and throws the servant out of his house.

*If you'd prefer to read the parable, use a modern version of the Bible such as the International Children's Version or the Contemporary English Version. In most modern translations the word 'talent' has been changed to silver, gold or money. There's also an interpretation of this parable in Rob Lacey's 'The Street Bible' which would work well as a drama.*

### **Reflection and prayer**

This story has often been told to challenge people to think about how they use what they have been given - whether they make the most of it and use it wisely, or hide it away, keep it for themselves or waste it. Today we've thought about the need to be responsible with material things like mobile phones, to think carefully about

what we do with things when we no longer need them, and how we can use things to improve lives and look after the planet. However, we've been given many other things to use wisely: money, time, talents (our modern word 'talent' actually comes from this parable), education, character and personality. Life in itself is a precious gift, and it's up to us how we use it. What are you going to do with what you've been given? How could you make the most of each day and use what you have and what you are to make the world a better place?

We're going to end with a prayer. You can join in by saying 'Amen' at the end, or just be silent and think about those questions.

*Dear God*

*Help us to make the absolute most of what we have been given and use things wisely, even simple things such as a mobile phone or other things we no longer need. Show us how to use our time, talents and abilities, our character and personality, and our education in the best way possible. Help us to realise that life is a gift and that what we do with it, how we live it, can make all the difference in the world, both to us and to other people. Help us to make the most of today, by the way we treat others, the decisions we make and the things we say and do.  
Amen.*

**Alternative ending (you could use this instead of the parable and prayer)**

*Listen to the song 'With my own two hands' (from the CD 'Sing-A-Longs & Lullabies for the Film Curious George', by Jack Johnson, or download the song from the internet). As the pupils listen to the song ask them to consider different ways in which they could 'change the world' and save the lives of others, through their everyday lives and through simple actions. The lyrics are included in the PowerPoint show.*