# Video and Dinner Night

# *Leaders Notes/Background Information*

**Background:**

Self Denial is a special time of the year for The Salvation Army when we focus on the needs of others around the world who are not as fortunate. We take this opportunity as a church each year to raise and collect money to support projects around the world.

**Theme:** Love Beyond

This year’s theme of **Love Beyond** is all about God’s love impacting people’s lives by reaching beyond hard circumstances, beyond sickness and beyond the remoteness of locations.

The four videos show a diverse range of projects with both mission and community development focuses.

**Memory verse:**

**11**Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.**12**No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. 1 John 4:11-12 (NIV)

**Youth Program**

This year, the Youth Program is designed as a one-off event (in contrast to the previous six-week program). The rationale behind this is that it only takes up one night of youth group and the rest of the term can be regular programming with ‘check-ins’ around Self Denial ideas.

The program includes:

* An overview of Self Denial
* Memory verse activity
* Four video clips, one from each country/project (download the video file from: [www.selfdenial.info/resources](http://www.selfdenial.info/resources))
* Discussion questions around each video
  + Depending on your group size, you may want to split up into smaller groups to discuss the questions. It would be beneficial to have a leader facilitate each group’s discussion.
* A suggested meal activity that leads to a donation opportunity\*
* A PowerPoint presentation to go with the evening

\* It would be fantastic to encourage the youth at your church to financially donate to the Self Denial Appeal. The suggested activity in this year’s program is to have a ‘meal’ together of rice or noodles. Have the youth pay the $1-2 that their bowl of rice/noodles would cost (calculate how much it was for your group) and then donate the rest of the money they would have spent on a ‘Western fast-food meal’, like pizza or McDonald’s, towards Self Denial.

[Encourage the youth to bring their money in small change so that they can break up the cost, i.e. give $2 to pay for the rice/noodles and then give $8 to Self Denial.]

# Youth Program Summary

Approximately 90 minutes of structured program

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Program** | **Time** | **Needed Supplies** | **Notes** |
| Pre-program | Whatever amount of time you normally have for people to turn up | Equipment to play music.  SD 2020 Music |  |
| Introduction | 2 minutes | Rice cookers/Boiling water for cooking noodles  Equipment to play the PowerPoint presentation | Have a leader put the rice on/cook noodles to be ready in time for dinner |
| Memory verse activity (including a mini-talk on the motivation of love) | 25 minutes  (5-minute mini-talk, 10 minutes in groups, 10 minutes performing) | N/A | In pairs or small groups. |
| Video 1 – eSwatini | 4 minutes | Equipment to play video |  |
| Discussion questions | 8 minutes | Printed-out discussion questions for discussion in groups  + brainstorming paper and pens | Include brainstorm (part 1) about how love has been shown to others |
| Video 2 – PNG | 5 minutes | Equipment to play video |  |
| Discussion questions | 8 minutes | Printed-out discussion questions for discussion in groups  + brainstorming paper and pens | Include brainstorm (part 2) about how love has been shown to others |
| Serve dinner | 10 minutes | Rice, bowls, cutlery | Once rice is served, continue with the video watching. |
| Video 3 – Myanmar | 4 ½ minutes | Equipment to play video |  |
| Discussion questions | 8 minutes | Printed-out discussion questions for discussion in groups  + brainstorming paper and pens | Include brainstorm (part 3) about how love has been shown to others |
| Video 4 – Greenland | 4 ½ minutes | Equipment to play video |  |
| Discussion questions | 8 minutes | Printed-out discussion questions for discussion in groups  + brainstorming paper and pens | Include brainstorm (part 4) about how love has been shown to others |
| Movement Game:  ‘Self Denial, Love, Beyond’ | 5 minutes | Equipment to play music  Background music |  |
| Donate money | 3 minutes | Box or container for donations to be collected in. | You can play music or sing a song together during this time while the money is collected. |
| Prayer  (In small groups) | 5 minutes |  |  |
| Conclusion | 2 minutes |  |  |

**Video 1 Summary:**

Over 25 per cent of people in the Kingdom of eSwatini have a virus called HIV. It makes people very sick and those who are sick are often ignored and not loved. The Salvation Army shows love beyond sickness in this country by training and equipping volunteers to go from village to village and house to house to find those who are sick, help them get medical help and to simply sit and spend time with people and love them. The work of this program is made possible by international donations, specifically those from the Australia Territory.

**Video 2 Summary:**

There are some very remote places in the world and the highlands of Papua New Guinea is one of them. The roads are dangerous and hard to use and there is no running water, no electricity and it is very hard to be looked after when you are sick. There are over 300 officers who serve the people in Papua New Guinea. Major Iveme Yanderave is one of these officers. She visits people in hospital and brings them sandwiches, she goes to the jail and even walks long distances to visit remote villages so that she can tell people about Jesus and how much he loves them. People in Papua New Guinea are very open to spiritual things and conversations about God are frequent.

**Video 3 Summary:**

In Myanmar, The Salvation Army opened a corps and asked the local leader how they could help the community. Access to the hospital is difficult because it is far away. Lots of people get sick, injured in accidents or have complications from birth and die because they cannot get access fast enough to blood donations that would save their life. The community leader and the corps officers set up a blood donating group. This group donates blood for free when it is needed and has saved many lives! The group is made up of over 300 different members from different religions who all come together in The Salvation Amy building to show love to people. The community is being transformed because of this blood donating group. It is a healthier community and the group is helping positive relationships to grow.

**Video 4 Summary:**

The Salvation Army opened a corps in the city of Nuuk in Greenland after the government asked them to help with people who were homeless. The centre is open during the week and serves people meals. They also run a worship service on Sundays. There can be almost 100 people who come each day to the centre to spend time with people, so they aren’t lonely, to share the good and bad stories about their lives and to be fed. There is lots of need and it is expensive to feed all the people who come. The officers here say that the work they are doing is really important, because they love people practically and share the Good News of Jesus with everyone who comes.

# Youth Program – Love Beyond

**Key:**   
Text in normal font = things to say out loud

*Text in italics* = helpful instructions of ideas for you as the leader

**INTRODUCTION**

This year’s theme of **Love Beyond** is all about God’s love reaching beyond hard circumstances, beyond diseases, beyond the remoteness of locations and beyond differences. A love that goes beyond is one that deeply impacts people’s lives.

Tonight, we are going to take a fly-by tour of the four different places that are being helped by the money raised during Self Denial.

These four places are:

* The Kingdom of eSwatini

*Show on the PowerPoint the location of eSwatini*

* Papua New Guinea

*Show on the PowerPoint the location of PNG*

* Myanmar

*Show on the PowerPoint the location of Myanmar*

* Greenland

*Show on the PowerPoint the location of Greenland*

**MEMORY VERSE**

God showed us a love that went beyond and to help us remember this we are going to have a memory verse challenge. This year, the verse for Self Denial is:

*Bring up PowerPoint slide with the verse.*

**11**Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.**12**No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. 1 John 4:11-12 (NIV)

**MINI-TALK**

Let’s take a little bit of a deeper look at the memory verse.

The verse comes from a book in the Bible called 1 John. It is a letter written by one of Jesus’ 12 disciples, John, who also wrote the gospel of John. John spent heaps of time with Jesus. And since Jesus is the most loving person to ever live, John is in a pretty good position to write about love.

In these short verses, John explains the motivation for why we love others.

God has loved us.

And how has he loved us? *[You could open this question to the floor if appropriate]*

God has loved us primarily by sending his Son, Jesus, to die for us and save us from our sins. He loved us so much that He wanted to fix the broken relationship between us and him.  
  
God loved us so much that he came into the world, he got alongside people, he became like us! And we can learn from his example. When we love others, we should get alongside them and help them.

Because God has loved us so lavishly, we also should love others.

The passage goes on to say if we love others it shows that God lives in us!

God loved us by sending Jesus to die to pay the penalty for our sins. That’s definitely love beyond! It’s a love that goes beyond this world. A love that goes beyond our sin. A love that goes beyond eternity.

Now we are going to break up into pairs/groups and memorise the Bible verse on the screen and then you will recite, perform or sing it back to the group. You have 10 minutes.

*Have people, individually or as a group, memorise the memory verse. They might want to simply recite the memory verse, act it out or sing it. Allow the opportunity for creativity!*

*Leave up PowerPoint slide with the verse for the kids to see.*

*Come back together as a group and have people recite/perform the memory verse.*

**VIDEO 1 – ESWATINI**

*Click to the Kingdom of eSwatini title slide and get the video ready to go. Start the video, stop when the story comes to an end.*

In this first video we are going to visit the Kingdom of eSwatini and see how love goes beyond disease.

Fun Fact: The Kingdom of eSwatini is a landlocked country. This means that there are countries on all sides and no connection to an ocean.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

* We heard from Thema, who visits people who are affected by sickness. Who are people in your life who often are alone or get ignored who you can spend time with to show them that they are loved?
* God’s love is not dependent on how healthy or sick you are. Are there times when you judge other people based how their life is going? How can you stop doing this and love people regardless of their situation?
* BRAINSTORM: Write the words ‘Love Beyond’ in the middle of your brainstorming piece of paper. Around the words write down the ways love was shown to others in the video we just watched.

**VIDEO 2 – PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

*Click to the Papua New Guinea title slide and get the video ready to go. Restart the video, stop when the second story comes to an end.*

Here’s our second video, where we are going to meet Major Iveme *(Pronounced: Ee-va-may)*. She works in Papua New Guinea, also known as PNG. She shows love to people beyond difficult circumstances such as hospitalisation, being imprisoned or living in remote locations.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

* In that video there were a lot of people whose lives are very hard. How did it make you feel watching the video?
* Imagine a life without running water coming out of the taps, or electricity when you turn on a power point. What kinds of things do you think would be hard without these things that you take for granted?
* Major Iveme Yanderave’s visits make a huge difference to people; they feel loved and cared for because she spends time listening to them and time telling them about Jesus. Who is someone who you can sit and listen to, so that you can show them you love them?
* Who is someone in your life who doesn’t know Jesus as their friend yet who you can speak to?
* BRAINSTORM: On your ‘Love Beyond’ brainstorming piece of paper, add to what you already have about more ways love was shown to others in the video we just watched.

**SERVE DINNER**

*Click to the ‘dinner’ slide.*

We’re going to have our meal for the evening, which is a bowl of rice/noodles. This meal is going to cost each person $\_\_\_\_ (calculate how much it was for your group per person).

*Serve dinner*

*Encourage leaders to facilitate discussion while eating around the video that has already been watched and generally what the youth think about Self Denial.*

I hope you enjoyed your discussions over your bowl of rice/noodles and that it was a good reminder of how fortunate we are to have the money to be able to eat so well in our country.

We’ll be talking about donating the difference between the cost of our bowl of rice/noodles to Self Denial when we have finished watching the next two videos.

Keep eating if you haven’t finished and we are going to continue our tour around the world, seeing the impact that money raised from Self Denial is having on people’s lives.

**VIDEO 3 – MYANMAR**

*Click to the Myanmar title slide and get the video ready to go. Restart the video, stop when the third story comes to an end.*

In our third video for the evening, we are going to a place called Myanmar. Myanmar is located below China. In this story we will meet the village leader and hear about an exciting project that is bringing together people from different religions. These people are showing love beyond differences and saving many lives.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

* What is something that struck you the most from that video?
* In the story we heard this week, there are lots of people who have different views about God. Are there people in your life who have different beliefs to you? How do you show love to them?
* BRAINSTORM: Keep adding to your ‘Love Beyond’ brainstorm the ways love was shown in the video.

**VIDEO 4 – GREENLAND**

*Click to the Greenland title slide and get the video ready to go. Restart the video, stop when the fourth story comes to an end.*

Our final video for the evening will take us to Greenland – a very cold and isolated part of the world. Did you know that Greenland is so cold that most of the time there is lots of ice, so Greenland is not very green at all! It’s mostly white from all the ice! In this video, we will see love displayed beyond remoteness and isolation.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

* How do you feel after watching that video?
* Why do you think that spending time with someone who is lonely and listening to them shows that you care for them?
* How can you be practically showing love to people around you this week who might be lonely?
* How do you think people’s faith affects how they show love?
* BRAINSTORM: Add the final ways you saw love shown in the video we just watched to your ‘Love Beyond’ brainstorm.

**MOVEMENT GAME: ‘SELF DENIAL, LOVE, BEYOND’**

*Click to the ‘game’ slide. It is good to have background music playing behind this game to increase the ‘vibe’*

*One leader up the front demonstrates the three actions:*

* *Self Denial Arms crossed in front of the body like an ‘X’*
* *Love Hands make a ‘love heart’ shape above your head*
* *Beyond Arms outstretched in front of you*

*The leader turns around whilst everyone picks one action, then the leader turns around, simultaneously picking one of the three actions. If you have the same action as the leader, you are out and need to sit down. Keep going until there is a winner.*

*Play a few rounds to help get out the energy.*

We’re going to all stand up and play a game now.

There are three actions in this game:

* Self Denial: cross your arms in front of you in an ‘X’ shape.
* Love: make a love heart with your hands above your head.
* Beyond: stretch your arms out in front of you.

I’m going to turn around while everyone picks an action, then I will count down 3, 2, 1, turn back around and shout out the action I will do. If you have picked the same action as me, you are out, and you must sit down.

Let’s have a practice round …

*Play a practice round. Then play as many rounds of the game to end up with a winner.*

**DONATE**

*Click to the ‘LOVE BEYOND’ slide.*

Self Denial is an important time in the calendar of The Salvation Army and we want to encourage you to financially contribute by donating the difference between what you would have spent on a meal tonight at Maccas or a takeaway pizza.

Tonight’s dinner cost $\_\_\_\_ per person. So, if you can give $\_\_\_ to your leader to cover the cost of dinner.

Then …

Option 1:

We are going to pass the box around and collect the money we are donating to Self Denial while we play some music/sing a song.

*Pass around a plate/box for each youth member to place their Self Denial Appeal donation into.*

**OR**

Option2:

We are going to leave the box for donations at the door so that you can put your money in that you are donating to Self Denial on your way out tonight.

**PRAYER**

*Click to the ‘prayer’ slide.*

Let’s spend some time together all praying.

*You could have youth split into small groups while praying or to a big all-in prayer session.*

*Some suggested prayer points are listed below and are also on the PowerPoint slide.*

* *Help us to show love beyond how we would normally show love.*
* *Thank you that God shows us he loves us by sending Jesus to die on a cross to take away our sins so that we can be in relationship with him.*
* *Pray for the volunteers in eSwatini as they show love beyond disease. Give thanks for the impact the program is having on people’s health.*
* *Pray for the officers in PNG who love people beyond difficult circumstances like hospital, prison and remote villages. Give thanks for all the conversations about Jesus that are being had.*
* *Pray for the love beyond differences being displayed by the blood donation group in Myanmar. Thank God for the many lives that have been saved.*
* *Pray for The Salvation Army centre in Greenland that is providing a place for people who are experiencing homelessness. Give thanks for those who have found a personal relationship with Jesus.*

**CONCLUSION**

*Click to the ‘LOVE BEYOND’ slide.*

Hasn’t it been amazing all the different ways that we have seen The Salvation Army loving people around the world? The love that is being shown goes beyond sickness, beyond difficult situations that people are in, beyond people having different religions and beyond really remote places!

It truly is Love Beyond! This incredible love all starts from the God who loves us so much! And as people who have been loved by God, we also love other people.  
*(Possibility for an altar call/call to faith here if appropriate for your situation.)*

I wonder which of the four stories had the biggest impact on you?

*Share personally an impact one of the stories had on you.*

Let me finish in prayer.

**DISCUSSION GROUP LEADER QUESTIONS**

**VIDEO 1 – ESWATINI DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

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* BRAINSTORM: Keep adding to your ‘Love Beyond’ brainstorm the ways love was shown in the video.

**VIDEO 4 – GREENLAND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

* How do you feel after watching that video?
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* How can you be practically showing love to people around you this week who might be lonely?
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