# All-Age Candidates Sunday Illustration

## 'A thief has only one thing in mind – he wants to steal, slaughter, and destroy. But I have come to give you everything in abundance, more than you expect – life in its fullness until you overflow!'

## **John 10:10 TPT**

**This resource describes an experiment to illustrate what life overflowing can look like when we say yes to God.**

Note: this experiment uses harmful substances – keep everything out of reach from children. You also may benefit from practising this experiment before leading it as part of your worship.

## YOU WILL NEED:

2 mugs

Tray (to place the mugs on)

Spoons

Hydrogen peroxide (30 vol) – this can be bought from your local pharmacy

Instant yeast

Food colouring

Dishwashing liquid

A pair of rubber gloves (you may choose to wear goggles too!)

## THE EXPERIMENT:

All actions are in bold italics, while any speaking is in normal text.

Step 1: ***Pour 65 ml of warm water into the first mug and mix a spoonful of the yeast into it until it has dissolved – this will then take a few minutes to activate.***

Step 2: During this time begin to talk about how in John 10:10 Jesus tells us the reason for his being on earth and what the gospel proclaims. Explain that when we encounter Jesus, believe in him and bring our life to him, he brings us a life full to overflowing. This life means:

* Forgiveness of sins
* A second chance
* An opportunity to spend life with God
* Promise of eternal life with God, even after death
* An opportunity to step into the calling that he has on our life
* An opportunity to encourage others to encounter Jesus

Step 3: ***Take your second mug and pour 25 ml of hydrogen peroxide and a small squirt of washing-up liquid.***

As you do this, explain that in order to experience this abundant life with God we need to say yes to God!. We say yes to all of those things he offers us.

For all of us, as disciples, and part of The Salvation Army:

We say yes to sharing the good news of Jesus and the difference he has made in our lives. ***(Add a drop of food colouring)***

We say yes to loving others by serving our community ***(Add a drop of food colouring)***

We say yes to fighting for justice and reconciliation and standing with the marginalised. ***(Add a drop of food colouring)***

For some it might mean answering the call to abundant life by:

Saying yes to the call to be an officer, territorial envoy, or spiritual leader. ***(Add a drop of food colouring)***

Step 4: ***Mix the hydrogen peroxide, dish soap and food colouring together in the second mug.*** Explain that *The Passion Translation* version of John 10:10 tells us that life is all its fullness means – everything in abundance, more than you expect. It is a real mix of things

Step 5: Explain that when we say yes to God, Jesus says we will have life in its fullness until we overflow!. ***At this point pour the hydrogen mix into the yeast mix and watch it overflow!***

## MESSAGE:

Today is Candidates Sunday. It is a day when we pray for those who have said yes to the call to spiritual leadership as an officer or territorial envoy. We pray that they might have boldness in preaching the gospel, that they might share God’s love with all in this world, that they might have protection from the thief who comes to steal, kill and destroy, and that they might continue to say yes to abundant, overflowing life through Christ Jesus.

Today there is also a challenge for each of us. Have you said yes? Have you said yes to a relationship with Jesus? Have you said yes to the adventure of an abundant life with him? Have you said yes to the call that he has on your life? Have you said yes to the call to be a spiritual leader, officer or territorial envoy in The Salvation Army?