



CONNECT & REFLECT

YEAR 1

30 OCTOBER 2020



Eva Burrows
College

OFFICER FORMATION STREAM

INVITATION

What is a Connect and Reflect day?

The first year of commissioned officership is an important milestone within Salvation Army Officership. It's a year filled with new things and opportunities; a blank slate. It's a time to step up in how you fulfil your calling through living out your Officer Covenant.

Were it not for COVID-19, we would be gathering in person at the First Year Service Seminar at this time. While that seminar is now planned to go ahead in 2021 as a combined 1/2 year seminar, there is opportunity to briefly connect with each other now in the form of a Connect & Reflect half day.

Please find enclosed an optional retreat guide you might find helpful to use for retreat in preparation for our connection time on 30 October 2020.

Alternatively, feel free to do whatever it is that energises and refreshes you when you take deliberate time out to spend with God.

You will also find some information about what to prepare to share during the Connect and Reflect session on 30 October.

Sandy



REFLECT

Ministry in the time of COVID-19

The impact of COVID-19 differs based on things like our geographical location, immediate or extended family situation and the type of ministry in which we are engaged.

The lens of lament has been helpful for many. This short [video](#) provides an overview but NT Wright has also shared about it [here](#). Rob Bell has also had a podcast on [lament](#) in this time.

I've been working through an exodus approach to thinking about COVID-19. What of life pre-virus could be considered slavery? To what are we tempted to return when things are tough in the desert? What lessons are

we learning in the wilderness? When we reach the promised land, what mix of old and new ways will we blend together?

The song "[The Blessing](#)" by Kari Jobe & Cody Carnes was released in March and quickly became a prayer anthem for this time with many subsequent covers from around the world. I wonder if you have a favourite? I love the [Australian](#) collaboration.

Perhaps there is a different lens that has helped you to reflect or a song that has special meaning or has become your anthem for this time?



REFLECT

The gap of COVID-19 (inspired by axis.org)

Use the following pages or draw three columns on a piece of paper.

Column 1 is what you expected 2020 to be like. You might want to consider your ministry, family, travel, relationships, recreation, special occasions, schooling/education and so on.

Column 2 is what you've experienced instead, due to COVID-19.

Column 3 is where you ask what God has been doing in the gaps between columns 1 & 2.

When life doesn't meet our expectations, it is easy to lose perspective and let our emotions take over. How do we look for God in the gaps between expectations and reality? There may be lessons to learn or it may simply be an awareness of God's love and presence.



It would be difficult to ever speak of your first year of ministry without reference to COVID-19, however, an alternative approach you may wish to take to compare your expectations of this first year of commissioned officership and ministry with reality in a similar exercise.



REFLECT

The gap of COVID-19 (inspired by axis.org)

EXPECTATIONS

EXPERIENCES

GOD IN THE GAP



REFLECT

The gap of COVID-19 (inspired by axis.org)

EXPECTATIONS

EXPERIENCES

GOD IN THE GAP



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PREPARE

Even if they aren't or haven't been part of your particular day-to-day where you live, masks have become a symbol of this pandemic. On the disposable mask you've been sent, write three words (or phrases) and a bible reference as explained below.

1. What is a word that either you'd not heard before or that you are sick of hearing from COVID-19?
2. What word brings you hope?
3. What word sums up COVID-19 for you?

What bible verse or passage is most meaningful for you during this season?

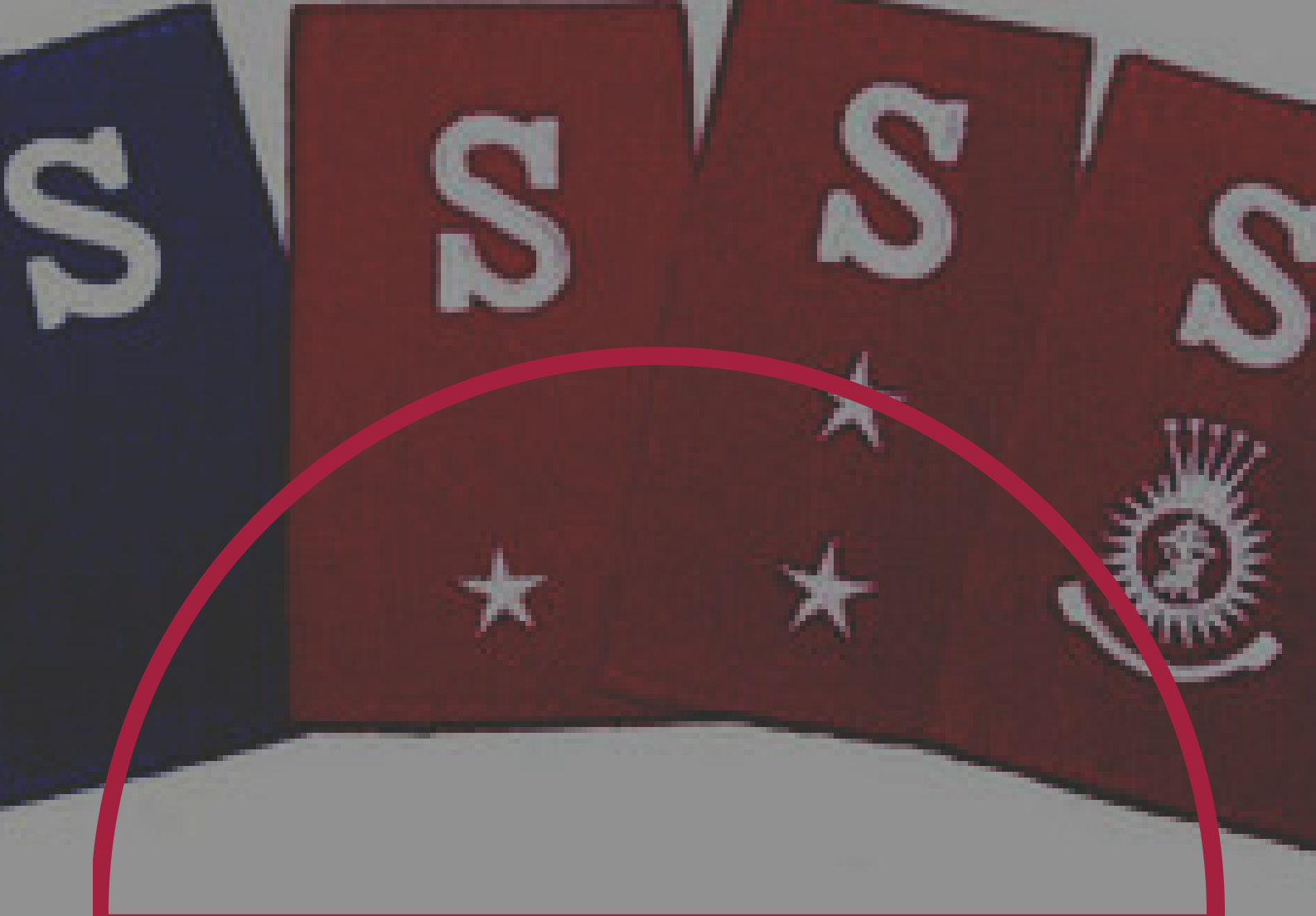
SHARE

During our time together we will take turns to share our masks with our three words & bible references on them with a short time to explain and share together.



For a bit of fun, you will also have a chance to share your favourite COVID-19 meme in the chat section of the Microsoft Teams meeting, so be prepared if you want to join in.





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