

ROYAL RANGERS

Urban Outpost Planning Guide



**National Royal Rangers Office
HonorBound: Men of Promise
The General Council of the Assemblies of God**



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Printed in the United States of America

Item Number 729-012

Revised October 16, 1997

Special Thanks To ...

Ken Brown, for the section on "Meeting Guide Outlines"

Rodney Davis, for the sections on "Achievement Badge Meeting Features" and "Confidence Course"

Clint Davis, for the design of this publication

Stacie Agee, for the technical editing

Marshall Bruner, for planning, developing, and overseeing this project

Special Note

The word *urban* is often used in reference to any setting within a city and frequently used to depict the inner city. However, we wish to point out that the urban condition cannot solely be associated with a city environment. The urban conditions of crime, chemical abuse, physical and emotional abuse, dysfunctional and single-parent home, seen today are no longer isolated to the city environment but affect many rural, suburban, and urban areas. Therefore, leaders throughout this nation, regardless of geographical location, may apply this *Urban Outpost Planning Guide* in generating new approaches to reaching boys for Christ Jesus.

Complementing Resources

Below are resources available through the National Royal Rangers Office or Gospel Publishing House that will complement this *Urban Outpost Planning Guide* and enable a leader to compile entire meeting activities for an urban outpost. These items can be purchased by calling 1-800-641-4310 and requesting the items listed. Prices subject to change.

➡ *The Youth Bible*

Item: 729-106

Cost: \$17

Provides leaders with hundreds of devotional topics related to youth issues.

➡ *Victor's Victories*

Item: 729-057

Cost: \$18

For Straight Arrows, Buckaroos Leaders: Contains 13 stories with Bible studies and discussion topics—plus reproducible illustrations—that address issues today's young boys face.

➡ *Insight Group*

Item: 729-049—Leader's Guide, Cost: \$9

Item: 729-050—Ranger's Guide, Cost: \$7

Addresses today's youth issues and provides 13 sessions, which can be used in groups Pioneers age or older, that are ideal for weekly or monthly meeting feature/Bible study applications.

➡ *Color Through the Old & New Testament*

Item: 729-114

Cost: \$10.95

This coloring book for Straight Arrows and Buckaroos teaches boys the Old and New Testament books and their themes through creative illustrations.

➡ *Old Testament Flash Cards*

Item: 729-118

New Testament Flash Cards

Cost \$6

➡ *New Testament Flash Cards*

Item: 729-119

Cost: \$6

For boys of all ages. Enables leader or boy to quiz boys on the Bible books and their themes, using flash cards—corresponds with coloring book.

➡ *Royal Rangers Achievement Badges*

Item: 150820-41

Cost: \$1.25*

Given upon completion of the requirements designated for each category

➡ *Royal Rangers Awards Vest*

Item: 080742-51

Cost: \$7.95-\$9.95*

Blue denim stone washed awards vest. 35% cotton, 65% polyester.

➡ *Urban Rangers T-Shirt*

Item: 729-058 to 729-060

Cost: \$9*

Light gray T-shirt with brightly colored red, blue, yellow, and black shield featuring a skyline, bridge, logo, and the Royal Rangers name. 50% cotton and 50% polyester.

➡ *Urban Rangers Cap*

Item: 729-067

Cost: \$8.50*

Black cap featuring urban Rangers logo patch in color. Includes adjustable band.

*To order, see the *Royal Rangers Catalog*, available through Gospel Publishing House

Urban Outpost Planning Guide

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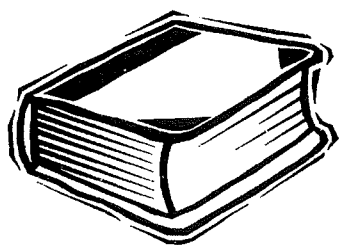
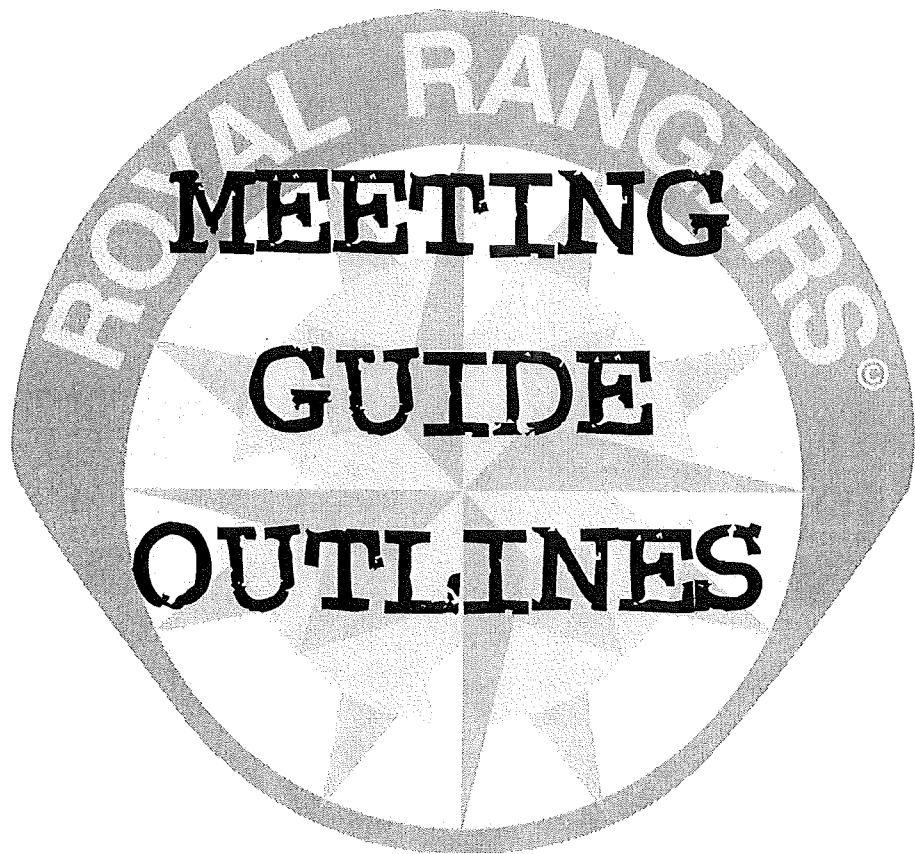
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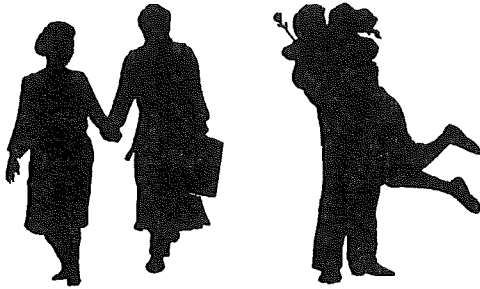
SECTION 1



MEETING GUIDE OUTLINES

January: My Home, My Family

Week 1



Theme: Who's in the House?

Using an encyclopedia or other reference book, discuss various types of homes and family cultures and family roles.

Next, involve the Rangers in a group discussion by having them identify the occupants of their home. Have each Ranger draw on a poster board a picture of his own family unit. Then discuss the biblical idea of a family—marriage, parental responsibility, obedience.

Achievement: Introduce the Cooking Achievement Badge this week and get the Rangers started on the requirements listed below.

Cooking: 1. Explain to your commander how to prepare three meals. The menus must contain a well-balanced meal, having a meat, a vegetable, a bread, and a dairy product. 2. Prepare three meals for your family, friends, or patrol members. 3. Give an oral report to your outpost group on cooking methods.

Project: Invitation Card

Items Needed: Paper products, such as stationery or construction paper; pens or crayons

Have the boys design Rangers Family Night invitations, which they can give to their parents/guardians for Rangers Family Night (see Week 4).

Memory Verse: "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).

Week 2

Theme: Relationships

Role-playing Format: Have the Rangers role play what they believe is an ideal mother or father role in the home. Provide costumes, such as ties, jackets, hats, glasses, and a shawl. The other Rangers not involved in the role play should discuss whether each role play is a true example of a mother or father.

Achievement: Continue from last week, working with the Rangers on the Cooking Advancement Badge.

Project: Coupon Week

Items Needed: Paper products, such as stationery or construction paper; pens or crayons

Instruct the Rangers to each make five coupons. Each coupon should indicate a house chore, and each coupon should indicate a different chore. Explain that the coupons are to be given to the parents/guardians. Each coupon will represent a home chore to be completed by the Ranger before the next meeting.

Memory Verse: "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you" (Mark 5:19).

Week 3

Theme: Friendship—Getting To Know You

Rangers should report on the completion of their chores they had done the week before.

Explain the importance of friendships, and share personal examples of strong Christian friendships you have had.

Next, have the Rangers discuss what it means to be and to have a friend. The Rangers should then form a "friendship circle." Each Ranger will have an opportunity to sit in the center of the circle and receive affirmation—compliments and encouragement—from his friends.



Achievement: Continue from last week, working with the Rangers on the Cooking Advancement Badge. Some Rangers may complete their requirements this week.

Memory Verse: "A friend loves at all times" (Proverbs 17:17).

Week 4

Theme: Rangers Family Night

Tonight is Rangers Family Night, and the outpost should sponsor a pizza party for the Rangers and their parents/guardians. Each Ranger will have an opportunity to introduce his family member(s) and share a positive thought about him/her. Have on display all the projects the Rangers have completed or collections in which they are involved.

Have on hand Royal Rangers promotional material, such as the Doorway to Action and Adventure brochure and evangelism material. This is your opportunity to introduce the adults to church and to Jesus Christ through the Rangers Family Night.

The event should be topped by presenting awards to the Rangers who have completed requirements for achievement badges.

Achievement: This week the Rangers should complete the requirements for the Cooking Advancement Badge. Conclude the meeting by awarding the boys with this badge.

Memory Verse: "He blesses the home of the righteous" (Proverbs 3:33).

February: Character Quality

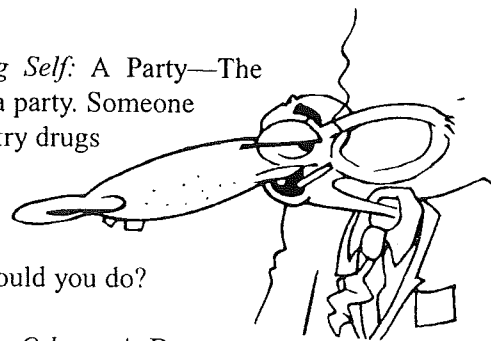
Week 1

Theme: Expect To Respect

Respect Test: What would you do?

Present, through role-playing, the three scenarios described below. Lead the group in a discussion of each scenario. Allow a time for the Rangers to decide what the best policy would be regarding respect.

1. *Respecting Self:* A Party—The Ranger is at a party. Someone dares him to try drugs or smoke tobacco or drink alcohol. What would you do?



2. *Respecting Others:* A Bus—The Ranger is seated on a crowded bus. An elderly gentleman enters, and there are no other seats available. What would you do?

3. *Respecting Authority:* A Classroom—A substitute teacher enters the room. He gives an assignment. The other students are goofing off and are not doing the work. What would you do?

Achievement: Introduce the Friendship Achievement Badge this week and get the Rangers started on the requirements listed below.

Friendship: 1. Make friends with three people you do not know. 2. Invite your new friends to church or Royal Rangers. 3. Do an oral report on the importance of friendships.

Memory Verse: "Show proper respect to everyone" (1 Peter 2:17).

Week 2

Theme: Honesty—Still the Best Policy!

Present, through role-playing, the three scenarios described below. Lead the group in a discussion of each scenario. Allow a time for the Rangers to decide what the best policy would be regarding honesty.

1. *Lying:* A Royal Ranger and his younger brother are playing ball in the house. The Ranger breaks a window. A parent enters and assumes that the unruly younger brother did it. What should the Ranger do?

2. *Stealing:* The Ranger is in a store. He finds a wallet with a picture I.D. and money in it. What should he do?



3. *Cheating*: The Ranger is taking a test. He does not know the answer to one question. Should he look on his neighbor's paper for the answer?

Achievement: Continue from last week, working with the Rangers on the Friendship Advancement Badge.

Memory Verse: "They acted with complete honesty" (2 Kings 12:15).

Week 3

Theme: Purity—Clean Up the Dirt!

Illustrate how our hearts and minds become polluted by the things we absorb.

Items Needed: A clear container, clean water, dish detergent, a sponge, and dirt

Object Lesson: Dip the sponge in the clear container filled with soapy water. Then wring the sponge to show it is clean. Explain how the sponge is parallel to our hearts and minds when we absorb pure and clean things. Next, begin adding dirt to the clean water. Explain how the dirt represents pollution—impure things—that can be absorbed into our hearts and minds.

Ask the Rangers to identify what things can pollute our hearts and minds if we allow them to, such as having impure behavior, using foul language, viewing dirty movies. Identify those things that demonstrate a life of purity and things that contribute to having a pure heart and mind, such as reading the Bible, attending church, praying, keeping good company.

Achievement: Continue from last week, working with the Rangers on the Friendship Advancement Badge.

Memory Verse: "If anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things" (Philippians 4:8).

Week 4

Theme: Pulling It All Together

Divide the Rangers into three groups. Instruct

each group to design a poster with a slogan from one of the character qualities discussed this month. For example, have Group 1 design a poster on the theme "respect," Group 2 "honesty," and Group 3 "purity." Have each group select a team leader to oversee the project. Upon completion, the team leader should display the poster to the entire group and explain the emphasis of the group poster. Display each of the posters on the walls of the outpost meeting room.

Achievement: The Rangers should complete their requirements for the Friendship Advancement Badge. Conclude the meeting by presenting the boys with their badges.

Memory Verse: "Create in me a pure heart, O God" (Psalm 51:10).

March—My Body

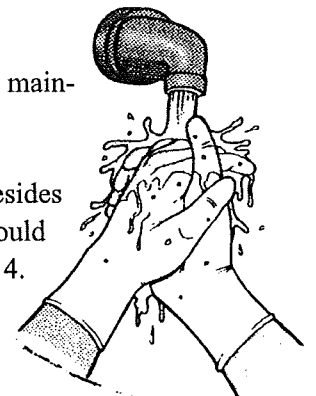
Week 1

Theme: Hygiene—Don't Be a Pignen!

Discuss the importance of proper personal hygiene—bathing, deodorant, brushing teeth, etc. Provide magazines and scissors and have the Rangers create their own collages of hygiene products.

Achievement: Introduce the Hygiene Achievement Badge this week and get the Rangers started on the requirements.

Hygiene: 1. List four ways you can maintain good hygiene. 2. Perform the tasks you have listed for 3 weeks. 3. Talk with two persons, besides other Rangers, about why we should keep our bodies and minds healthy. 4. Give an oral report on the importance of good hygiene.



Memory Verse: "You were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body" (1 Corinthians 6:20).



Week 2

Theme: Chow Time!

Help the Rangers compose their own menu for a healthy meal. Preface the project: Cite magazine articles or books that discuss good eating habits. Provide a nutritious snack at the conclusion of this activity. You may even want to provide a taste test of several healthy foods for the Rangers to sample.

Achievement: Continue from last week, working with the Rangers on the Hygiene Advancement Badge.

Memory Verse: "I give every green plant for food" (Genesis 1:30).

efits of obeying God's rules (see Week 3) and the consequences of disobeying God's rules from this week's lesson. He should prepare a covenant statement for each Ranger to sign in private as a commitment that he will pledge to "play by the rules."

Achievement: Help the Rangers complete their requirements for the Hygiene Advancement Badge, then award the boys for their work by presenting them their badges.

Memory Verse: "Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed" (Colossians 3:5).

	Breakfast	Snack	Lunch	Snack	Dinner	Snack
Day 1						
Day 2						
Day 3						
Day 4						
Day 5						
Day 6						
Day 7						

Week 3

Theme: Playing by the Book

Discuss sexuality from a biblical perspective and the benefit of "playing by God's rules," such as a happy family, God's approval.

Achievement: Continue from last week, working with the Rangers on the Hygiene Advancement Badge.

Memory Verse: "Flee from sexual immorality" (1 Corinthians 6:18).

Week 4

Theme: Cheating on the Rules

A health professional will speak to the Rangers about what happens when Rangers do not play by the rules. The commander will summarize the ben-

April—The Hood Can Be Good

Week 1

Theme: Dangers

In a group discussion, have the Rangers identify and list problems and dangers they perceive in their neighborhood, such as drug abuse, drunkenness, violence. Have them record their answers on a large sheet of paper.

Have the Rangers act out, through role-playing, improper and proper responses to these dangers. Divide the outpost group into patrols and assign to each a scenario dealing with "street dangers." The Rangers should take turns acting out their wrong and right responses before the entire outpost group.

Close this feature by praying with the Rangers for the courage to respond in a Christlike way to these dangers they may face on the streets.

Achievement: This week introduce the Public Service Achievement Badge, and begin the Rangers working on their requirements.



Public Service: 1. Talk with a policeman about what you can do to obey the law. 2. Do a community good deed, such as picking up trash in a city park. 3. Do a good deed for a neighbor. 4. Give an oral report on the importance of being a public servant.

Memory Verse: “Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God” (1 Peter 2:12).

Week 2

Theme: Silence Violence

Skit: Two people act out a fatal shooting.

Ask the Rangers, “Are guns good or evil and why?” List the responses of the boys on a chalkboard. Then explain the proper use of guns—hunting, target practice—as well as the improper use of guns. Your main emphasis should be: “In the right man’s hand, a gun is a tool. But in the hand of a fool a gun is cruel.”

Achievement: Continue working with the Rangers on their requirements for the Public Service Achievement Badge.

Optional Project: Under proper supervision and in a safe environment, you may wish to demonstrate how to practice target shooting a BB gun. This activity is recommended only for groups Pioneers or above.

Memory Verse: “You shall not murder” (Exodus 20:13).

Week 3

Theme: Street Safety

Invite two local policemen of different ethnicity

to discuss who they are, what they do, and how they are committed to making life safe and enjoyable in the community. The goal of this meeting should be to strengthen the relationship between youth and law enforcement, to encourage respect for authority, and to help dismantle racism as boys see officers of different races working together.

Project: Hood Watchers

Divide the outpost group according to neighborhoods. Explain that the Rangers can work together to help promote one another’s safety, for example, walking through a drug zone on the way home from school or to the outpost. The Rangers should be encouraged to commit to be “Hood Watchers” together.

Achievement: Continue working with the Rangers on their requirements for the Public Service Achievement Badge.

Memory Verse: “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God” (1 John 4:7).

Week 4

Theme: Plan an Activity!

To emphasize opportunities for “making the hood good,” provide an activity that will highlight teamwork through community service, using the church or outpost meeting area as the paradigm. The outpost group may perform general cleanup or other activities, which may include deeds such as weeding flower beds, watering plants, picking up trash, etc.

Achievement: The Rangers should complete their requirements for the Public Safety Achievement Badge. Conclude the meeting by awarding the boys their badges.

Memory Verse: “You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you” (John 15:3).

Ready.



May—If You Use, You Lose

Week 1

Theme: Up in Smoke

Object Lesson: Provide a clear container of water, black dye, and a dropper. Instruct the Rangers to take turns dropping the dye in the water until the water turns black. Using the blackened water as an illustration for the human lung, you can impress on the minds of the boys the potentially fatal effects of cigarette smoking.

The Smoke Screen: Hand out various cigarette advertisements clipped from magazines, and ask the Rangers to interpret the images they see, such as a beautiful woman smiling at a man with a cigarette in her hand.

Clearing the Smoke Screen: Discuss the question, “Do these ads really tell the truth about cigarette smoking?”

Achievement: Introduce the Rangers to the Craft Achievement Badge. Begin working with the Rangers on the requirements listed below.

Achievement Badge Requirements:

1. Successfully complete three craft projects at home or at the outpost. 2. Display the craft projects in your meeting room. 3. Give an oral report on how you completed the projects.

Memory Verse: “You are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it” (1 Corinthians 12:27).

Week 2

Theme: Druggin’ and Buggin’

Supply each Ranger with paper and a pencil. Instruct them to write down words that come to mind when you announce key words, such as dope, crack, marijuana. You may want to give the boys a

time limit for each word.

Write each response on the chalkboard, particularly those that will help lead you into a discussion of the devastating effects of drug use and abuse upon the individual, the family, and the community.

Achievement: Continue working with the Rangers on their Craft Achievement Badge.

Memory Verse: “God is not a God of disorder but of peace” (1 Corinthians 14:33).

Week 3

Theme: Drinkin’ and Sinkin’

Role Play: A teenager is at a party with friends. As he continues drinking, his behavior will deteriorate to the point of embarrassment.

Following the short skit, lead in a discussion on the undesirable effects of alcohol consumption on one’s behavior.

Hand out various alcohol advertisements clipped from magazines and ask the Rangers to interpret the images they see and slogans they read, such as men playing volleyball and drinking, and the headline stating, “It doesn’t get any better than this!”

Compare these mythical images of alcohol use to the realistic images of alcohol abuse the Rangers see daily in their homes and neighborhoods, such as domestic violence due to drinking, a neighbor addicted to alcohol.

Achievement: Continue working with the Rangers on their Craft Achievement Badge.

Memory Verse: “Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18).



Week 4

Theme: Straight Talk

Invite a health-care professional to discuss the dangerous effects of cigarettes and drug and alcohol abuse to the user, to his family, and to his community. Allow ample time for questions and answers.

Optional Project: Divide the group into three smaller groups, and assign one of the following topics to each group: cigarettes, drugs, and alcohol. Instruct each group to create an antiabuse poster for display in their outpost meeting area. Involve the group in a discussion on substance and chemical abuse and what the Bible says about our bodies being a temple of the Holy Spirit.

Achievement: Help the Rangers complete their requirements for the Craft Achievement Badge. At the conclusion of the meeting, award the boys for their achievement by presenting them their badges.

Memory Verse: “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, who you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body” (1 Corinthians 6:19,20).

June—Profession Impression

Week 1

Theme: Carpenter’s Apprentices

Invite a carpenter to speak briefly about his trade, including the training necessary to achieve a mastery of his profession. He should provide a display of his tools. He should also lead the Rangers in a simple project they can take home after the meeting.

Achievement: Introduce the Rangers to the Home Improvement Achievement Badge and start them working on the requirements to earn this badge.



1. List three chores you will do around the house. 2. Do the chores 4 days a week for 3 weeks. 3. Give an oral report to the outpost group on the chores you have done and what it meant to you to complete this task.

Memory Verse: “We are each God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building” (1 Corinthians 3:9).

Week 2

Theme: Physician’s Assistants

Invite a physician or nurse to speak briefly about his occupation, including the education and training necessary to achieve a mastery of his profession. He should provide a display of some of the medical instruments he uses on a daily basis. He may demonstrate how to examine one’s blood pressure and reflexes, using one or two of the Rangers in your group.

Achievement: Resume working with the Rangers on their requirements for the Home Improvement Badge.

Memory Verse: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men” (Colossians 3:23).

Week 3

Theme: Chef’s Helpers

Invite a chef or cook to speak briefly about his trade, including the training necessary to achieve a mastery of his profession. He should provide a display of the items used in his profession and demonstrate a simple cooking project.

Achievement: Continue working with the Rangers on their requirements for the Home Improvement Badge.

Memory Verse: “It is good and proper for a man to eat and drink, and to find satisfaction in his toil—some labor” (Ecclesiastes 5:18).



Week 4

Theme: Professions on Parade

Instruct the Rangers the week before to each come prepared to present his choice of a profession. (Optional: Each boy may desire to dress or display tools in accordance with that profession.) The Rangers should discuss why they have chosen their profession, what they can do to glorify God through that profession, and their means of achieving that goal.

Achievement: Help the Rangers complete their requirements for the Home Improvement Badge. Present the Rangers their badges at the conclusion of the meeting.

Memory Verse: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat" (2 Thessalonians 3:10).

July—Under the Stars

Week 1

Theme: Tentmakers

Demonstrate how to set up and break down a pup tent. Then divide the outpost group into three groups and allow each group to set up and break down the tent.

Using the *Adventures in Camping* handbook and the *Royal Rangers Outpost Activities Book*, introduce the boys to the basics of camping according to their grade/age group.

Achievement: Introduce the Outing Achievement Badge and start the Rangers on their requirements for this badge.

Outing: 1. Go on two overnight camp-outs or outings with your Royal Rangers group. 2. Give an oral report on your trips, and display something you collected from each camp-out or outing.

Memory Verse: "When I consider your heavens, the

work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him?" (Psalm 8:3,4).



Week 2

Theme: Cookin' Up a Storm

Demonstrate how to use a camp stove. Give special instructions on how to safely use such a hot appliance. Cook a simple dish and serve it to the Rangers as a snack.

Continue your introduction to camping. Display and discuss items used on a camp-out.

Achievement: Allow time for Rangers to work on the Outing Achievement Badge.

Memory Verse: "We know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven" (2 Corinthians 5:1).

Week 3

Theme: Getting Fired Up

Using the *Adventures in Camping*, demonstrate how to safely build a campfire. You should become familiar with the correct fire-building and safety techniques in this handbook before conducting this class. If you lead a group that is Pioneers age or older, allow the Rangers to practice starting a fire. Apply this task to the Advancement Trail requirements listed in the *Pioneers*, *Trailblazers*, or *Challengers: Trail Rangers* handbooks.

Achievement: Continue working with the Rangers on their Outing Achievement Badge.

Memory Verse: "Be merciful to those who doubt; snatch others from the fire and save them" (Jude 22,23).

Week 4

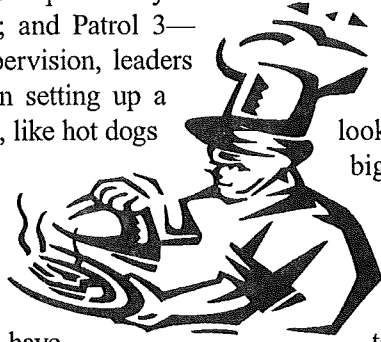
Theme: Night Out

Day Camp or Camp-out: Give the Rangers an



opportunity to experience the outdoors and to practice their camp skills. If the boys are Straight Arrows or Buckaroos, take the boys on a day camp, as is explained in the *Straight Arrows Leaders Manual* and the *Buckaroos Leaders Handbook*.

For Groups Pioneers or Above: Once arriving at the outing site, divide the outpost group into three patrols. Assign each patrol a responsibility: Patrol 1—tent; Patrol 2—cooking; and Patrol 3—campfire. Under proper supervision, leaders should assist the Rangers in setting up a tent; cooking a simple menu, like hot dogs on a camp stove; or building an open fire—first learn of the state regulations concerning open fires. Be certain to observe all safety precautions. Once the boys have finished their task, rotate the assignments.



The day outing or overnight camp-out will provide an ideal time for you, the commander, to teach the Rangers about nature, the stars, and God's awesome creative power. Several devotionals are available in publications such as the *Royal Rangers Devotional for Boys* handbook and the *High Adventure Leader* magazine.

Achievement: During the outing described above, the boys will have the perfect opportunity to complete the requirements needed to earn the Outing Achievement Badge. After returning to the outpost, award the boys their badges.

Memory Verse: "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands" (Psalm 19:1).

August—Sports

Week 1

Theme: Teamwork—All for One and One for All!

Opening Skit: "Two Heads Are Better Than One"

Arrange to have two teenagers act out the following skit to illustrate the benefits of working as one to accomplish a task:

Antonio and Andrew enter the room unannounced.

Commander: "Antonio, would you please move this table to the corner for crafts?"

Antonio: "Sure, Commander." Antonio tries hard but cannot budge the heavy table. He looks up at Andrew and says, "Andrew, you're bigger than me. You move it!"

Andrew: "No problem!" After much struggle, Andrew is only able to move the table 1 foot. Both boys individually make another attempt to move the table but are unsuccessful.

Commander: The commander will "freeze" the scene at this point and ask the Rangers what Antonio and Andrew can do to achieve success. The boys will likely suggest that the two teenagers work together. The commander will "unfreeze" the scene. Antonio and Andrew then jointly and effortlessly move the table across the room.

The commander will then discuss the importance of teamwork in accomplishing a task. He may desire to use a biblical example such as the Children of Israel walking in unison around the walls of Jericho.

Lesson Reinforcement: "Scripture Scramble"

Write a verse on the chalkboard, then hand out pieces of paper, each having one word of the memory verse written on it. Now instruct the Rangers to line up in proper order to unscramble the memory verse as it reads on the chalkboard. The Rangers' challenge will be to work together in reassembling the verse as quickly as possible.

Achievement: Introduce the Rangers to either the Team Spirit Achievement Badge or the Sports Achievement Badge and get them started on their requirements for that badge.

If you select the Sports Achievement Badge, help the Rangers select a sport they want to apply to the requirements of this achievement. If they select basketball, for example, teach the Rangers not only



the rules of the game and how to play, but teach them sportsmanship and teamwork as well. Then apply the principle of teamwork to that of the church and how we, the body of Christ, must work together as a team. You can even revolve devotionals around this application. (See the devotional below.)

Team Spirit: 1. List four ways to improve team spirit in your patrol or outpost group. 2. Demonstrate these four methods in your patrol or outpost group for 4 weeks. 3. Give an oral report on the need for team spirit in your group.

Sports: 1. Choose a specific sport in which the outpost group participates. 2. Explain the rules regulating that sport. 3. Draw a diagram of the court or field, and explain each purpose of the playing ground. 4. Participate in that sport during four Rangers meetings. 5. Give an oral report on the importance of physical fitness, team effort, and sportsmanship in relation to that sport.

Devotional: If you are teaching about basketball, use a basketball as an object lesson: "Boys, this basketball is round, just like the world. You know that the world is full of people of all races and colors. And Jesus Christ came to the world to give His life so that everyone around the world can come to know Jesus as Lord. Do you realize that Jesus has commanded each of us to be His representative (or His spokesman). In the Book of Mark, which is in the Holy Bible, Jesus commanded us to 'Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation' (Mark 16:15). That means you and I are to tell our friends and neighbors about the love of Jesus Christ. If we don't, then people everywhere will never learn that Jesus cares so much for them."

Memory Verse: "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" (Mark 16:15).

Week 2

Theme: Competition—Be a Good Sport

Describe a professional tennis match in which the winner jumps the net to shake the hand of his opponent, but as he extends his hand, the loser

throws his racquet on the ground in disgust. Then ask the Rangers whether this is good sportsmanship.

Next, describe an NBA playoff scene in which players of both teams take time to shake each others' hands after a night of intense competition—even though one team won and the other lost. Ask the Rangers to compare this attitude with that of the angry tennis player.

Discuss good team and individual sportsmanship. Illustrate how the body of Christ must also practice teamwork.

Lesson Reinforcement: Tug-of-War

Stage a tug-of-war competition. Divide the group into teams, depending on how many boys are present. Encourage the boys to exercise excellent sportsmanship whether they win or lose.

Achievement: Continue working with the Rangers on the requirements for the Team Spirit Achievement Badge.

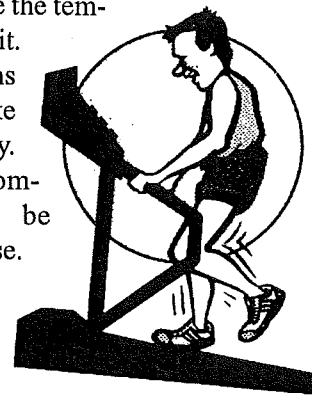
Memory Verse: "If anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive a victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules" (2 Timothy 2:5).

Week 3

Theme: Fitness—Shape Up!

Share again from 1 Corinthians 6:19 that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. Explain that this means each Ranger should take good care of his body. One means of accomplishing this would be through regular exercise.

Let the boys learn by doing. Divide the group into two or more patrols. Instruct the patrol guide over each group to lead the Rangers in physical activities such as calisthenics and a march.



Achievement: Continue working with the Rangers



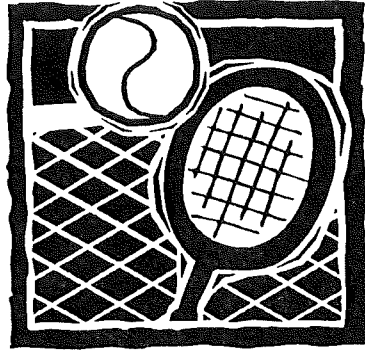
on the requirements for the Team Spirit Achievement Badge.

Memory Verse: “Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us” (Hebrews 12:1).

Week 4

Theme: Play Ball!

Provide the boys the opportunity to practice their skills of teamwork, fair competition, sportsmanship, and good exercise. Lead the boys in one or two exhilarating games of flag football or basketball.



Achievement: Help the Rangers finish their requirements for the Team Spirit Achievement Badge. Award them their badges at the conclusion of the meeting.

Memory Verse: “Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever” (1 Corinthians 9:25).

September—Get Smart!

Week 1

Theme: Making the Grade

Role-playing: Leaders will portray fictitious schoolroom characters, such as Dougie Dropout and Anton Achiever. These characters will attempt to persuade the Rangers either to remain in school or to drop out. Follow up the skit with a discussion on the pros and cons of staying in school.

Achievement: Introduce the Rangers to the School

Achievement Badge, and help them start on the requirements for this badge.

School: 1. Select a school subject you need to improve on. 2. Meet with your commander to discuss good study habits. 3. Study that subject with a commander or an outpost helper (such as an adult or an older Ranger) at least once each week for 4 weeks. 4. Give an oral report on the importance of learning, and cite one Scripture verse that discusses the word *study*.

Memory Verse: “The Holy Scriptures are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 3:15).

Week 2

Theme: It’s Cool To Stay in School

Divide the Rangers into patrols and assign them a leader. Have each patrol develop a 30-second television advertisement on, “Why it’s cool to stay in school.”

Achievement: Continue working with the Rangers on their School Achievement Badge.

Memory Verse: “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16).

Week 3

Theme: Aiming for a Higher Goal

Instruct the Rangers to identify and write down their poor study habits or things they do that may hinder excellence in their education. The Rangers should line up and take turns “trashing their bad study habits”—shooting their crumpled paper into a trash can, symbolizing ridding themselves of these habits.

Tell the Rangers to write down “higher goals” for their education and commit to those goals for the following week. Examples of goals: “I will do my homework for the entire week,” or “I will be on time for class.”

If possible invite an educator from your church or a nearby church to speak on good study habits.



Tips on Taking a Test

1. Look over the whole test as soon as you get it. Some questions may be worth more points than others and require extra time. Answer those you know first, particularly the shorter ones.

2. Taking tests is a skill that everyone can learn and succeed at if you know the rules. Listen to the directions and read each question carefully. Never and always are sure signs that the question is probably not true.

3. If your hands are shaking or you can't remember anything, take a few deep breaths and relax.

4. If you're guessing at the answers, your first guess is usually an educated one because you remember something about the topic from class or during review.

5. When answering a multiple-choice question, eliminate the obvious wrong answers and then guess at the last two. Your chances are better this way.

6. Take notes in class and pay special attention to those topics the teacher says will probably be on the test. Taking tests is a skill that everyone can learn and succeed at if they know the rules.

7. Practice often makes perfect. And when it's all said and done, won't you feel good about that A on your paper?

Achievement: Continue working with the Rangers on their School Achievement Badge.

Memory Verse: "Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse" (Proverbs 2:12).

Week 4

Theme: Hitting the Mark

Have each boy report on the achievement of their goals they set last week. Give the boys some sort of a reward for the accomplishments of that week. A certificate is an excellent and inexpensive way to reward a boy. Photocopy and use the certificate following at the end of this book.

If you did not have time to review the "Tips on

Taking a Test," which appeared in last week's meeting outline, review it with your Rangers.

If possible, invite a Christian coach from a local sports team to talk on the importance of maintaining good grades in school while playing sports. He may also want to add topics about teamwork, health tips, and saying no to drugs.

Achievement: Allow time for the Rangers to complete their requirements for the School Achievement Badge. Present the boys their badges at the conclusion of the meeting.

Memory Verse: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding" (Proverbs 9:10).

October—The Great Outdoors

Week 1

Theme: Nature Walk

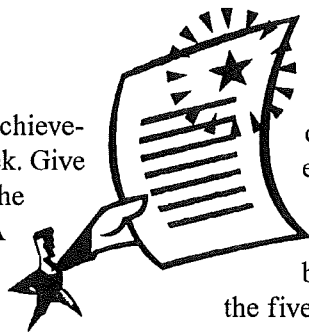
Take the Rangers on a nature walk. For the urban commander, this may be a nearby zoo, a park, a patch of woods, or privately owned property (with the owner's permission). Have the Rangers take with them a pencil and notepad to record the sights and sounds they see and hear. Point out samples of animals and plant life that can be observed and appreciated right in the city.

For further helps, see the "Hiking for Habits" section at the end of this month's meeting features.

Achievement: Introduce the Rangers to the Conservation Achievement Badge. Help them begin working on their requirements for this badge.

Conservation: 1. List five ways you can conserve energy and/or natural resources, e.g., turning off a light when not in use, using water sparingly, picking up cans and recycling them, making a fire circle before building a fire. 2. For 3 weeks demonstrate the five steps you have listed.

Memory Verse: "The land produced vegetation:



plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good” (Genesis 1:12).

Week 2

Theme: Rappin’ by the Fire

Build a campfire in a suitable location, making sure you have plenty of water handy for safety. If you are unable to build an open fire, use a charcoal grill or a camp stove. Provide hot dogs and marshmallows for the boys to cook while properly supervised. The Rangers will enjoy a time of fellowship, storytelling, and laughter as they sit together around the fire.

Achievement: Continue working with the Rangers on their Conservation Achievement Badge.

Memory Verse: “Let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our ‘God is a consuming fire’” (Hebrews 12:28,29).

Week 3

Theme: Buried Treasure

Set up a compass course in an open area. Supply several compasses and recruit several adults to work one-on-one with the Rangers as they learn the art of the compass. After proper instruction on how to use a compass is taught, give each boy a compass and a sheet of coordinates with required paces. The challenge will be for the Rangers to find “buried treasures.” Bury four or five “treasures” beforehand, such as candy bars sealed in a container, in selected locations.

The Rangers should acquire a working knowledge of the compass—as described in the *Adventures in Camping* handbook—and be able to arrive at the designated location in order to find the treasure.

Once found, the treasures will supply ample reward for a job well done!

Achievement: Continue working with the Rangers on their Conservation Achievement Badge.

Memory Verse: “He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the Lord is the key to this treasure” (Isaiah 33:6).

Week 4

Theme: Straight Shooters

Share the story of David and Goliath, found in 1 Samuel 17, focusing on David’s faith in God and his skill with his sling. If possible, demonstrate how to safely handle and fire a slingshot. Arrange to have several slingshots on hand. This activity requires one-on-one adult supervision.

Achievement: Continue working with the Rangers on their Conservation Achievement Badge.

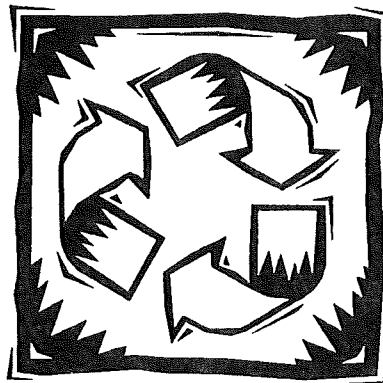
Memory Verse: ““You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty” (1 Samuel 17:45).

Objective: To introduce Royal Rangers to the diverse populations of urban wildlife and habitats

Materials Needed: Paper and pencils for each Ranger

Activity—Hiking for Habitats: This activity, to be read by the leader, can be done inside or outside. Boys should sit in a circle, listen to the story, and record their choice of answers on paper. Correct answers are underlined. In each of the following

hike scenarios, the location is described in an area where the animal can find one or more of the four components of habitat—food, water, shelter, space. To complement this activity, plan a real habitat hike in a park or a nature area.



Learning About Nature Activity Sheet

Hiking for Habitats

If we wanted to make new friends, we would go where we could find people. One of those places would certainly be to their home or habitat area. But if we are looking for animals, we need to look in all kinds of different places—some common, some not so common. Careful exploration (search) is required.

Let's go on a habitat hike. We will take an imaginary walk through a city, sometimes called an urban area. We will be on the lookout for urban wildlife as we walk.

As we leave the outpost, the traffic light has just turned green, so let's cross the street and walk toward the park. What a great day for a hike; there is a warm sun and a perfect temperature. We must look high, low, over, and under for habitat areas. There is so much to see in the city.

1. The wind has blown a small pile of leaves up against the gutter. Normally we would not give them a second thought. But considering our mission today, we must ask ourselves, "Could these leaves be a habitat?" Yes, indeed. There are several animals that might be sheltered by these leaves. As we focus on the small pile of leaves, still wet from yesterday's rain, we walk past the leaves and mess up the pile with our feet. At first what we see looks like several thick sticks lying on the ground. There appears to be no movement. A closer look reveals a slimy, slippery mucus left on the ground. This mucus is left behind by a special type of soft-bodied creature called a mollusk, which moves ever so slowly.

Are we looking at 1) spiders, 2) earthworms, 3) slugs, or 4) grasshoppers? Write your choice of animal and habitat component (food, shelter, water) now.

2. As we continue our walk through the park, we play the game of walking without stepping on the cracks in the sidewalk. But as we stop to look very closely into the crack in the sidewalk, we may find another habitat. There they are, so many of

them. They move so fast and work so hard. Look, they're covering that piece of candy. They can lift 10 to 50 times their body weight, yet they're so small.

Are these small creature 1) shrews, 2) earthworms, 3) minnows, or 4) ants? Write your answer and the habitat component (food).

3. There are so many beautiful trees in the park. Let's see how many we can name. That big one over there is an oak tree. You can tell by the shape of the leaves. I think that pretty one with all the colored leaves is a maple. Look up there. Up on a limb is a nest with several twigs in it. There is a soft cooing sound coming from the nest, although we cannot see anything. From the sound of things, we think we have found the nest of a 1) blue jay, 2) eagle, 3) bat, or 4) morning dove. Write your answer and the habitat component (shelter).

4. "Boy, some park employee isn't doing his job," Jessie said.

"What's your problem?" piped up Thai.

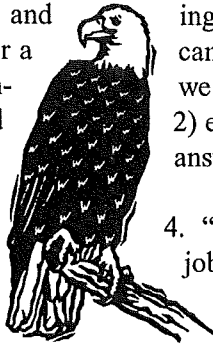
"That tree over there needs to be cut down. It's dead!" said Jessie.

"Whoa, it is dead," agreed Thai. "But it appears to be sturdy, and dead trees do serve a valuable purpose as wildlife shelter. Look up there."

From where they are standing it is hard to determine if the hole in the tree, called a tree cavity, is occupied by wildlife. What the Rangers cannot see in the hole is a permanent wildlife resident. The creature can be reddish or grayish in color and can eat a variety of insects, small birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Its common call is a wavering series of notes that can be heard day or night, but primarily at night. Very little true migration occurs with this animal. This is a 1) Canada goose, 2) eagle, 3) owl, or 4) pterodactyl. Write down your answer and the habitat component (shelter).

5. Maybe, since we are in the park, now would be a good time for lunch. Each person finds a place to sit and takes out his lunch bag. Mmmm, nothing like the combination of food and the great outdoors!

Breaking the silence of lunch, Lamar says, "I



think the entertainment has arrived.” As others look up, he points around to a number of small mammals scampering up and down trees and munching on acorns and hickory nuts they are storing in caches (storage places) for winter.

Their long, bushy tails and mixed gray and yellowish-brown bodies are just flashes of color racing across the ground. From the description, these chattering mammals are 1) rats, 2) foxes, 3) ferrets, or 4) squirrels. Write down your answer and the habitat components (food, shelter).

6. The water in the park pond looks crystal clear as it glistens in the sunlight.

“Wow! Wish I had my fishing pole,” says Bernie.

“Yeah,” echoes Ross. “I bet there are some big ones in there!”

As they watch for fish, the boys hear a low, bellowing sound. “What’s that noise?” asks Rob, who is standing at the back.

“Must be a weird bird,” says Enrico, looking up in the trees.

“I don’t think so,” says Ross. “Stand real still and look on that lily pad over there.”

As everyone crowds around to see, once again they hear the low, bellowing sound. This tailless, green amphibian sticks out its tongue to catch a passing dragonfly. Are the boys looking at a 1) salamander, 2) bullfrog, 3) alligator, or 4) spiny lizard? Write down your answer and the habitat component (food, water, space, shelter).

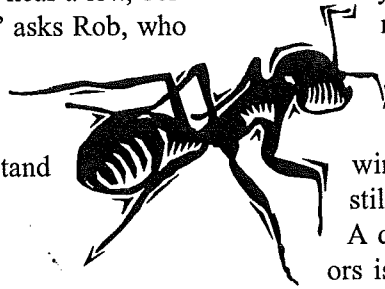
7. On a nearby tree, Lonnie notices what at first looks like a large clump of dirt or maybe extra thick bark on the side of the tree. By using his binoculars, he quickly realizes that the clump on the side of the tree is neither dirt nor tree bark. He can see a dark animal with a small head outstretched, very thin wings, and large ears. It appears to be attached to the tree. He describes what he sees to other Rangers standing by, then shares the binoculars.

“I bet this little guy feeds on the pond insects,” observes Murphy.

Are the Rangers viewing a 1) large moth, 2) blackbird, 3) bat, or 4) chimney swift? Write down your answer and the habitat component (food, shelter).

8. As we exit the quietness of the park, we are

very quickly reintroduced to the hustle and bustle of the urban environment, the masses of people, concrete and glass structures, transportation, and noise. The search for outdoor animal habitats continues. As we walk down the city sidewalk, past the rows of limestone buildings, it is interesting to stop at some of the older limestone buildings and examine them for fossils. We can see evidence of human presence—trash. But ugly as it is, let’s look closer. Trash does provide certain animal habitats. We notice a pile of old wood stacked next to a dumpster. We see small, oval, flat-bodied, shiny, black bugs crawling over and under the wood. These bugs have feasted on various food items thrown into the dumpster. Thought of as one of the dirtiest household pests, these bugs are called 1) maggots, 2) cockroaches, 3) centipedes, or 4) termites. Write down your answer and the habitat component (food, shelter).



9. Passing by an apartment building, we notice flowers in a window box close to the street. They still thrive in the warm autumn sunshine. A quick flutter of orange and black colors is seen as the winged creature gracefully lands and sips from a petunia. This featherweight artist of the air is naturally protected from predators by the fact that it can smell and taste bad to a predator. The correct answer for the name of this thing of beauty is 1) house sparrow, 2) pigeon, 3) butterfly, or 4) bagworm moth. Write down your answer and the habitat component (food, space).

10. Also in the corner of this flower box is a self-produced, threadlike woven structure capable of catching or entangling an intruder. The sticky, lightweight substance was woven by an eight-legged arachnid. This common creepy crawler is better known as an 1) ant, 2) spider, 3) centipede, or 4) sow bug. Write down your answer and the habitat component (water, food, shelter, space).

As we approach the outpost, our habitat hike has come to an end. The hike helped us see that even though our urban neighborhoods are full of buildings, thousands of people, and sidewalks, they can also be natural habitats. In the city, nature is just



around the noisy street corner, in the pond, in the park, or just beyond the crack in the sidewalk.

Discuss human impacts on water, soil, plants, and animals in an urban environment. Discuss the following with the Rangers: Are human actions harmful or beneficial (litter, damaged plants, polluted or clear water, dirt or paved paths)? Are these effects long- or short-term? Name three human actions that could have a positive effect on the "ecosystem."

Soil Awareness

Soil is the top layer of the earth's surface in which plants can grow. Soil contains rocks, water, living things, and decaying plants and animals.

Objective: Help the Rangers recognize that living things and people rely on soil in many ways. Wise use of soil on croplands, grasslands, and woodlands is the key to keeping land productive and people healthy.

Materials Needed: Dictionary, encyclopedia, paper, pencil, magnifying glass

Activity: Ask the Rangers to list items we depend on or use on a daily basis, such as cotton shirts, newspaper/magazines, medicine, colas, pizza, socks, sidewalks, glass jars, chewing gum, etc. Research the origin of each item back to the soil. For instance, a chocolate candy bar: store or vending machine, candy factory, cacao tree, cacao bean, seed, soil.

Display the message "SOIL—AT THE ROOT OF IT ALL" on a bulletin board by placing a picture of a section of ground or broken-up soil in the middle of the board. Teachers or students can locate such pictures in home/garden magazines. Allow the Rangers to cut out pictures of items whose origin goes back to the soil. Hang the pictures on the board around the picture of the soil. Connect the pictures to the soil with string.

A Bright Idea

Soil Critter Extractor: Make a "soil critter extractor" by cutting off the bottom of a 2-liter soda bottle, creating a makeshift funnel. Have students bring fresh green plants and dead plant parts—including decaying wood mixed with soil—from

home. Try to collect various soil types. Place all material in the funnel. Stand the funnel in a jar containing a small amount of rubbing alcohol. Place a gooseneck lamp over the top of the funnel, shining down on the soil (at least 6 inches away). Heat from the lamp will slowly dry the contents of the funnel, from the top down, causing the organisms to move down to the moisture, away from the heat. Eventually they reach the bottom of the funnel and drop into the jar of rubbing alcohol, which will preserve them for observation, counting, and sorting. This activity may require more than 1 day to complete.

Our World and Water*

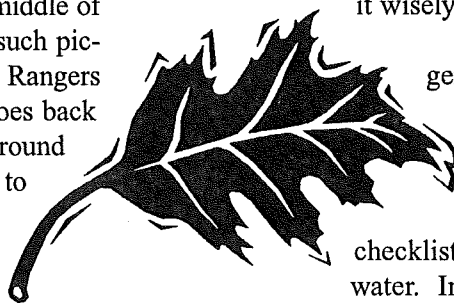
Share the following with the Rangers. The liquid that is found over the earth in the form of glaciers, oceans, lakes, rivers, groundwater, ponds, and in the air is commonly known as water. Water has no color, smell, or taste in its pure form. It is essential to all life on earth.

Between two-thirds and three-fourths of the earth's surface is water. Water that has seeped below the ground, called groundwater, is more difficult to see, obviously, than the water pooled up in rivers, ponds, lakes, and oceans. All these forms of water are connected in what is called the water cycle.

Many people assume there will always be enough water on earth. Simple mathematics shows, however, that the supply of water is becoming limited. Whatever amount available to living things and people depends largely on how people care for it. We all have a responsibility to conserve water, use it wisely, and protect its quality.

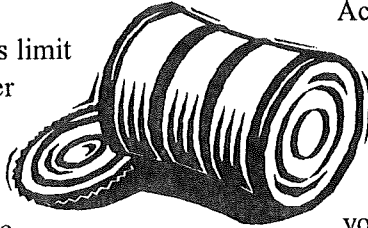
Now involve the Rangers in a discussion on how to use water wisely. List the answers given on the chalkboard. Provide a checklist of ways to conserve water. Instruct the Rangers to take the checklist home and to concentrate on ways to conserve water during the week.

**This information is compliments of the Illinois Department of Conservation's urban activity book Beyond the Crack in the Sidewalk.*



Checklist for Using Water Wisely

- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth.
- Take showers instead of baths, doing so cuts down on the amount of water used.
- During summer months limit the amount of water activities at home.
- Do not dump oil-based products or chemicals on the ground or down the sink. This waste can filter into the underground water caverns or into the city's water system.
- Do not pollute ponds, rivers, lakes, and oceans.
- Never waste water. Use it wisely.



two chores that he could accomplish in the various rooms. Then inspire each Ranger to perform his selected tasks by the next meeting.

Achievement: Introduce the Rangers to the Church Achievement Badge, and start them working on the requirements for this badge.

Church: 1. Choose four ways you can help around the church, such as cleaning, visiting, ushering, greeting, helping in children's or youth choir, being a commander's helper. 2. For 4 weeks do each of those tasks, one per week. 3. Give an oral report on the importance of being a church worker. Explain the tasks you performed at church and what the experience did for you and others.

Project: Bounty Boxes

Items Needed: Several boxes, construction paper (of assorted colors), glue, crayons, glitter

In advance, collect several boxes from grocery stores. Turn the boxes into colorful Thanksgiving containers by decorating to that theme.

Memory Verse: "A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor" (Proverbs 22:9).

Week 2

Theme: Pillars in the Church

Invite a church leader—preferably the pastor, associate pastor, or youth pastor—to briefly speak about the many needs of the church—such as keeping the grounds clean, cleaning the sanctuary. After the address, the group commander will lead a discussion on how the Rangers can help to meet some of those needs. Supply each Ranger with a blank coupon on which the boys can list a task they would like to perform for the church the following week.

Reinforcement Activity: The outpost group will prepare the Bounty Boxes—noted at the beginning of this month's meeting feature—for distribution by dividing up and boxing the food items that have been collected during November. The food items can be placed in the colorful boxes designed the week before.

November—Helping Hands

Recommended Feature for Thanksgiving: Bounty Boxes

Encourage the church members and Rangers to collect canned goods and other nonperishable food items. These items can be boxed and decorated with Thanksgiving colors and patterns. The outpost can then distribute the food items to needy families. The recommended week for the "Bounty Boxes" meeting feature would be the second meeting before Thanksgiving. The distribution of the food—to be arranged by the outpost—should take place no later than 4 days before Thanksgiving so families receiving the gifts will have ample time to prepare their meals for Thanksgiving Day.

Week 1

Theme: Little Man 'bout the House

Discuss the importance of being a good helper at home. The discussion should include topics such as taking pride in orderliness and cleanliness in the Rangers' homes.

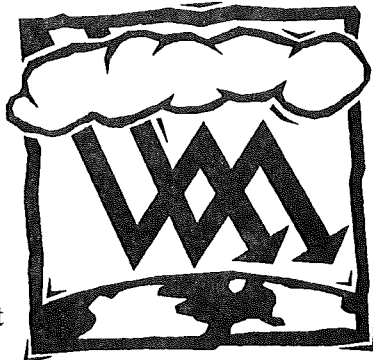
Using construction paper, create then display a paper-cut house with its various rooms labeled. Or you may display a miniature playhouse. Give each Ranger an opportunity to write on the house one or



Note: The commander will need to make arrangements for distribution of the boxes in advance. Obtain signed permission forms from each of the boys' parents or guardians to notify the parents/guardians that the boys will be escorted from the church property.

Achievement: Continue working with Rangers on their Church Achievement Badge requirements. The activities involved in this month's meeting feature can apply to the above requirements.

Memory Verse:
"Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them" (2 Corinthians 9:13).



Week 3

Theme: Pillars in Action

Make arrangements to have additional adults help supervise the Rangers this week. The leaders will escort the Rangers throughout the neighborhood or to nearby areas to distribute the Bounty Boxes.

Divide the outpost group into patrols according to the areas of distribution you have mapped out. After the boxes are delivered, have the groups rendezvous in the meeting area for fellowship. You may wish to make arrangements for snacks and drinks.

Alternative Activity: In advance, obtain a list of church improvement duties from the church janitor or the person who oversees this responsibility. Also, make arrangements to have additional adults help supervise the Rangers this week. Divide the outpost group into patrols according to the church's chore list you have developed. A leader or junior leader should escort and supervise each patrol as they perform their good deed for the church.

Memory Verse: "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24).

Week 4

Theme: Community Commitment

If possible make arrangements for a local recreational or park department supervisor to speak about the needs of the community. The speaker will lead the outpost group in a discussion of how the Rangers can meet some of these needs, such as picking up litter. Based on the information given by the community leader, you can engage the outpost group in a community project during the following weeks.

Achievement: Help the Rangers complete their requirements for the Church Achievement Badge requirements. Continue working with the Rangers in completing tasks on the church's chore list. Allow ample time for the Rangers to give their oral reports. Conclude the meeting by awarding the boys the badges they have earned.

Memory Verse: "As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead" (James 2:26).

"A man never stands so tall as when he stoops to help a boy."



'Tis the Season To Be Jolly, for ...

“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

December—The Best Christmas Ever

Over the next 4 weeks, the Rangers will be preparing an original play entitled “The Best Christmas Ever.” An outline of the script appears below.

Week 1

Theme: 'Tis the Season

Achievement: Introduce the Rangers to the Witnessing Achievement Badge, and start them working on the requirements for this badge.

Achievement Badge Requirements: 1. Invite four boys to Royal Rangers. 2. Explain the salvation message to your commander. 3. Witness to two people. 4. Hand out gospel tracts to five people.

Read the account of Jesus’ birth from Luke 2:8-20. Lead in a discussion on the meaning of Christmas.

Give each Ranger a pencil and paper. Instruct the boys to write two or more sentences describing what they consider their best Christmas ever. According to the age group, you may allow the boys to describe their account.

Christmas Skit: Create a simple Christmas skit entitled “The Best Christmas Ever” and begin rehearsal. (A skit outline appears below and can be adapted to fit your needs.) Notify the pastor well in advance to make arrangements for the boys to perform their skit in front of the entire church audience, if possible.

Note: Throughout December’s meetings, set the mood by playing Christmas carols during the meeting features and providing juice and Christmas cookies or other snacks.

Urban Teen Needs

A Group Publishing survey asked urban youth workers to rank various issues they say urban teenagers face. Here are the top 12:

1. Understanding and growing in their Christian faith
2. Dealing with negative peer pressure
3. Alcohol and drug abuse
4. Poor self-worth
5. Apathy
6. Knowing how to make and keep good friends
7. Lack of community because kids attend different schools
8. Lack of caring adults or mentors
9. Loss of interest in any Christian church
10. Abusive or dysfunctional families
11. Sense of hopelessness about the future
12. Relating to people of other ethnic backgrounds



Skit Scenario: The outpost is on an overnight winter camp-out. The scene takes place at night. The Rangers are seated in Pow Wow fashion around the campfire, each with a gift to give another Ranger. The scene opens with a lively, festive gift exchange among the outpost, punctuated with expressions of gratitude.

"Thanks for the present, Michael! I've got one for you too!"

"I can hardly wait till Christmas next week to open it, Samuel! Here's your gift. I hope you like it!"

As the exchange continues, a Ranger remarks, "Wow, this is going to be the best Christmas ever!"

The commander responds with excitement, "Hey, boys, Michael just gave me a great idea. Come over here and sit down around the fire." (The boys will sit in their assigned places.) "Boys, why don't each of you share about the greatest Christmas you ever had? Steve, let's start with you."

Steve recites his lines with enthusiasm. Others follow with their own lines, the order to be determined in advance. Between each recitation there should be expressions of excitement from the boys, such as, "Yeah!" or "That sounds like a great Christmas!" or "Awesome!"

After the boys have finished their lines, the commander says—speaking with enthusiasm—"Boys, those were all really great Christmas memories. But how would you Rangers like to hear about the most incredible, awesome Christmas there ever was?"

The boys respond: "All right! Was it in Eastgate or Lincoln Heights?" Fill in housing projects or neighborhoods familiar to the boys.

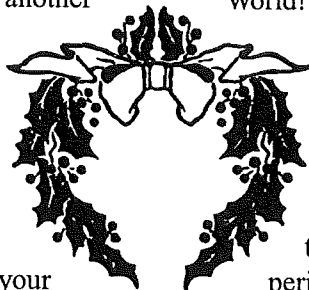
"Neither," the commander responds. "The greatest, most awesome Christmas happened in a little town called Bethlehem, up in the countryside of Israel." The commander will proceed to tell the story of Jesus' birth. The Rangers will punctuate the story with statements such as, "Wow!" or "I never heard that story before!" or "Cool!"

Upon completion of the narrative, one of the Rangers responds: "Commander, that was the best Christmas ever! Without Jesus we'd have no reason to celebrate Christmas."

"That's right, Jose." Allow a short period of silence as the Rangers look wistfully into the campfire. The commander takes a sip of coffee from his

mug, and a couple of boys begin to yawn and stretch. "Well, boys, it's getting late. Before we head to our tents, let's sing a round of 'Joy to the World!'" The outpost sings a round by itself, then the commander encourages the audience to participate in the second round.

Memory Verse: "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).



Week 2

Theme: Prep the Props

Achievement: Take time to let the Rangers work on their achievement badge.

Christmas Skit: As a quick dress rehearsal, have each Ranger read his lines for the character he is portraying in front of the group. After rehearsal, provide supplies so the Rangers can wrap gift boxes as props for the play. Allow them to help you design the stage for the play.

Begin collecting props to suggest a winter camp-out scene, which will be the setting for "The Best Christmas Ever." Props should include a camping stove, sleeping bags, a mock campfire, and a couple of pup tents.

Memory Verse: "God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him" (John 3:17).

Week 3

Theme: Full Dress Rehearsal

Achievement: Take a few minutes to review how the boys are doing on their achievement badge. If more work is needed, allow some time at the end of the meeting for them to work on them.

Before the Rangers arrive, have the meeting area set up as a winter camping scene. Props should include a camping stove, sleeping bags, a mock campfire, a couple of pup tents, and the wrapped gifts.



Memory Verse: "Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son" (John 3:18).

Week 4

Theme: "The Best Christmas Ever"—A Rangers Original Play

Achievement: Have a couple of Rangers give a testimony of their witnessing experience. Encourage them to make witnessing a normal part of their lives.

It is time for the Christmas program! The commander and assistants should have everything in place for the scene. This week provides an excellent opportunity to promote the Royal Rangers program and to enlist visiting boys. Evangelism and promotional brochures can be ordered through the national Royal Rangers Office. Call 1-800-641-4310 and request item 729-007 (English) or item 729-010 (Spanish) for *The Ultimate ... Royal Rangers* brochure and item 729-020 for the *Royal Rangers: A Doorway to Action and Adventure* brochure.

Assign two Rangers to hand out programs as the audience arrives. The pastor should open and close the play in prayer.

Memory Verse: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).

Planning Guide for Fifth Wednesday Meetings

Week 1

Theme: Campfire Starters

This week show the Rangers how to make "fire bugs," or campfire starters, to facilitate their fire craft during the July theme "Under the Stars" and the October theme "The Great Outdoors."



Items Needed: Newspaper, string, large tin cans, paraffin, water for boiling

Instructions: Roll up four newspaper sheets. Tie strings 2 inches apart along the length of the newspaper roll. Cut the roll into sections between the strings, leaving a string "tail" for holding and dipping the roll. Melt the paraffin in a tin can by placing it in boiling water. Soak the "bugs" in the melted paraffin. Allow the "bugs" to cool. These starters can then be used as easy fire starters. (Note: This activity requires close supervision as hot paraffin can burn if handled carelessly.)

Memory Verse: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6).

Week 2

Theme: Witnessing Bands

This feature allows the Rangers to make bracelets comprised of beads of various colors, each bead symbolizing a part of God's plan of redemption. Once completed, the bracelets will give the Rangers many opportunities to witness to family, friends, and neighbors.

Items Needed: Beads—black, red, white, blue, glow in the dark (use yellow if glow is not available), green, gold, and clear; leather string

The Rangers will string the beads on the leather string in the following order: Tie a knot (represents birth), black (sin), red (salvation), white (cleansing from sin), blue (witnessing/baptism), glow in the dark (light for the gospel), green (growth in Christ), gold (heaven and crown of life), clear (clear call to repentance), tie another knot (end of time/judgment).

Discuss the plan of salvation and the meaning of each bead. Then distribute the beads to the Rangers who have experienced salvation, water baptism, the infilling of the Holy Spirit, God's Word.

It is important to allow ample time for the



Rangers to absorb the overall significance of the bracelet as it speaks of God's plan for the Rangers' lives. Provide an opportunity for each Ranger to give his heart to Christ and to sign the "Witnessing Band" handout.

Witnessing Band

Knot—Represents being born again. The Bible says that God loves you and has an eternal plan for your life.

John 10:10: "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I [Jesus Christ] have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

Black—Represents our sin.

Romans 3:23: "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Red—Represents the blood of Jesus shed on the cross for our sins.

Romans 5:8: "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

White—Reminds us that Jesus washes us white as snow in our hearts when we accept Him as our Savior, believing in His death and resurrection on our behalf.

Isaiah 1:18: "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."

Blue—Reminds us to tell everyone that Jesus now lives in our hearts. Being baptized in water represents that.

Acts 2:41: "Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day."

Matthew 3:16,17: "As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'"

Glow in the dark—Jesus wants us to let our light shine for Him. He promised us a gift to help us—

the Holy Spirit. All the disciples were afraid to stand up for Jesus until they received the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:1-4: "When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."

Green—Jesus wants us to grow in Him. We do this by reading His Word, talking to Him every day (prayer), and by going and being involved in a church that teaches all of God's Word.

2 Peter 3:18: "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Gold—This color points to heaven and the crown of life Jesus will give to everyone who has accepted Him.

Revelation 2:10: "Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life."

Clear—Represents Christ's clear call to repent and to put our faith in Him alone.

John 14:6: "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

Knot—Represents the end of time when all of humanity will stand before God and face judgment.

Hebrews 9:27: "Man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment."

Redemption Prayer

"Dear Heavenly Father, I know I am a sinner. Thank You for sending Your Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross for my sins. I confess my sins to You and turn from those sins. I open the door of my life and ask Jesus Christ to come in as my Savior and Lord. I give everything that I am and everything that I will ever be to You. Take control of my life, and help me to be the kind of person You want me to be. In Jesus' name I ask. Amen."



Memory Verse: "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

Week 3

Theme: Bicycle Fix-a-Flat

Items Needed: Two adjustable wrenches, two standard screwdrivers, a Philip's screwdriver, pliers, an air pump, a tire patch kit, a yellow auto crayon for marking a leak, a pan of water for locating a leak

Arrange to have three or more bicycles with flat tires present at the meeting. (It would be ideal if the Rangers are able to bring their own.) Have the tools necessary to demonstrate the proper method of repairing a flat tire.

Project: Release the air from the tire. Remove the wheel from the bicycle with wrenches. Using standard screwdrivers, pry the tire off the rim on one side. Push the stem of the tire tube out of the hole and pull the tube out of the tire. Fill the tube with air. Locate the leak by submerging the tube in water. Mark the area of the leak with the yellow auto crayon. Patch the leak with the tire patch. Test the patch in water. Reverse the steps for dismantling the tire to reinstall the tube, tire, and wheel. Be sure to tighten the bolts and nuts securely.

Note: Many urban boys own a bicycle whose tires often go flat because of the debris in the alleys and streets. Teaching the Rangers how to repair their own tires is a valuable skill for the boys to acquire. In fact, bike repair is an excellent method for attracting boys into Royal Rangers. A commander and two or three Rangers can perform a neighborhood service by collecting these tools and regularly repairing other children's flat tires.

Memory Verse: "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law" (Galatians 5:22, 23).

Week 4

Theme: What's in a Name?

Items Needed: Rounded toothpicks; glue; alphabet macaroni; craft paint—red, gold, and blue; medium-sized safety pins

Project: The Rangers will create name tags using toothpicks, alphabet macaroni, and paint. Also, the boys can make outpost number tags following the instructions below.

Instructions for Rangers: Glue several toothpicks together side by side to make a background. Next, select from the dry macaroni the letters that spell out the boy's name. Next, paint the macaroni with the colors identified in the Royal Rangers emblem. While the macaroni dries, glue the safety pin on the back of the name tag. Once they are dry to the touch, the macaroni can be glued to the toothpick support.

The Rangers may wear their personal name tags on Royal Rangers T-shirts or award vests at outpost meetings.

Memory Verse: "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6).

Note: This feature can be photocopied and given to the boys. The lesson plans that follow can be read by the commander or photocopied and handed out f

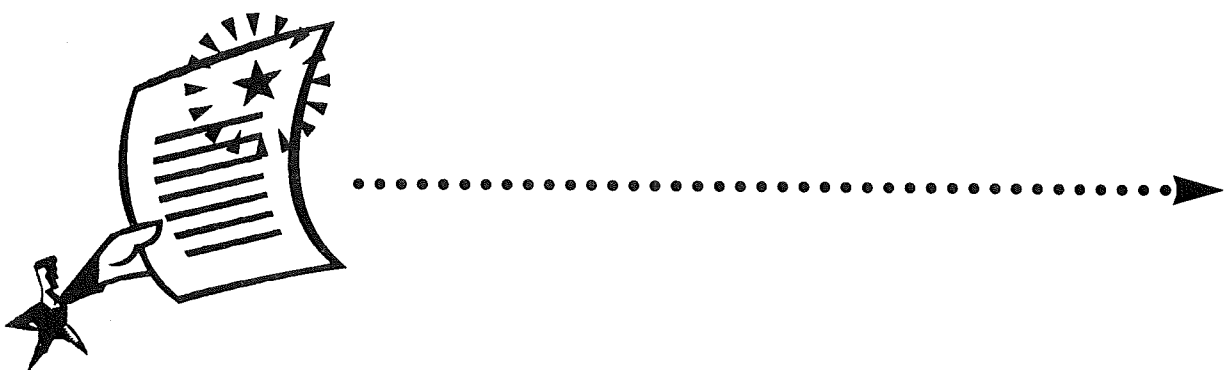
**Stay
focused; you
are doing
great!**



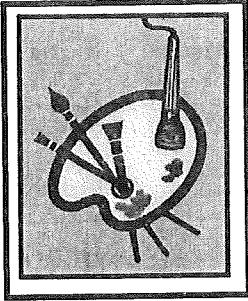
Ready for Anything. Period.



SECTION 2



AWARD BADGES



Arts Badge

Achievement Theme: God gives us talents that we can use for His glory.

Achievement Objective: To share some art form that you like to do, such as painting or

singing, and tell a friend how you became involved in it

Achievement Badge Requirements:

Arts: 1. Choose one form of art you like, such as a musical instrument, vocal/singing, drawing, writing, sculpting. 2. Perform or display that art at your Rangers group for 4 weeks. (For example, if you enjoy drawing, then display four separate drawings you have drawn for this assignment. If you like to sing, then sing four separate songs to your Rangers group.) 3. Give an oral report on why you enjoy this art form. Explain how you became involved in that art. Tell what is necessary to perform that art skill.

Introduction: "I just can't do it," said the boy to his teacher. "I am no good at art!" Are you guilty of giving up even before you try something? When you see a great picture painted by a friend, do you wish you had the ability that your friend has? In this lesson you will learn more about where your talents come from and how to recognize your talents.

Week 1—We Are Talented People

(Read Matthew 25:14-30.)

The Bible records a parable about a wealthy man who went on a long journey. Before he left he divided his riches between his three servants. To one he gave five talents. To the second one he gave two talents. And to the last servant he gave one talent. Each man was given according to his ability. Immediately the man with the five talents invested the money and gained five more talents. The second servant took his

two talents and increased them by two more. The third servant hid his one talent in the earth.

When the master returned, he asked each of the men for an account of what they had done with the talents they were given. The first servant, given five talents, said that he had been given five talents and he had earned an additional five. The master said to him, "Well done, you are a good and responsible man. Even though you were only given a little, I am going to make you a ruler over much." When the second servant entered, he too gave the master his two talents, plus two more. The wealthy man responded that he was a good and responsible servant and that he would be ruler over much. The last man, with only one talent, came to give an account to the master. He said to the master, "I know that you are a stern man and that you gain wealth from other people's labor, and so I took the one talent that you gave me and I buried it in the ground. Here it is." The master was very angry. He said to the man, "You are a wicked and foolish man. If you knew that I gained wealth from other people's labor, then you should have at least put the one talent in the bank so that when I asked for it, I could have had the one talent and interest." Then the master took the one talent from the man.

The talents in this parable that Jesus told could be called abilities. Everyone was given some abilities but not necessarily the same ones or an equal amount. Each person is expected to use what he or she has so when it is time to give an account before God, we can say that we have used the abilities that we were given to the fullest of our capability. God gives us the talent that we have. He is the source for the strengths and the weaknesses.

In the story, when it came time to give an account, you will notice that both servants who used their talents were called good and responsible servants. Even though they did not gain the same amount of money, they were rewarded equally. God does not expect you to use abilities that you do not have. All He wants you to do is use the talents He has given you.

The story also has a warning to each of us: If we refuse to use the talents that we have, they will be taken away from us. In the same way that if you bound your arm to your side and did not use it for a year, it would become weak and unusable, talents left unused may be lost because what you fail to use will become weak and useless. You may say that you are



like the man with only one talent, so you cannot be expected to do a lot. Well, take the one thing that you can do and use it for the Lord. You must be faithful over the things that you have before you will receive more abilities.

Week 2—How Will I Know My Talents?

A large amount of our time is spent trying to find our talents—or our “gifts.” It is not as complex as some may want to make it. After asking yourself some very simple questions, you can know what your abilities are. Answer the following questions.

1. What do you enjoy doing? If making things from clay makes you happy, and you enjoy spending your free time sculpting clay, you may have a talent for it. Talents are usually things that we enjoy doing. God does not give us something that we absolutely hate and say to us, “Here is your talent; use it for My glory!” God loves you too much to make you miserable. He knows that if it is something that brings pleasure to you, it is likely that you will be more apt to do it.

2. Are you good at the talent, or are you getting better at it? Talents are not fully developed right away. They take time to improve with practice, and we are required to spend time rehearsing. We must rehearse, or practice, so that we can be our best. This is true for anyone—even professional singers and athletes.

God wants us to give our best, and sometimes that means practice. If you are taking piano lessons, keep it up because you are improving your gifts. God will receive glory from your practice if you desire to glorify Him. Do not be afraid to try something new. You may discover a talent that you did not have before. If you try it and it seems fun, keep trying. It might be that you are developing a new skill that can bring praise to God.

As you work on the Arts Achievement Badge, keep your talents in mind. Remember to thank God for the things that He has given you. And be patient. If there is a skill that you would like to develop, remember, it takes time and practice to develop a talent.

Week 3—Can Art Glorify God?

Art can become more than just something you do in your spare time. The Bible tells us that everything

your hands find to do, do it so that God receives glory. In other words, we should do our best at everything we do and in doing so give the glory to God. A Christian singing artist can glorify the Lord through his or her voice. A Christian athlete can give glory to God through his testimony to others. A Christian painter can give glory to God through the pictures he or she paints. In order to give glory to God the song or picture or sculpture should give attention to God and show thanksgiving for the ability it takes to create the work of art.

Since all our talents come from the Lord, our skills and talents should bring glory to the Lord. Just because it is called art does not mean that God is not pleased by it. So as you develop the abilities that you have, remember to use your skills for the glory of God.

Let's Review:

1. Everyone has God-given abilities.
2. God expects us to use our abilities (or talents) for His glory.
3. A talent is most likely something that you enjoy doing but requires practice to become better.

Achievement Activities:

1. Share your talents and skills with the outpost group, a Sunday school class, a church group, or at a local nursing home.
2. Read a book about the art form you have chosen.

Bible Badge



Achievement Theme: God's Word is a new experience each time its pages are read.

Lesson Objective: To begin reading the Bible at an early age and to continue for a lifetime

Achievement Badge Requirements:

1. Select a book from the Bible you wish to read.
2. Read one chapter (or the number of chapters specified by your commander) from that book each week for 4 weeks.
3. Give an oral report on the chapters you have read.

Materials Needed: Holy Bible—any version: King James, New International Version, etc.

Introduction: No amount of value can be placed on reading the Bible. The Bible is a very important book to Christians because its pages tell us about God. In the Scriptures we read that God loves us and that He sent His Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross for our sins. It is still the most popular book ever printed. More copies of it are sold than any other book in print.

Why do more people not read this popular book? One of the main reasons is that it is difficult to understand. Some say that the words *thee* and *thou* are confusing. After completing the Bible Achievement Badge, you will know how to select a Bible that you can understand, and by reading it regularly, you will begin to enjoy reading God's Word.

Week 1—So Many Versions

There are about 1,700 versions of the Bible in circulation around the world; most of them were written in the last 200 years. There are as many versions as there are different kinds of people. Why are there so many versions? The King James Version, for example, was written way back in A.D. 1611. The Bible Jesus used was in the form of scrolls and written in the Hebrew and Aramaic languages. People translated the Bible into their own language, and some sought an accurate version. When translating, the scholars would find the oldest copy in the original language and translate it into another language. This was done so more people would have access to God's Word.

Choosing a version you can understand might seem like an impossible task. Here are some suggestions that might make the job a little easier.

1. Look around your home to see what versions you or your family have.
2. Read a chapter in several different versions, reading the same chapter in each version.
3. Think to yourself, *Which one did I understand the most?*
4. Read from that version.

If you are fortunate enough to have the Bible on cassette tape, you can listen to it. If you do not have a Bible at home, ask your commander and he will provide one for you.

Week 2—The Bible: A Book of Books

The Bible is not just one book, but it is really a collection of books. There are 66 different books that were written by 40 or more authors. When deciding on which book to read from, there is a good rule to follow: Start reading with the Gospel of John. This book was written to Christians to help new believers learn more about Jesus and why He came to earth. With only 21 chapters, it is not a long book. It can be read in about 3 weeks if you read one chapter per day.

If you have already read this book, then you might want to read one of the other Gospels: Matthew, Mark, or Luke. Each one is easy to read, and they do not have a lot of long names to pronounce.

From there you may want to read other books, and the choice is up to you. A suggestion is to read Genesis, Psalms, and through the New Testament, then pick up on the other Old Testament books. As you read from the Bible, you will find that you enjoy it more and more. As time goes on you will learn more about the message that it contains. A good study Bible, such as the *Full Life Study Bible*, will help you better understand the Scriptures. It includes an explanation on what God's Word is saying.

Reading God's Word is something that you should do every day. This is one of the ways God will begin to speak to you. He will reveal things about himself through the pages of the Bible. Everything that you need to know about being a Christian can be found in its pages.

Week 3—Giving an Oral Report

The final requirement for this achievement badge is for you to give an oral report about the things that you read. Do not let this worry you. All that you will be doing is telling your Royal Rangers friends about the subject you read. You may say to yourself, *How will I remember all of the things that I read about?* Here is a good pointer: As you are reading, write down on a sheet of paper what happened in the chapter that you read. Ask yourself, *What was this book or chapter about? Who were some of the people in the chapter, and what did they do? What was the purpose of the book? To whom*



was it written? Answer these questions on a sheet of paper and take it with you to the Rangers meeting. When it is your turn to report on the book of the Bible that you read, use your notes to help you.

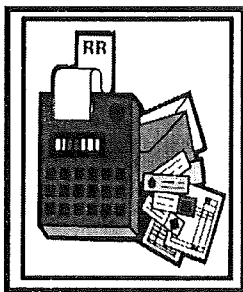
Let's Review:

1. We should read the Bible every day so we can learn more about God.
2. In choosing a version of the Bible, look for one that you can understand.
3. Start reading in one of the Gospels first.

Achievement Activities:

1. Memorize the books of the Bible in order. This will help you to find them easier when you are looking up Scripture verses.
2. Memorize one Scripture verse from the book that you read.
3. Make a game out of reciting the books of the Bible. Have one boy start with Genesis, then the next boy must say Exodus, and so on. The first one who cannot remember the next book must sit down.

Budget Badge



Achievement Theme:

Making and following a budget will help guarantee that you can have enough money to accomplish your goals.

Lesson Objective: To learn the basic steps in preparing a budget

Achievement Badge Requirements:

1. Prepare a personal, home, or patrol budget for 3 weeks. (For example, have a parent, guardian, or commander help you plan items you will purchase from a grocery store each week for 3 weeks.)
2. Help a parent, guardian, or commander maintain a budget.
3. Explain to your outpost group how you prepare and keep a budget.

Introduction: The Bible teaches the principle that making a budget is a good activity. It says that a wise man counts the cost before he begins to build

a tower. He considers the cost of land, materials, and labor. He spends time planning because he does not want to begin construction, then run out of money during the project. This would be embarrassing, and people in the community would quickly learn about it. A half-completed building would not look good to other property owners. To avoid running out of money, be sure you have enough before you start.

Over the next 4 weeks you will learn the basics of preparing a budget and then actually do one for your home, outpost group, or patrol. As you begin this process, please refer to the sample budget worksheet at the end of this lesson.

Week 1—What Is a Budget?

A budget is a plan for using money. It lists the items you plan to purchase and the amount you intend to spend for each item. Some of the more sophisticated budgets even show the month in which the item will be bought. These types of budgets are designed to be used over the period of 1 year. It is intended as a tool to help you wisely use the money you have.

For our purposes, a simple budget will serve our needs. This means that our plan or budget will show the amount of income and list the item and price of the things that we are going to buy.

The key to any document like this is how accurate the numbers are. For example, if you allow only \$0.75 for 1 gallon of milk and the actual cost of 1 gallon of milk is \$2.75, then your budget will be in error by \$2.00. As you plan, make every effort to get the most accurate information.

Let's Get Started

Step One: Ask yourself these questions: *Why am I making a budget? How will it help me or the outpost group?* Once you have answered these questions, you can then determine the kind of spending plan to make.

If you plan a budget for an upcoming camp-out, for example, then your budget will look a little different than one designed to show the spending of your outpost over the period of 3 weeks.

Step Two: Make a list of everything needed for the outing. Coordinate with the person planning the meals. He will be the best source to find out how



much food will be needed so you can determine the cost of the event. The list should not only account for the food that will be eaten, but also reflect any charges that would be paid for transportation costs to the campground.

the meetings. Give this information to the person planning the meals. When they know how many will attend, then they can determine the amount of food that will be needed for each person. Ask them for a list of the food items they will need.

Step Three: In order to determine the cost of the trip, you will need to know how many Rangers and leaders plan to attend. Take a count during one of

Step Four: Take the food list to the store, and write down the prices of each product. Be sure to add about 10 percent to the total cost of the products to

The Realities of Urban Conditions

According to statistics . . .

Seventy-two percent of young people ages 18-25 do not believe in moral absolutes. As a leader, you can make a profound effect in this age group.

There is a Hope!

Six million teenagers attempt suicide each year, with more than 5,000 who succeed in taking their own lives. As a leader, the challenge to make young people believe in themselves and to realize they are children of God must not be taken lightly!

By age 18, according to one estimate, a youngster will have seen 200,000 acts of violence on television, including 40,000 murders. Violence is not the answer, and as a leader it is your charge to provide a peaceful solution for our young people.

Americans are a people who no longer know what is in the Bible. Part of the regimen of the Royal Rangers ministry is to bring the Word of God to the streets, so God's instructions can be put into action.



cover the sales tax. Now add up the cost at the bottom of the page.

Step Five: The final step is to divide the total cost by the number of boys attending the camp-out. For example, if the cost of all of the food is \$90 and you have 20 boys and men going, then divide 90 by 20 to show the cost per person. So the cost per person in this example would be \$4.50.

Week 2—Where Will the Money Come From?

Continuing from last week, *income* is the term used for the money that is going to be collected to pay for an outpost group trip. The income will come from either the money each Ranger pays to attend the camping trip or the money the outpost leader provides. Regardless, the income, just like the expenses, must be listed somewhere on your budget sheet. Usually it is listed somewhere near the top of the budget, and it is compared with the amount that is going to be spent. If the income figure is greater than the amount you spend, then you will have surplus money once all the purchases have been made.

Week 3—Maintaining the Budget

The next step is purchasing items for your trip. You will “act out” this process by going to a store and writing down the prices of each item you have listed as you locate it. When you go to the store, take along a copy of the budget. Write down next to the item listed the actual price of the item. This will help you keep track of how much all the items will cost. If the product costs less than the price you anticipated, then buy it. If the item costs slightly more than you expected, do not worry because you added an extra 10 percent to the price of all the items to be purchased.

When you have finished with your “shopping,” compare the amount you budgeted for to the actual cost of that item. Then write down the total cost of the items next to the total cost you had budgeted.

Next week at your Royal Rangers meeting, let your commander know that you are ready to give your oral report. He will make time in the meeting for you to complete this part of the achievement badge requirements.

Week 4—Reporting to Your Outpost Group

This week gather your budget and make copies for your commander and each boy in the outpost group. In advance, ask your commander for assistance in making copies. In your oral report tell your fellow Rangers the amount you expected to spend and the amount actually spent. Ask if they have any questions.

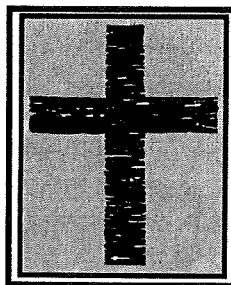
Let's Review

1. A budget is a piece of paper that lists the way you are going to spend money.
2. Compare each item to the amount budgeted for and the actual cost of that item. The budget will only be useful if the figures are accurate.
3. Take the budget form with you to the store and copy down the prices.
4. Add up both columns to see how well you “shopped.”
5. Tell your outpost group how much you anticipated spending and how much you actually spent.

Achievement Activities:

1. Ask your pastor about your church's budget. How much time do they spend on preparing it? Who works to prepare the church budget?
2. If possible, ask to see a copy of the church's budget to see how yours differs.
3. Look up the word *budget* in a dictionary or encyclopedia. What is the literal definition? From what language does our word *budget* come?

Church Badge



Achievement Theme:

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it as if you were doing it for the Lord.

Lesson Objective: To learn that a Royal Ranger is ready to serve



Achievement Badge Requirements:

- Church:* 1. Choose four ways you can help around the church, such as cleaning, visiting, ushering, greeting, helping in children’s or youth choir, being a commander’s helper.
2. For 4 weeks do each of those tasks, one per week.
3. Give an oral report on the importance of being a church worker. Explain the tasks you performed at church and what the experience did for you and others.

Introduction: Can you imagine what it would be like if all of the work in the church had to be performed by the pastor? He would be so busy he could not study for his sermons. Every church has many jobs that need to be done, and thankfully there are lots of people who are willing to work. Church is not just a place that you go to and sit and watch. Everyone must become involved for the church to be effective in reaching out to people who have never heard about Jesus.

For the next 4 weeks you are going to study about something called “Christian service.” During each of the weeks there will be an emphasis related to the tasks you will be required to perform. After you complete the achievement badge requirements, you will know why you should be involved and how you can become a worker in your church.

Definitions:

Deacon: One who serves on the church board to help with the operational needs of the church.

Christian Service: Working as a volunteer in your church in a specific area.

Week 1—Why Should I Help?

The Bible is full of examples where people helped others. The Good Samaritan is a good example. A man from Samaria was traveling and found another man who had been beaten and robbed. He stopped his journey and bound up the man’s wounds and paid for his fee to stay in a lodge until the injured man had fully recovered. What the Samaritan did not know was that two others had passed by the injured man and left him alone. Jesus told this story to remind us how we should give of

ourselves to others—not just for what they can do for us but because it is the kind thing to do. The man from Samaria did not receive any benefits personally. But he showed believers the right attitude about service.

When you love God, you cannot help but share His love with others by working for Him. The Bible states that our works will not gain us entrance into heaven. But by being involved in work around the church, we show the world that there is a change in our lives and that God truly lives within our hearts.

Our God-given talents must also be used for the Lord. Those talents are abilities that we have. Some of us are good at singing or playing a musical instrument; others may be good at working with younger children. The talents we have should be used to benefit the church. Every church has something for each person to do if the members will take the time to investigate what work is needed.

Week 2—How Can I Help?

One of the main reasons people do not work in their churches is that they do not know what needs to be done. Sometimes they may know about a job but do not know who to ask about performing it. Well, when in doubt start by asking your commander. He might need help getting ready for the next camp-out. He would really appreciate your help in preparing for the trip. Your commander has taken the responsibility to be a church worker, and he can show you how to be a helper yourself.

Look around to see in what areas you might be interested in working. You will want to help more if you are doing a job that you enjoy, rather than one you endure. For example, if you like visiting people, then talk with the adults who go out and meet new families in your community. If your church needs an usher or a greeter, see one of the deacons and ask if you can help pass out church bulletins or collect the offering.

The most difficult part of Christian service is getting started. Just never forget there is usually more work to be done than workers to do it.

Week 3—Let’s Get Started!

Once you decide what you can do to be a helper in the outpost and/or church, then stop. Take a

moment to think about why you want to do this task. Are you working for the Lord because you are going to earn an achievement badge? Is your work for the Lord dependent on the fact that others are going to see you working? Always remember the reason for being a church helper: You love Jesus Christ and want to help your church spread the good news that Christ is Savior and Lord.

Once you commit yourself to a task, be sure to keep your promise. A broken promise can break someone's faith in you. The fifth point of the Royal Ranger Code states that a Ranger is faithful to his church, family, outpost, and friends. It is not enough just to be willing to work, but also to show up ready to do the job.

Finally, make sure that someone in charge knows—about 1 week in advance—when you are coming and what you will be doing so he or she will have all the materials needed for you to complete your task. Nothing is more frustrating than having lots of workers with a lack of tools to work with.

Giving money to the church is important, but God wants us more than our money. He wants our time. This is the ultimate sacrifice.

Next week at your Royal Rangers meeting, let your commander know that you are ready to give your oral report. He will make time in the meeting for you to complete this part of the achievement badge requirements.

Week 4—Writing Your Oral Report

Now that you are about to complete 4 weeks of Christian service, it is time to be thinking about the effect of what you have done. Take a moment to think back about the experience of the last 4 weeks. Write down your feelings about being involved in your church. Answer these questions: Were you able to encourage someone? Did others treat you any differently than they did before?

This week give your oral report on the importance of Christian service. Once you finish, you should have completed all the requirements to earn the achievement badge.

Let's Review:

1. Working in the church is something every believer should do.

2. Talk with your commander to see what you can do to help out.

3. Once you commit to work, be sure to show up on time. Keeping your promise is important to the Lord and others.

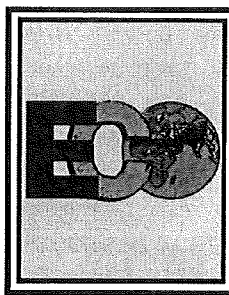
Achievement Activities:

1. Make a list of jobs you would like to do. They must be things that you can do at your age.

2. Interview the pastor about the needs of the church and what you can do to help.

3. Draw a poster encouraging others, including adults, to work around the church.

Conservation Badge



Achievement Theme:

Conserving energy makes sense and is something we all can do.

Lesson Objective: To review ways in which we can save energy in our homes

Conservation: 1. List five ways you can conserve energy and/or natural resources, e.g., turning off a light when not in use, using water sparingly, picking up cans and recycling them, making a fire circle before building a fire. 2. For 3 weeks demonstrate the five steps you have listed.

Definitions:

Recycle: To gather items, such as glass, aluminum cans, or plastic, and use them to make another product.

Reuse: Taking a container, such as a thermos, and using it more than once.

Landfill: The place where garbage is taken and dumped.

Introduction: Three words have become popular in our society. You cannot help but hear something



about them on the TV, the radio, or at school. You may have participated in a project at school or in your Royal Rangers group involving these words. The words are *recycle*, *reuse*, and *reduce*. These terms are associated with the conservation (safe-keeping) of natural resources. As the world's population grows, we must make the best use of our resources. We can do this if we recycle our garbage instead of dumping it in landfills. We help the environment by purchasing a product that can be reused, such as a lunch box in place of a paper bag. Finally, by reducing the amount of garbage we throw away, there will be less to put into landfills.

During this week's study you will read about some ways you can conserve energy and the natural resources that God created.

Week 1—I Can Make a Difference

You can make a difference in taking care of our earth if you make a choice to do so. There is no scientific machine that will do it for you. All that is required is a willingness to try to help. There is no great amount of effort involved. You just need to be willing to think first and then act. Below is a short list of steps that you can take that will help the environment by conserving energy. Take time to read this list and choose five that you will perform for 3 weeks. If you think of something that is not on this list, feel free to add it.

1. Turn off the lights when you leave the room.
2. Don't let water faucets run unnecessarily.
3. Turn down the temperature on the hot water heater (ask a parent or guardian).
4. Take a lunch box with plastic containers to school instead of paper bags.
5. Reuse your brown paper bags for lunches.
6. Pick up trash around your neighborhood.
7. Encourage other Rangers to recycle, reuse, reduce.
8. Collect paper for recycling. Do this as an out-post project.
9. Discuss how parents can be involved in recycling.
10. Obey speed limits when driving; it saves gas and lives.
11. Pick up paper along the highway to keep America beautiful.
12. When you buy products, look for the ones that

can be reused again, such as detergent containers that you can buy refills for.

13. Encourage your parents to buy only those items that come in simple packaging. Less packaging means less goes into the landfill.

14. Use recycled products or those that have a label indicating they are made from recycled materials.

15. Share your favorite magazine with a friend; instead of having two subscriptions, you'll have only one, which means less paper is used in the printing.

16. Take public transportation when possible.

Week 2—Caring for the Environment Is a Good Habit

It is interesting when you consider how much we are creatures of habit. We get out of bed at a certain time each day. We brush our teeth the same way every day. There are certain TV programs that we watch regularly. There are many more examples that can be given, and all of them support that we get into habits and live our lives the same way from morning until night. Some habits that we form are not bad; some of them can be good for us, such as reading the Bible or praying every day.

A great habit to form is recycling and reducing waste. It is a mind-set that we have to get into. This means that we must consciously remember to recycle our waste. It is not enough to know that there is a problem and continue to do nothing about it. To be part of the solution we must get involved in ways that will help. Also we must not feel that this is only a problem for others to be concerned about. God has made us stewards over the earth. Adam and Eve were put in the Garden of Eden to care for it. In the same way, God expects us to care for the earth.

One of the greatest challenges that face our local leaders is what to do with all of the trash that we generate each day. No one wants to have a landfill in their neighborhood, so there are only a few places to put it and even fewer solutions for getting rid of it. So prevention is the best answer. Finding ways to reduce the amount of garbage that we generate will ultimately reduce the amount that is put into landfills.

Make it a habit to recycle and tell others what they can do. The more people that hear the message



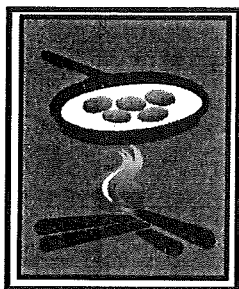
about caring for the environment the more will be done.

Achievement Activities:

1. Talk with your outpost group about recycling.
2. Plan an outpost conservation event.
3. Participate in a cleanup day in your community.
4. Read a magazine article or newspaper about the benefits of recycling, and report to your outpost.

Cooking Badge

Achievement Theme: Basic cooking is easy to do and can be a great help at home.



Achievement Objective: To cook a meal that takes more than just putting it in the oven and to plan a well-balanced meal

Achievement Badge Requirements:

Cooking: 1. Explain to your commander how to prepare three meals. The menus must contain a well-balanced meal, having a meat, a vegetable, a bread, and a dairy product. 2. Prepare three meals for your family, friends, or patrol members. 3. Give an oral report to your outpost group on cooking methods.

Introduction: Cooking is a skill that everyone should master. While you are at home you may not see the need to cook, or you may think that cooking is a talent only for women. Wrong! Cooking comes in handy when on a camp-out. When you grow up and leave home, learning to cook is helpful—unless you want to eat sandwiches or TV dinners all your life. Eating at a restaurant every meal is expensive, so learning the basic techniques of cooking is a good idea. During your study of cooking, you will learn to prepare a menu with all the items needed and then do the cooking. So let us move into the kitchen and cook!

Week 1—Planning Menus

If this is the first time you have prepared a menu and have cooked a meal, then relax because cooking is just a matter of following directions. The recipe will tell you everything you need to do and when to do it. To be successful in cooking, your meal does not have to be fancy, expensive, or complex. In the menus that you are preparing to earn this badge, strive for a well-balanced meal. A well-balanced meal should contain one item from each of the basic food groups: breads, meats, vegetables and fruit, and dairy products. By selecting an item from each group, you will get the proper amount of vitamins and minerals your body needs to be healthy.

On your first attempt at cooking, have an adult around to help you follow the directions. The adults should not do the work for you but should be available to answer questions. Sometimes recipes can be confusing in the terminology or the methods that are used to make the food.

Some sample menus have been included to give you ideas. The sample menus will feed eight people. Your food list will vary depending on the number eating. Keep the number in mind as you shop for food. Now have a parent or a guardian help you select a menu and list all the items needed for a meal.

Week 2—Menu Ideas

One of the hardest parts of menu planning is deciding what to cook. Below are some suggestions for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. You may use them to get ideas for your own meal plans.

Breakfast Foods

<i>Main Entrée</i>	<i>Fruits</i>	<i>Drinks</i>
Eggs and Bacon	Fresh Fruit	Milk
Oatmeal w/Brown Sugar	Bananas	Orange Juice
Cream of Wheat	Oranges	Apple Juice
Cold Cereal w/Milk	Grapefruit	Grape Juice
Toast and Jam	Tomato Juice	Milk/Juice
Muffin or Bagel		
Doughnuts		
Pancakes with Syrup		
Waffles with Syrup		

Lunch Foods



Entrées

Cold Cut Meat Sandwiches
 Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich
 Bologna Sandwiches
 Ham and Cheese Sandwich
 Turkey
 Tuna Salad Sandwich
 Toasted Cheese Sandwich

Side Items

Chips & Fruit
 Canned Fruit
 Vegetable Soup
 Chicken Soup
 Tomato Soup
 Cupcakes

Dinner Foods**Main Entrée**

One Pot Dinner
 Hamburger Patty
 Beef Stew
 Pizza with Lettuce Salad
 Prepackaged Lasagna
 Canned Vegetables
 Garden Salad
 Macaroni and Cheese
 Chili
 Canned Spaghetti

Drinks

Milk or Kool-Aid
 Tea, Soda, Water

Week 3—Sample Menus (based on an eight-boy patrol)**Breakfast Menu**

Cereal
 Bananas
 Scrambled Eggs
 Bacon
 Bread
 Butter
 Jam
 Hot Chocolate or milk
 Orange Juice

Food List

1 1/2 Dozen Eggs
 9 Individual-Sized Boxes of Cereal
 1 Pound Bacon
 9 Bananas
 1 Loaf Bread
 1/2 Gallon Milk
 1 Jar Jam
 1 Small Box Hot Chocolate Mix
 1 Quart Orange Juice

Directions

1. Bring 10 cups of water to boil (for hot chocolate).
2. Break the eggs in a pan. Add 1 to 2 cups of milk and season with salt and pepper. Beat the mixture well with a fork.
3. Place bacon in frying pans and cook until brown.

4. Remove bacon from frying pans. Pour off excess grease except for about 1 tablespoonful.
5. Pour egg mixture into the hot frying pans, then stir gently until the eggs are cooked.
6. Serve bananas with cereal.

Lunch Menu**Food List**

Tuna Fish Salad Sandwiches
 Cream of Tomato Soup
 Applesauce
 Cookies
 Milk

Food List

1/2 Gallon of Milk
 2 Cans of Tuna Fish
 2 Loaves of Bread
 2 Cans of Applesauce
 3 Cans of Tomato Soup
 5 Tomatoes
 1 Head of Lettuce
 1 Package of Cookies
 Salad Dressing

Direction

1. Prepare soup according to the instructions on the can.
2. Wash and dice (cut into small pieces) lettuce and tomatoes. Season with salt and pepper and put into a mixing bowl.
3. Open tuna fish can and mix fish with lettuce and tomatoes. Add salad dressing as desired.
4. Make 16 sandwiches and cut into halves.
5. Open applesauce and serve with cookies for dessert.

Dinner Menu**Food List**

Hamburgers
 Lettuce and Tomatoes
 Potato Chips or Corn Chips
 Milk
 Fried Pies

Food List

4 Pounds of Hamburger
 2 Packages of Hamburger Buns (16 buns)
 4 Medium Tomatoes
 1 Large Package of Potato Chips
 4 Packages of Hostess Fruit Pies
 1 Large Package of Corn Chips
 1/2 Gallon of Milk
 1 Head Lettuce

Directions

1. Form hamburger into patties.
2. Put 1 tablespoon shortening in each frying pan and heat.
3. Fry hamburgers.
4. While hamburgers are frying, slice tomatoes and separate let-



- tuce leaves. Each Ranger can put a tomato slice or piece of lettuce on his hamburger if desired.
5. Serve hamburgers with chips or Fritos.
 6. Serve fried pies for dessert.

Let's Review:

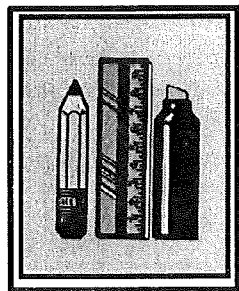
1. When preparing a menu, use a food from each of the four basic food groups so you will have a balanced meal.
2. Cooking is not difficult as long as you follow directions.
3. Make your meals simple and nutritious.

Achievement Activities:

1. Name three items from each of the four basic food groups.
2. Help your mom, dad, or guardian with a meal for 3 days. This could be washing the dishes or setting the table.

Craft Badge

Achievement Theme:



Creating with crafts is a great way to spend an afternoon or Saturday. It helps you learn about different people and cultures.

Lesson Objective: To select a craft based on what you like to do and to complete it

Achievement Badge Requirements:

1. Successfully complete three craft projects at home or at the outpost.
2. Display the craft projects in your meeting room.
3. Give an oral report on how you completed the projects.

Commander's Note: This lesson can be photocopied and given to the boys to do on their own. If you have boys in your outpost with reading disabilities, please feel free to read it to them.

Introduction: The most relaxing time that you can spend is the time spent doing a craft project. This is when you are creative and using the abilities that

God has given you. Some have said that "idle hands and mind become the workshop of the devil." There is a grain of truth to this statement. If we are busy, we won't have the time to get into trouble. The reality though is that if we fill our minds with godly thoughts, our minds will not give in to the thoughts of the world. As you study this lesson, remember while you are working with knives to exercise extreme caution. It is more important to be safe than to rush through a project.

Week 1—Choosing a Craft

Before you purchase an expensive set of tools and the materials, take some time to look for a kit containing similar items. Most times they are inexpensive and they have all of the materials and tools needed to complete the craft project. You will find out if this is the type of craft that you would like to do more of. If not, then you have not invested a lot of money. It is a terrible feeling to work on something that you do not enjoy doing. Most times it ends up incomplete, sitting on a closet shelf.

In your search for a craft, stop by your local craft store. They will have all of the materials needed to complete a wide range of crafts, but they also have the kits you might be interested in working on. Something else they offer is a trained staff that can help you with your selection. They may also be able to give you hints in working on the project. Check out your local hobby store and see what they have.

Look for the kits marked beginner or easy. Some may list the age level or skill level on the side of the box. Find the one that interests you and is in your skill level. The reason that there is a skill level indicated on the box is to let the buyer know the amount of ability that will be needed to successfully finish the project. The instructions were written taking into account the abilities of the person working on the craft and to give the help needed. A craft labeled as a beginner or starter kit means that the person purchasing it needs no prior experience to work on the craft. Whereas a craft labeled as intermediate or advanced suggests that the person purchasing the kit needs some or lots of experience. Be honest with your abilities; you will enjoy the craft more if it is on your level. The companies that assemble these kits want you to have lots of fun putting them together so that you will buy another kit.



Before you take the kit to the cashier, check the materials that are included to be sure that you have everything you need. Some kits may require that you purchase the glue and paint separately; others may have everything that you need inside the box. It can really be frustrating to get home and start a project and not have all the materials. Sometimes you will be missing materials from the kit. It is important to check the kit with the instructions to be sure that everything that is supposed to be there is included. If there are missing pieces, most of the time there will be a toll free number to call to get replacements.

What is the purpose in assembling the kit? Is there enjoyment? Yes, but what about quality? As you work on the craft, try to do your best to make it look as nice as possible. The reward is not to see how many you can turn out so that you will have a shelf full but to see how nice it looks when you are finished.

Let's consider for a moment the issue of safety. How dangerous can one of these kits be? Well for the most part they only require the use of a razor blade and some glue for assembly. The point is that no matter how safe it looks, there is always a chance for an accident. Take care when using a sharp knife. Make sure that your mom or dad is around so if you have a problem they will be able to help. If you are using glue or paint that requires the room to be well ventilated, keep the window open so that you will not be overcome by the fumes. These may be small things, but they are all a part of thinking ahead and making sure that you are safe. No craft will be fun if you get hurt or sick from doing it.

Let's Review:

1. What is one thing you can learning from putting a kit together?
2. Kits contain _____ needed to complete the craft.
3. List one step you can take to be safe while working on crafts.
4. Why do the manufacturers put a skill level on the kit?

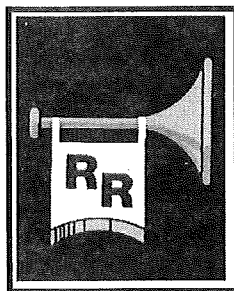
Achievement Activities:

1. Go to your local craft store and look at the various craft kits available.
2. Select a kit that you might be interested in working on.
3. Bring your completed craft to your outpost meet-

ing.

Drill Team Badge

Achievement Theme: Two cannot work together unless they be in unity.



Achievement Objective: To master some basic drill routines and then compete with other teams in your outpost

Achievement Badge

Requirements:

1. Participate in the planning of a team drill.
2. Compete in four drill team competitions in the outpost.
3. Give an oral report on the importance of teamwork.

Commander's Note: This lesson may be photocopied and given to the boys to do on their own. If you have boys in your outpost with reading disabilities, please feel free to read it to them.

Introduction: If you live in a typical town, sometime during the summer there is a parade to see. This event is the highlight of your day. Everyone you know will be standing on the corner to see one of the beautiful floats and will strain to hear the stirring music from one of the many bands.

Common to patriotic parades is the drill team marching in straight rows carrying flags or rifles. Their uniforms are pressed sharp and every button reflects the sun's light. The crowd stares in amazement as the men march with precision, as if they are robots.

Maybe your friends tried to copy the routines that you saw at the parade. Although you tried to do the marching, you could not stay together; someone was out of step. In this achievement badge, you will have an opportunity to learn the methods of developing your own drill team. There are two words you will become familiar with, practice and teamwork. It will take a lot of effort in both of these areas to have a successful drill team.

Week 1—Creating a Drill Routine



Performing a routine is much more than learning to march a certain way or knowing when to salute. It is following directions and knowing what to do and when. Your first step is to create a team. You may want to use your patrol as the team. You already work together, and your patrol guide could act as drill team leader. It is important that everyone understand that to be successful you must be in unity. *Unity* means working toward a common goal and following the same path to reach that goal. As far as a drill team is concerned, you must be uniform in your appearance and step. If even one person is out of step, it will show.

A drill routine is just a series of steps or gestures that are put together with everyone executing them at the same time. What makes them special is that there is no one who is issuing commands. It looks as if every member of the group is a robot following the same program. What really happens is each person knows the routine so well that they don't need anyone to give orders or commands for the next step.

For our purposes we will use the patrol guide to tell the group what the next step is until everyone knows the routine and doesn't need the cue. In choosing the steps be creative. You may want to start out with simple commands. For example, Attention, Dress Right Dress, Right Face, Parade Rest, Attention, Left Face. For a description of these commands, refer to the outpost formations section of your handbook. It is important that everyone understands what is meant when the command "Attention" is given. During practice time you will want to be sure that everyone can execute the command without hesitation.

As you practice, write down on a piece of paper the order in which the steps are to be taken. In this way you will perform the routine the same way each time you practice. As your group works, they will become so familiar with the routine they will no longer need the patrol guide to give the commands. You will see that the speed of the routine increases. At first you should strive for uniformity, everyone doing the same step at the same time. Your speed will improve with practice.

A Sample Drill

1. Attention
2. Two steps forward
3. Clap hands twice
4. Right Face
5. One step backwards
6. Parade Rest
7. Hop on right foot three times
8. Left Face
9. Dress Right Dress
10. Bow from the waist
11. Repeat routine three times

This is a very simple drill, but it will give you some ideas so you can start to make your own drill.

Week 2—Dress Up Your Drill

Once you have mastered the various steps of your patrol drill, there are some things that you can do to make your group look even better when you compete against other patrols in your outpost.

1. Add a musical background.

Adding a lively march tune with a tape player might really make your performance better. The sound of the beating drum will set the pace of the routine. If you are going to use a soundtrack, you will want to make sure that your routine is the same length as the music. Practice your steps with the music. It is important to time the steps with the beat of the music.

2. All team members should dress uniformly.

Think about the uniform that a military drill team wears. Did you ever notice that each man has the same uniform on? Unity not only refers to what you do in the routine, but it also means looking the same. Each member of the team should wear the same uniform.

If everyone has a Class B uniform and that is what the group decides to wear for the competition, then each person should wear a Class B uniform. You may want to wear Ranger T-Shirts and blue jeans. The rule is still the same—uniformity.

Week 3—Lessons in Teamwork

Your final assignment for this achievement badge is to give an oral report about teamwork. To



help you begin to think about being part of a team, let's look at some lessons in teamwork that you will learn from working on a patrol drill team.

1. Joining a team means personal sacrifice.

One of the first things a person must do when he joins a team is to sacrifice some of his wants and desires to help the group accomplish the goal. For most of the members that means that they allow someone else to be in charge and organize the routine. When you are performing by yourself, you are completely in charge, but that changes when you work with others. You cannot expect to get your way all of the time.

2. For the team to be successful it must be unified.

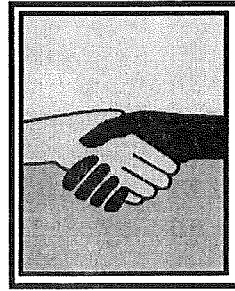
For you to reach the point of competition with other patrols, your group needs to be in unity about the steps of the routine. Any one person out of step could ruin the drill. A major part of the practice sessions are spent in learning how to step together.

3. The team wins when everyone does their best.

As you participate as a team, you must remember that the team wins together. Everyone on the team is a winner because he is a part of the team. It has been said that it doesn't matter if you win or lose, but how you play the game. For your patrol to be a winner, each has to do his personal best. God only expects us to be the best that we can. He does not measure us by someone else's abilities. God looks at what we are capable of doing. If your team does the best that they can and are beat by another team, you are still a winner.

You may still hold your head high even if you do not win a ribbon for your drill routine. One of the last lessons that you will learn as you compete is how to be a gracious winner and a good loser. Our society looks down on the people that don't win. But you can congratulate the winning team and show them that you appreciate their hard work. As the winner you can be gracious to those who lost. Encourage them to try harder and to keep practicing.

Friendship Badge



Achievement Theme: To have friends you must be a friend.

Lesson Objective: To learn how to become friendly

Achievement Badge Requirements:

1. Make friends with three people you do not know.
2. Invite your new friends to church or Royal Rangers.
3. Do an oral report on the importance of friendships.

Commander's Note: This lesson can be photocopied and given to the boys to do on their own. If you have boys in your outpost with reading disabilities, please feel free to read it to them.

Definition:

Adjective: A word that describes a person, place, or thing.

Introduction: A person who has friends is never alone. Some of the best memories that you'll ever have are those of your childhood friends. As you grow up you are making friendships that will last a lifetime. It has been said that a person cannot have too many friends, but no one can afford to have even one enemy! For the next 3 weeks you are going to study about friendship. You will read about the definition of friendship, Jesus—who is better than your best friend—and the cost of friendship.

Week 1—Who Is a Friend?

Many books have been written about friendship. Songs have been composed telling about the joys of a friend, but who is a friend?

Looking in the dictionary is a good place to start. To find a friend it would be helpful to know the definition of what a friend is before you start looking. The dictionary defines *friend* as someone who is well-known to another person and each likes the other. Somehow that definition doesn't capture all the meaning of friendship, but it is a good place to start.



The Bible describes the friendship between David and Jonathan. The friendship was based on a brotherly love for each other. Jonathan wanted the best for his friend, David. David felt the same way for his friend. David's friend was the son of the king—Saul. This meant that when his father died, Jonathan would become the next king. But Jonathan knew that God was not pleased with his father and was going to make David king of Israel. He was truly happy for David. That is a big part of friendship—learning to put the interests of your friend ahead of your own.

Some people have said that a friend is a person who can be told secrets and won't tell anyone. A friend is a person you like to spend time with. A friend is someone who will stick by you even when times are rough. Everyone needs a companion like that! Where can the person just described be found?

Week 2—A Friend Like Jesus

The religious leaders in Jesus' day said He was a friend to sinners (Matthew 11:19; Luke 7:34). No matter what adjectives are used to describe a friend, Jesus is the perfect example. There has never been a more faithful person or one who cares more than He does. He loves us so much that He gave His life so we could have eternal life and live in heaven with Him.

As you go about with your friends, remember they won't be like Jesus. We're not perfect, so don't expect them to be either. It has been said that being a friend is never having to say you are sorry. Well that is not quite true. You will have to apologize if you want to be a friend. You can hurt each other's feelings accidentally or on purpose, but when you do, the action to take is to ask for forgiveness.

It is not a sign of weakness to admit that you are wrong! On the contrary, it shows that you are strong and realize that anyone can be wrong. It is so much easier to be able to admit that you don't know everything there is to know. When you are around your friends, they like you for who you are not for who you say you are. If they are only interested in someone that talks big and makes up stories about himself, then they are not really interested in being your friend.

Jesus loves you for the person that you are. He knows you better than anyone could. This is what

makes Him our best friend, because He knows how bad we can be, and He still loves us! He loves us so much that He died for us while we were still sinners. Have you met Him yet?

Week 3—The Cost of Friendship

No one can ever put a price on friendship, though some have tried to buy their friends with expensive gifts. In this week's lesson we are going to study what the responsibilities are if you are going to have friends. There is nothing that is worth doing that does not require work, even keeping up a friendship. It takes effort on both parts. Below are just a few of the responsibilities of friendship.

1. Friends won't let friends take drugs, alcohol, or cigarettes, because they hurt your body. Friendship is supposed to last a lifetime, but a life could be cut short using these things.
2. You will always tell the truth to your friend even when it may not be pleasant.
3. Loyalty is important in a friendship. Stick with your friends in the fun times as well as the hard times.
4. Respect one another.
5. Tell other friends about your best friend—Jesus.
6. Do what is right in the sight of God.

Let's Review:

Friendship is something that takes work, it does not just happen. If you are going to have friends, you must be the type of person that people will want to be around. They don't need to like you for what you can do for them or what you are, but rather who you are. There are some responsibilities that will help to maintain your friendship. Make sure that your friends have the same values that you have. If they want you to do something that you know is wrong, stand up for yourself, even if it means that they make fun of you. It is more important that they know you believe in something rather than you falling into something.

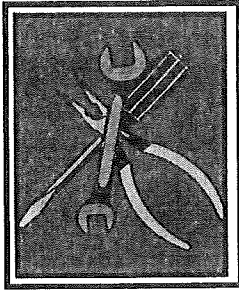
Achievement Activities:

1. Think about some ways you can be friendly.
2. Make a list of your friends.
3. Look for someone who does not have any friends and find a way to become their friend.



4. Pray for everyone on your friend list.
5. Have you witnessed to everyone on the above list? If not, do so.

Home Improvement Badge



Achievement Theme: In today's busy society, everyone needs to help out around the house.

Lesson Objective: To explore various reasons why performing chores at home is good for you

Achievement Badge Requirements:

1. List three chores you will do around the house.
2. Do the chores 4 days a week for 3 weeks.
3. Give an oral report to the outpost group on the chores that you have done and what it meant for you to complete this task.

Commander's Note: This lesson can be photocopied and given to the boys to do on their own. If you have boys in your outpost with reading disabilities, please feel free to read it to them.

Definition:

Chore: The regular light work of a household.

Introduction: "Ah, Mom, do I have to do the dishes tonight? Can't you get Billy to do them?" Sound familiar to you? Everyone that has specific chores to do has probably thought it or maybe even said it a few times. If you are one of those boys who thought taking out the garbage was a waste of your valuable time, then after this week's study you will know the value of chores.

Week 1—What Can Be Learned From Chores?

In every home, apartment, or mobile home in America there are chores to be done. One might think that doing chores only takes place on the farm, but that is not the case. Every mom or dad has little jobs that need to be handled that help out the entire family. Taking out the trash, washing dishes,

and feeding the pets are all examples of chores.

Isn't taking out the trash or doing the dishes a job for an adult? No! Kids have gotten the idea from television that all they have to do is eat, sleep, go to school, and play! The parents are supposed to do all of the work around the house without the kids helping. As busy as parents are when both work, they could sure use some help around the house to handle the little tasks that need to be done. You will never know how much it will be appreciated if you pitch in and work at home. Parents get tired just as much as kids do. They would love to sit in front of the television while someone else made dinner. Mom would be ever so grateful if there were another person who got up in the middle of the night when you are sick to care for you instead of having to give up sleep and having to go to work the next day. It would be wonderful if there was a machine that took the dirty clothes from the basket, washed, dried, folded, and put them back in the dresser. Unfortunately there is no machine like that.

What force in the universe enables all these unpleasant tasks to be done without complaining? Love! When you love someone, you don't mind going out of your own way to help. It is natural for people who care for each other to want to help them out, even to help them out before they ask for it, which requires a lot of love. What a blessing it is to have children who want to help their parent or guardian and not ask for anything in return. There are some people who get part of their allowance each week for doing chores. That's a great way to earn some extra spending money. In addition to doing chores for pay, it is much better to do them because you know that your mom or dad works really hard to take care of you and to provide a place to live with good food to eat. By helping them out you are saying thank you for the things that they have done. Everyone needs to hear thank you once in a while.

It may seem hard to believe, but doing chores is a learning experience. There is a biblical principle about being faithful over small tasks and being rewarded by being able to handle big responsibilities. You won't get the chance to do big jobs before you can demonstrate that you can be faithful over the small things in life. Even though the task may seem small and interfere with something you watch on television, use it as a learning experience. Say to yourself, *I may not like what I am doing right now,*



but it is going to make me a better person for doing it. Below is a list of the ways that you can learn to be a better person from doing household chores.

1. Learn responsibility by completing a routine or unpleasant task. You may have to do something when you get older that is boring or unpleasant. Finishing a task and doing it the right way will teach responsibility.
2. Learn discipline by doing what your parents tell you. Someday you will have a boss who will tell you what to do. This shows that you know how to submit to authority.
3. Help out your parents because they have done so much for you. They have done countless things for you, and this is one small way to say thank you.
4. Learn how to do various jobs—like doing dishes—so that when you are on your own, you can care for yourself.
5. Chores can get a family working together as a team; everyone contributes to the family by their work. By having a job to do, each member of the family helps out and lightens the work load of someone else. The old adage is true: “Many hands make light work.”

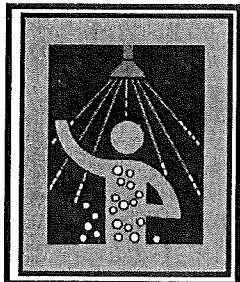
Let's Review:

1. Regular, light work around the house is a _____.
2. _____ can be learned by doing chores.
3. True or False: Some kids believe that all they have to do is eat, sleep, go to school, and play.

Achievement Activities:

1. Talk with a grandparent about the kinds of chores that they had to do as a child.
2. Volunteer to help out your parents by doing an additional week of chores without their asking.

Hygiene Badge



Achievement Theme: A Royal Ranger should be clean in body, in mind, and in speech.

Lesson Objective: To learn that taking care of your body is important to maintain good health

Achievement Badge Requirements:

1. List four ways you can maintain good hygiene.
2. Perform the tasks you have listed for 3 weeks.
3. Talk with two people, other than Rangers, about why we should keep our bodies and minds healthy.
4. Give an oral report on the importance of good hygiene.

Commander's Note: This lesson can be photocopied and given to the boys to do on their own. If you have boys in your outpost with reading disabilities, please feel free to read it to them.

Definitions:

Hygiene: A set of rules that you should follow to be healthy.

Germs: A microscopic organism that can cause disease.

Introduction: For the next 3 weeks we are going to study about some ways that you can keep your body in tip-top shape. You will learn that there are things that only you can do to keep your body healthy. It is going to require work on your part, but it will also be fun. By the end of this study you will be able to share the facts that you have learned with a friend, a parent, or a neighbor. Let's begin by looking at some simple things that can be done to help our bodies.

The Royal Ranger Code states that a Royal Ranger should be clean in body, mind, and speech. Each week we are going to review the rules that will help you live by this important point of the code. Time will be spent looking into how you can stay healthy and practicing what you have learned. Now that you know this, you are ready to begin your hygiene adventure!

Week 1—Clean in Body

Every day we come in contact with lots of people, and what's more interesting is that we come across millions of germs! A germ is a tiny living creature that can make us very sick if we are not careful. They live in the air we breathe and the water we drink. They even live in the park where we play. Germs are everywhere!

What can you do to protect yourself? No, there isn't anything in your closet that will protect you from them. No superhero will save you with his

megablaster either. Don't worry though, there are some things that you can do that will help you stay healthy and keep the germs from causing you to become ill.

RULE 1: Water is not just for drinking.

Water is the perfect thirst quencher and ammunition for your squirt gun. The same thing that helps you to have fun and to stay cool can help you to stay healthy. It must be good for you or else God would not have made so much of it. Did you know that 90 percent of our bodies are made up of water, and 70 percent of our planet is covered by water?

Water is an important tool in fighting the millions of germs we come in contact with. Every time you take a shower or bath, you reduce the number of harmful germs that try to invade your body. If you just used water to get clean, it would be a start, but by using a deodorant soap, you increase the benefits of bathing. Don't forget to wash your hair. Any shampoo will do.

A boy your age should take a shower or bath every other day. You are getting older and you need to keep clean. Bathing will help take care of body odor. By keeping yourself clean, you are helping to stay healthy.

RULE 2: Take care of your teeth.

It is easy to forget about your teeth. They are in your mouth, and they help you chew food, but they are often ignored until you get a cavity—ouch! Then it is a trip to the dentist and the drill! But all of this can be avoided if you will just remember to brush your teeth every day.

Before you go outside to play or off to school, stop in your bathroom and brush your teeth. By your brushing them every day they will last longer. Brushing cleans your teeth and removes the food and chemicals that, if left alone, would cause cavities. Your teeth were meant to last a lifetime, and by brushing regularly, they will.

RULE 3: Eat the right foods.

Food is like the gas that goes into your mom's car. It is what the engine uses to run. Well, food is the fuel that your body uses to take you to school and play baseball or ride your bike. If your body

doesn't get the right kind of food, it won't be able to work properly. There are some foods that taste good but are not good for your body if you eat a lot of them every day. Some people, namely your parents, grandparents, or guardians, call them junk food.

Junk food looks like other kinds of food, but when it gets into your body, it doesn't really give you the kind of fuel that your body needs to stay healthy. If you eat too much of this kind of food, your body won't be able to fight off colds or the flu.

It is necessary to eat a balanced diet. That means to eat food from the four basic food groups. The four food groups are 1) breads and cereals, 2) meat and fish, 3) fruits and vegetables, and 4) milk and cheese. If you eat some food from each of these groups, your body will have the energy to grow healthy and strong.

RULE 4: Exercise does a body good.

You do not have to be the world's greatest athlete to keep your body in shape. But it is a good idea to do some physical activity to get your heart pumping. Walking into the kitchen and checking out the refrigerator does not count! Some doctors recommend that you exercise three times a week. This could be running or playing catch with a friend. Swimming is not only fun, but it is good for your heart. If there isn't a pool in your neighborhood, then try riding your bike in the park. Just riding your bike for 20 minutes will help your body to become strong.

Your heart is a muscle, and like all the muscles in your body it needs exercise to keep it in shape. If you sit and watch TV or play video games all afternoon, you will find that your muscles won't work well. When you try to run they will become sore.

Make time to stay in shape. If your school has a sports program, try out for one of the teams. Besides its being good for you, it will help your team. Everyone benefits when we work together.

RULE 5: Sleep is good too.

It always seems too early to go to bed. You are in the middle of something that you want to finish. Before you realize it, your mom or dad is telling you to hit the hay! Sleep is such a waste of time, you tell your mom! For something that is such a waste



of time, we sure do spend a large part of our lives doing it. Researchers say we sleep almost 25 percent of our lifetime. God made us to sleep part of our lives for a very good reason.

Our bodies need to be refreshed and energized, and this is done at night. When we sleep, our bodies take it easy. Muscles, including our hearts, relax so that when morning comes they are ready to go out and play. Getting plenty of rest also helps our bodies fight off the colds and flu that come around each winter.

You should get at least 8 hours of sleep each night so you can be your best all day long. So turn off the television, put the games away, and get ready for bed. Do it for your body's sake!

Let's Review:

1. Keep your body clean by showering or bathing every other day.
2. Brush your teeth every day to keep them clean and your breath fresh.
3. Eat foods from the four food groups. Remember they form the fuel your body uses.
4. Keep your heart muscle strong by exercising every week.
5. Getting plenty of rest will help your body stay alert and strong.

Achievement Activities:

1. Have each boy list the foods that he eats each day. Group the different foods into the four basic food groups.
2. Do some warm-up exercises for 15 minutes.
3. Give out toothbrushes and tubes of toothpaste. These can be obtained from a local dentist. They are usually complimentary.

Week 2—Clean in Mind

Definition:

Computer: An electrical machine that can perform mathematical calculations, store information, and retrieve it when requested.

Introduction: Just as it is important to learn the various things that we can do to keep our bodies in good health, there are some steps that help to keep our minds healthy too. Your mind must be exercised in the same way that you exercise your body. There

are some rules that will help you to be alert. This week we will explore the guidelines that promote a healthy brain.

World's Greatest Computer

Long before man invented the personal computer, God created one. This one that God made far exceeded anything that man could ever dream up. Yes, I am talking about the computer between your ears, your mind. Your brain is the most sophisticated computer on the planet and, sadly, we treat it like a lump of clay instead of a very complex piece of machinery. Some people take drugs, drink alcohol, or don't eat right, and these things can damage your very special computer.

Comparing your mind to a computer is a good way to think about your brain. Like a computer, it takes information into its memory and gives back information that is stored in it. Whatever you program into a computer it will be there until you retrieve it. Your brain is similar to that. It takes in information and processes it and out come words, actions, and thoughts. What you program into your computer will determine what comes out of your mouth and what you do.

Your mind is busy all of the time. It keeps your body functioning even when you are asleep. It makes sure that you breathe so that you don't have to stay awake and remember to do it. So many tasks are taken care of for you without your even knowing that it is happening. But like everything else, it too needs attention to be sure that it will function properly. The following list will help to keep your mind clean and healthy.

RULE 1: Read your Bible every day.

By reading God's Word, you will be putting good things into your "computer." The more you fill up your mind with the things of God, the more they will come out in what you say and do. The Bible is full of information that you can use to live the life that God wants you to live.

RULE 2: Listen to good music.

Did you ever wonder why it is so easy to remember the words to a television commercial? Have you noticed that lots of commercials have catchy jin-



gles? Well the advertisers know that if they use the right kind of music, it will attract your attention and possibly get you to buy their product. Music is very important to your mental health. There are lots of different styles from country to rock and roll.

As a believer, music can help to inspire, uplift, and encourage. It would not be possible to tell everyone what kind of music to listen to, but a good suggestion would be to find a radio station that plays Christian music. This kind of music has the words that would be good to dwell on. There are as many tastes in music as there are people, but what should help you to choose is listening to what the words say. "But I don't listen to the words, I like the beat." You hear a lot more than you think. You may not remember hearing the words but your subconscious ear heard it all, and when you least expect it, the words may be replayed.

RULE 3: Be careful about what you let your eyes see.

Most of the information that your brain receives comes from your eyes. That is why it is important that you do not let your eyes see things that would not be pleasing to the Lord. That means do not look at the adult magazines at the corner store or sneak a peak at the one that your older brother has hidden in his room. All these magazines do is fill your mind with the wrong kind of ideas.

Satan has made those things attractive, but he doesn't tell you that they can destroy your life. Be careful what you let your eyes see.

RULE 4: Reading is good exercise.

How do you exercise your brain? The answer, my friend, is by reading! The more you read the stronger your brain becomes. Your mind is expanded by all of the information that comes from books. Reading helps to keep your brain sharp.

What if you do not have any books at home? Go to your local library and ask them if you can check one out. The library has thousands of books on lots of topics. There is one there that will interest you. The neat thing is that there are people waiting to help you select the book that is right for you.

Lets Review:

1. Read your Bible every day.

2. Listen to good music.
3. Be careful about the things that you look at.
4. Read; it is good exercise for your mind.

Achievement Activities:

1. Ask your commander to help you find a good music station.
2. Borrow some Christian music tapes and listen to them.
3. Begin to read your Bible every day.
4. Call a friend on the phone, go outside and play, or join a team at school instead of watching television this week.

Week 3—Clean in Speech

Definition:

Profanity: Violating or treating something or someone with irreverence, abuse, or contempt; to desecrate.

Introduction: I once knew a man who could barely talk without using a bad word. He would curse the chair if he tripped over it. Sometimes he would even use the name of God in vain. It was really sad that he did not know enough words that he had to use the same bad ones over and over. Every time he spoke, I imagined a garbage can overflowing with trash. The English language has over 500,000 words; one would think that he could use ones other than profanity.

In this week's study we are going to look at some things you can do to keep from having a garbage mouth. God is not pleased when we use those kinds of words. The Bible says that out the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks. In other words, whatever your heart is filled with, that is going to come out of your mouth.

What if you talked like that before you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior? Well there is hope for you. Follow the rules for this lesson, and you won't talk like a garbage mouth.

RULE 1: Ask God daily to help you.

The first step in getting help is understanding that there is a problem. You have to admit that you have trouble with using bad language. Each day ask God to help you not to use words that are not pleas-



ing to Him. You will be amazed that He will clean up your speech.

RULE 2: Think before you speak.

All too often we say things without even considering what we are speaking about. The words come out so fast that there is hardly time to stop them. The Bible talks about mouths and says that even though the tongue is a small member of the body, it is very difficult to control. The only way to stop yourself from cursing is to slow down and think about what you are talking about.

RULE 3: Just walk away.

When your friends are together and they use this kind of language, what do you do? Does it bother you to hear profanity? By staying and listening you are telling your friends that you support what they are saying. Walk away! That is a way you can let them know that you do not approve of their conversation. It will take some courage on your part. Remember the Code says, "A Royal Ranger is brave in spite of danger, criticism, or threats." Your "friends" might make fun of you, but if they are your friends, they will respect you for standing up for what is right.

Using bad language is a habit—a bad one. The less you are around it, the less likely you will be to pick up the habit. Find other Christian friends that you can associate with. They will uplift you, and you can encourage them.

Let's Review:

1. You cannot do it on your own. Ask God for help!
2. Think about what you are going to say before you open your mouth.
3. Don't hang out with kids who use profanity.

Leadership Badge



Achievement Theme: Good leadership comes from following a good leader—Jesus Christ.

Lesson Objective: To be courageous, courteous, and obedient—the key ingredients of a good leader

Achievement Badge Requirements:

1. Perform some leadership role in your outpost group for 4 weeks.
2. Give an oral report on the importance of leadership and how your role as a leader affected you and the others you led.

Commander's Note: This lesson can be photocopied and given to the boys to do on their own. If you have boys in your outpost with reading disabilities, please feel free to read it to them.

Introduction: What makes a person a great leader? Is it the authority that they have? Did they receive this ability to lead when they were born? Have they gone to leader school to learn the details of good leadership? Well to answer the questions, it is yes, a little of everything. The ability of leadership is something that people are born with and others develop it more as they grow. Some go to schools or seminars that improve their skills. So it is something that you have that can be improved by studying. Practice at leading is something everyone needs. In the next 4 weeks you will have a chance to experience true leadership. Now that you are an outpost group leader, take advantage of this on-the-job training. As you study this lesson, see how you can apply the concepts to your outpost.

Week 1—Qualifications of Leadership

The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians that there were different gifts of administration but one Lord. God gives us the abilities that we have, and even though we use them in diverse ways, they are still from Him. This is the first step in learning that leadership is an ability that comes from God and that we can be successful because God promised to help us. The Bible states that God will equip or give us talent to complete a task. To equip means to give the knowledge necessary to carry out a specific task. You may be thinking, *How can I do this job?* Please remember that God will give you the strength you need to be successful as long as you trust Him. In the Book of Philippians, Paul said, "I can do everything through him [Christ] who gives me strength" (4:13).

Just because you have a position doesn't mean you are a leader. There are people who have a position but do not have a clue about the qualifications



of leadership. In this lesson we are going to look at some of the basics. You may have heard these before, but their review will be good for you now that you are in a position of leadership.

Labor: A good leader is not afraid of hard work. When it is time to set up camp he is the first one to unload the equipment. He is always willing to do the things that he expects of his group.

Enthusiasm: A good leader gets excited about the things that the outpost is doing. Enthusiasm is a lot like a cold. It is catchy if you stay around it long enough. You will find that the others will become excited about the activities that you are enthusiastic about.

Action: A good leader is not content to sit on the sidelines. He wants to be involved where the action is taking place. He is not willing to supervise from a distance. He wants to be in the middle of the action.

Determination: A good leader will keep working at a job until it is finished. Sometimes that takes a lot of courage because there are times when the job may be difficult. Remember, Christ promised to help you do all things if you will trust Him.

Education: A good leader continues to study to improve himself. This means that he stays in school when it might be easier to quit. He realizes that learning goes on for a lifetime and there are always things to learn. He must continually search for better ways to accomplish his goals.

Resourceful: A good leader will always look for ways to improve his outpost. He won't be afraid to share those ideas with a superior.

Self-Confidence: A good leader knows that he can do the job and has confidence in himself.

Humility: A good leader recognizes that even though he has the ability to perform the job, he must rely on God's help. It is His help and guidance that makes our efforts successful.

Ideas: A good leader will look for new ideas that will help to keep the meetings fun, exciting, and challenging.

Prayer: A good leader will take time to pray for his group and ask God to help in all of his activities.

Week 2—Responsibilities of Leadership

Every job no matter how important or insignificant, comes with responsibilities. These tasks must

be completed in order to be successful. There are times when people only want to hear about the privileges that come with the job and ignore the requirements. In leadership there are certain requirements that if they are observed you will be considered a good leader by those you lead.

1. *An Example:* Don't tell those that you lead to obey if you break the rules. They will follow your example before they listen to what you tell them. There is a cliché that says, "What you are doing speaks so loud that I cannot hear what you are saying!" The other boys in your outpost will watch you to be sure that you are doing exactly what you are telling them to do.

2. *Follow Directions:* Even though you are in a leadership position there are still commanders that you are accountable to. The best way that you can get your group to obey you is to obey the leaders that are over you. Remember the Royal Ranger Code states that a Royal Ranger is obedient to parents, leaders, and those in authority. Notice that leaders are not exempt from this. It is important that you obey those in authority.

3. *Stating Position:* Give your position 100 percent. You will find the harder you work the more successful you will be. A famous actor once said, "There are no small parts, just small actors." He was stating that the part is what you make it. This is true for you. If you are the outpost attendance taker, then be the best and work the hardest. As you show that you can be responsible, even in small things, you will be given greater tasks to do. You must work hard before getting the rewards. The Bible tells us that it is required of stewards (workers) that they be faithful.

4. *No Advantage:* Don't take advantage of the people in your command. It is easy to let your new position go to your head. Because you are the assistant to the outpost commander, you have arrived, and you get to tell others what to do. If you believe this, then you are doomed to failure. Understand that as a leader you become the servant of those you lead. This does not mean that you are a doormat to be walked on, but that you are there to help them. Keep your focus that you are there to help the other boys and leaders. Leadership is not about wearing a new patch on your uniform, rather it's helping to reach, teach, and keep boys for Christ.



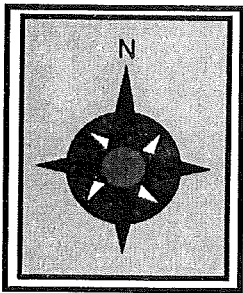
Let's Review:

1. Some are born with the ability to lead, and others learn the ability as they grow older. God gave us the abilities we have and expects us to use them.
2. Think about the word *leadership* from Week 1. Each of the words that make up the word will help you to remember the ingredients of a good leader.
3. People will watch you more than they will listen to what you say. Therefore, be an example.
4. Follow directions. Those you lead will follow your example.
5. Remember that your position is one of service, not one to be served.

Achievement Activities:

1. Think about the position that you have. What duties are required? How did your friends act toward you when you received this job? Did they treat you the same? If they treated you differently, who changed?
2. Take your thoughts and put them down on paper, and be prepared to share them in an oral report that you will present to your outpost commander.

Map Orientation Badge



Achievement Theme:

Learning to read a map will help you find your way when you are in a new town.

Achievement Objective: To find the important information contained on a map

Achievement Badge Requirements:

Map Orientation: 1. Draw a map—using proper map codes—from your home to the outpost, from your home to the nearest police station, and from your house to the nearest hospital or emergency clinic. 2. Show how to read a city or state map. 3. Explain to your outpost group how to find directions using a map.

Definitions:

Legend: The place on a map where the map maker explains what the symbols mean and shows the

scale of the map.

Reference Point: As you draw a map, these are the points that help the person locate where he is in reference to the map.

Introduction: A map is a handy invention. It contains information that will help you find where you are going if you are lost or help you locate roads and primary locations, such as airports. Maps come in all sizes and shapes. Explaining how to get to Dallas, Texas, would be difficult without the aid of a map. Reading a map requires a skill. Having a detailed map will do you no good if you cannot read it. Just as a book is read beginning with page one, a map is read a certain way. Knowing the methods of reading a map will help you get all of the information out of it. In this lesson you will learn basic and important information about how to read a map.

Week 1—Get To Know a Map

The first step to reading a map is to find the orientation marker. In one corner of the map should be an arrow pointing to north—"N." This letter represents the cardinal direction north. This is important information you should remember. What you will do next is orient or match the map's north arrow with the direction north. Take your map and face north. Once you have done this, your map now matches the direction and is aligned with your location. If you do not know your directions, take your compass out and watch the orienting arrow. Set the direction of travel arrow to face the north on your compass. Hold the compass steady and turn until the orienting arrow and the direction of travel arrow match. Now you are facing north. Looking at your compass you will also be able to determine the directions east, south, and west. Knowing the directions will help you find locations on the map and make it possible for you to use the map.

Week 2—Making a Map

Items Needed: Paper, 8½ inches by 11 inches; a pencil with an eraser

When drawing a map to show how to get someplace, such as your house, there are two important points to remember. First, clearly label where you



are starting and ending. Second, give enough information about how to get to your house, church, or police station—but not so many directions the person reading the map becomes confused. As a general rule make your map detailed enough so that a person who does not know his or her way around town can find your house.

Should distances be to scale? In most cases the answer would be no. The main purpose of a hand-made map is to show the direction to travel and the names of the streets to take. If someone wants to know the distance, they could refer to a street map of your city.

Before you begin to draw your map, think about how much room you will need on the paper to show your home, outpost, and nearest police station and hospital. Always leave enough room so you can show the street distances accurately.

To begin place a symbol on the paper to represent your home. This is called the reference point. The symbol could be an “X” or a box with your address written beside it. Then draw lines representing the streets that travel from your house to your outpost. Now draw lines for streets that go from your house to the nearest hospital and the nearest police station. After finishing write any addresses you may need, such as your address and the hospital and police station.

The final step is to make a map legend. This can be done by drawing each of the symbols you used—one for your house, one for the police station, one for the hospital, and one for the outpost—and writing the descriptions by the appropriate symbols. Do not forget to mark the map with “N” for north, so a person can orient the map and use it.

Let's Review:

1. Before you try to use a map, become familiar with the features of the map. Locate the map legend, map orientation marker, and city or street name index.
2. Orienting the map means to take the map and match the north arrow with the direction north—usually indicated by the letter N. By doing this you will be able to find your way.
3. Do not be too complex with instructions when drawing your map. If there are too many reference points, people can become confused.

Achievement Activities:

1. Go to your local library and research map mak-

ing. Answer these questions: Who invented the map? How has it changed over the years?

2. Become familiar with how to use an atlas.
3. Secure a copy of your city bus or train routes. Compare the maps with a map of your community. Locate the stops of the city buses.

Nature Badge

Achievement Theme: The beauty and variety in nature show us that we serve an awesome God.



Achievement Objective: To understand the importance of our dependence on wildlife and plants

Achievement Badge Requirements:

1. Draw and identify five plants.
2. Draw and identify five animals or five animal tracks.
3. Go on a hike or camp-out and collect a leaf, rock, or other such item of nature.
4. Give an oral report on the importance of trees and wildlife, and display the items you collected during your outing.

Commander's Note: This lesson can be photocopied and given to the boys to do on their own. If you have boys in your outpost with reading disabilities, please feel free to read it to them.

Introduction: It may seem hard to believe that the Amazon rain forest in South America impacts our lives on a daily basis. You may never have heard about it and may not know where it is located. Another animal was put on the endangered species list—so what? Living in the city may make it more difficult to relate to your environment. Is nature a part of your life? Yes it is! During this study you will have an opportunity to go out and look at living things up close. It will be exciting to see the wonders of God's creation firsthand.



Week 1—Animals and Bushes: Who Cares?

With every breath that you take you should be thankful for plants and trees. Every animal, whether human or not, interacts with the environment and has an effect on it. When we breathe, our bodies take in oxygen, and we exhale carbon dioxide. Plants use the carbon dioxide and give off oxygen. If they did not do their part we would die. We depend on plants and forests not only for the lumber and food they produce, but for the oxygen that they give off. Seldom do we think about this important function.

Every day miles of forests are cleared to build homes or gather wood to make lumber for buildings. Animals lose their homes and the environment is changed. These changes go unnoticed by us, but eventually we will ask ourselves, *Where are all of the animals that used to live in the woods?* It doesn't seem to impact us directly, but the environment is changed and everyone must make some change to survive. The animals may go away to find homes or food. Plants may not grow because soil has changed. Without the plants the soil erodes because there are no plant roots to hold the water in the soil. It is a cycle that ultimately affects humankind.

Some of the changes are due to things that we do. For example, because factories put pollution into the air, the rain that falls is contaminated with chemicals, which in turn kills plants and trees. The effects of pollution can be as great as a new housing development. We need clean air to breathe, so it is up to us to make sure our environment is one which both human and animal can live in together.

To complete the achievement badge requirements, you will need to go on an expedition into the wild. Your assignment will be to draw and identify five plants and animals or their tracks. A good resource book to help you with this assignment is the *Golden Guide of Plants* and the *Golden Guide of Animals*. These books display a picture of the animal or plant with the location the plant normally grows or the habitat in which the animal lives. You could use them to draw from. These books and others like them contain lots of information about various kinds of wildlife. Also, the National Audubon Society publishes a series of field books that you can use when you are hiking. They have color photographs and pictures that will help you identify the wildlife that you find.

Week 2—Animals and Plants Do Live in the City.

You do not have to go to the woods just to see animals. Even in the city you can find different kinds of animals. Walk around your neighborhood and see what is growing and living around you. Our cities and towns are home to lots of animals, such as various types of birds, squirrels, raccoons. Some of you may only see them at night, or you may see their tracks. You will have to be observant to catch city-dwelling animals interacting with their environment.

When you go out on your hike or camp-out, take a pad of paper and a pencil so you can draw what you see. Use the identification books to get details of animals that you see, and the proper colors.

Included for your reference are some sample nature study sheets as well as an activity book. They will help you to explore nature around you.

Let's Review:

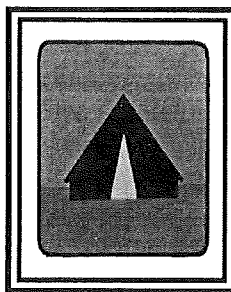
1. Plants are important because they give off the oxygen that we breathe.
2. Our environment is made up of wildlife and plants. What we do affects them.
3. Pollution is something that our factories produce and harms the environment. Even though it may not affect us immediately, it affects animals and plants, and ultimately we suffer.

Achievement Activities:

1. Research at your local library the animals on the endangered species list.
2. Make a poster depicting ways we can protect our environment.
3. Do one lesson from the *Crack in the Sidewalk* activity book.

Outing Badge

Achievement Theme:



Visiting the outdoors allows for the opportunity for Rangers to see God's creation up close.

Lesson Objective: To learn to bring the correct equipment in order to have fun when camping out



Achievement Badge Requirements:

1. Go on two overnight camp-outs or outings with your Royal Rangers group.
2. Give an oral report on your trips, and display something you collected from each camp-out or outing.

Commander's Note: This lesson can be photocopied and given to the boys to do on their own. If you have boys in your outpost with reading disabilities, please feel free to read it to them.

Introduction: Camping is a lot of fun if you have the right equipment. The Royal Rangers Motto states, "A Royal Ranger is ready—ready for anything. Ready to work, play, serve, obey, worship, live, etc." Camping plays an important part of the Royal Rangers ministry. Johnnie Barnes, the founder of Royal Rangers, said, "Camping provides an opportunity for fellowship with other boys, association with men, physical activity, and adventure. Under properly trained leadership camping can be used to help develop boys into dedicated Christian men." It is with this thought in mind that we will study about preparing for an outing or camp-out.

Week 1—Stop and Think

Before you leave home on a trip, spend some time planning what to take. This time will be well-rewarded if you arrive at the camp-out prepared for any situation. The planning that is being referred to is not something that you do in the afternoon 2 hours before you board the bus. To do this properly, a period of time not less than a week ahead of the trip should be set aside to gather your equipment. With a week's lead time you will be able to check your equipment to be sure that it still works, get batteries for your flashlight, or get any supplies that you might need. How will you know what equipment to bring?

As your commander talks about the trip, he will give you a permission slip and an equipment checklist. These two pieces of paper are very important. Take extreme care not to lose them. The permission slip is similar to an airplane ticket. To get on a plane you must have paid for a ticket. In the same way your permission slip is your ticket to go on the trip. A signed permission slip notifies your commander

that your parents or guardians know where you are going, when you will leave and return, and that you have their permission to go. (See sample permission slip at the end of this book.)

The second piece of paper—equipment checklist—will give you the information about what kind of equipment you should pack in your duffel bag. It is called a checklist because as you get the items out of your closet or dresser, you should check them off of the list. This way you won't forget anything. There is nothing worse than arriving at your destination and the one thing that you need was left on your bed. If you don't have some piece of equipment, circle it on the list. Ask a friend if you can borrow it. Your commander might have an idea of something to substitute for it. Your destination and the length of time that you will be gone will determine the type and amount of equipment to bring.

If your outing is to the local museum or air force base, then the amount of things needed will be small. It may be that all you need to bring is a jacket, camera, and spending money. On this kind of trip, some of the factors that will affect your choosing of equipment would be weather—hot or cold, sunshine or rain; lunch—are we eating at a fast food place or bringing our own; dress—are we to dress casually with comfortable shoes or wear a Royal Rangers uniform; and what optional items should be brought, such as a cameras and sunglasses. So a checklist can contain just three items.

This list will be quite a bit different if your outpost is going on a camp-out to the local forest preserve. Here the factors affecting your choice of equipment would be: length of the trip, weather, terrain, do you need boots. Take your list and preview the items that are listed. Begin to gather the materials that are on the checklist. When you get an item, put a check mark beside it on the list. Don't put it in your backpack just yet. All that you are doing now is a first check. You are gathering the equipment into one place. Once you have gone through the entire list, begin to inspect the equipment to be sure that everything works and is in good condition. Circle any item that is missing or needs repair. You will need to deal with these separately.

Now that your first check is complete, it is time to do the final check. As you check off the item, put it in your duffel bag, backpack, or suitcase. There is



a method to packing so that you can get all of your equipment into your pack. As a general rule, pack the things that you will need first at the top of your duffel. In this way you won't have to dig through your stuff to get to what you need. Make sure that any sharp objects are properly covered with a sheath. Remember, if you take medication each day, bring it along with you in the bottle that it was prescribed in. Give it to your commander to keep in a secure place. Bring a note from your parent or guardian outlining how it is to be administered and the time. When everything is double-checked and packed, you're ready to go. Before you close the bag, slip the checklist inside; it will serve as an inventory.

On the last page of this achievement badge there is a sample checklist for an overnight camp-out. Look at the types of things that have been included. Use it as a pattern when you receive your checklist.

Week 2—Collecting Things

One of the requirements of this achievement badge is to gather something from each of your trips. Here is some advice that you may find helpful. As you travel, keep these guidelines in mind so that you won't have any problems.

1. Don't bring home any live animals no matter how small or cute. They are wild and belong in the wild.
2. Make sure you know the kind of plant you are touching before it's picked. Some are protected by law, and you can be fined by the park ranger. Also, there are poisonous plants that can make you sick if you touch them. Check with your commander first.
3. If you see Indian pottery or arrowheads, ask your commander if it is okay to gather them. In some parks it is illegal to gather these things.
4. Be careful as you move rocks, some animals such as snakes make their homes under them. They may not appreciate being disturbed.
5. Look for something unusual that will remind you about your trip. Remember you have limited space, so whatever you choose has to fit into your duffel bag.

Let's Review:

1. Start packing for your trip at least 1 week before so that you can make sure you have everything you need.

2. The checklist is used to help you determine the items you should bring.
3. Double-check each item on the list.
4. Use common sense as you collect things.

Achievement Activities:

1. Read about the plants, animals, and rocks in your area so you can be familiar with them when you see them in nature.
2. Do some research about the different backpacks. What are the advantages or disadvantages of each one?
3. Help a friend pack for a trip using some of the things that you have learned about preparing for a camp-out.

Sample Equipment Checklist*

Clothing:

- 1 Class-B uniform
- Extra pants/shirt for a fresh change
- 1 pair of heavy shoes or boots for hiking
- 1 pair of tennis shoes for extra activities
- 2 pairs of heavy socks
- 1 poncho or raincoat with a hood
- Underclothing
- Jacket or coat, depending on the weather

Sleeping Gear:

- Sleeping bag or bedroll
- Air mattress or foam pad, if desired
- Pillow if desired

Personal Items:

- Wash kit (soap, shampoo, toothpaste & brush, comb, deodorant, etc.)
- Towel and washcloth
- Mess kit (plate, bowl, and cup)
- Silverware kit (fork, spoon, knife)
- Canteen
- Flashlight and batteries
- Pocketknife, well sharpened
- Pen and pencil
- Small Bible

Optional Items:

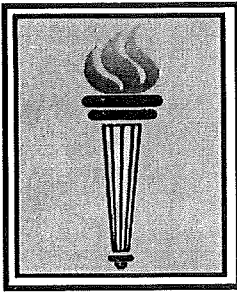
- Sunscreen lotion
- Sunglasses



- Insect repellent
- Folding plastic cup
- Camera
- First aid kit

**This is just a sample of a checklist. An actual list may be different, depending on the type of trip. Always refer to the checklist given by your outpost commander.*

Physical Education Badge



Achievement Theme: Our bodies are the temple of God (2 Corinthians 6:16).

Lesson Objective: To put into practice the exercises that will help our bodies to become fit

Achievement Badge Requirements:

1. List three exercises you will do for 4 days a week for 4 weeks.
2. Do the exercises you have listed during the number of days listed above. (The exercises can be done at school or at home, but they must be the type of exercises that you have listed.)
3. Give an oral report on the importance of physical fitness.

Commander's Note: This lesson can be photocopied and given to the boys to do on their own. If you have boys in your outpost with reading disabilities, please feel free to read it to them.

Introduction: There are two steps that must be taken to become physically fit. The first one we talked about in the Hygiene Badge section—eating foods from the four basic food groups. The other important step is exercise. One step will not work without the other. Their relationship is the same as that of an airplane with only one wing, it will just not fly. Over the next 4 weeks you will have a chance to start (maybe continue) an exercise program that will help to strengthen your muscles.

Week 1—Benefits of Exercise

Although the benefits of exercise are invisible, they are still important to your body's health. These benefits can be divided into three categories: strength, endurance, and agility. This week we will look at these areas and how exercise can help you.

Strength

As you begin to exercise you will begin to build muscle and use up the fat that your body stores from the food you eat. The muscle is the material that allows you to move. The more that you use it the stronger it gets. This means you will be able to throw a baseball farther and run faster. So you understand that if you don't exercise, your muscles will not become strong, and you will feel the effects.

Endurance

The word *endurance* means to be able to withstand hardship, difficulty, or stress. To an athlete, having a lot of endurance means not tiring quickly. You may be the best soccer player at the school, but if you can only run down the field two times, then you won't help the team very much.

By exercising you increase your body's ability to withstand hardship, difficulty, or stress. The more you build your muscles, and this includes your heart muscle too, the longer you will be able to play the game before you tire. Just because you exercise does not mean that you will never get tired again, but it will mean that your body will function more efficiently, and you will play a better game.

Agility

Working out regularly will improve your skill. In a short time your body will react more quickly and become more flexible so that you can evade an opposing player. Depending on the sport that you are participating in, you will find that after exercising you will have better ball control when you play soccer or increased speed as you sprint to steal second base!

Exercise alone will not make you a first-string player. You will need to practice with the team and listen to your coach. If you have a teachable spirit, you will be able to receive his instructions. In this same way, Christians must listen to our coach Jesus



Christ. He has the instructions that will help us to become the best Christians possible.

Week 2—Choosing Exercises

Personal preference and safety are the only guidelines that we can suggest. Select exercises that you like to do and ones that you can do without injuring yourself. There are only a few points to remember when working out.

1. Warm up first. This means doing some stretching to loosen up your muscles.
2. Never exercise 2 days in a row such as Monday and Tuesday. It is recommended that you exercise for 20 minutes 3 days a week.
3. Avoid working out before a game. You don't want to overwork your body.
4. Drink fluids such as Gatorade that return necessary vitamins to your body after a workout.
5. Watch out when you work out. Avoid exercising when you are tired.
6. Choose exercises that develop different parts of your body, for example, legs, arms, and chest.
7. If an exercise hurts, stop.
8. Always consult your doctor before you begin any exercise program.
9. Start out slow and work up to your desired number of exercises. For example, don't try to do 20 pull-ups on your first day. Start out with 5 and each time gradually add a few more.

J. Edgar Hoover, former chief of the Federal Bureau of Investigations, said, "Our statistics show that our courts, jails, and institutions have fewer contact with men and women who have been actively engaged during their youth with some form of sports."

Let's Review:

1. Strength, _____, and _____ are three benefits to a physical exercise program.
2. True or False: There are four steps to physical fitness.
3. True or False: It is recommended that you never exercise 2 days in a row.

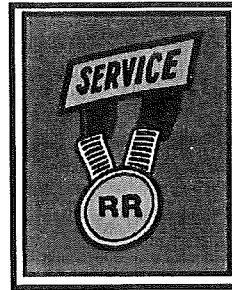
Achievement Activities:

1. Research the history of your favorite sport. How

did it start? Who invented it and where? In what ways has the game changed over the years?

2. Encourage one or two of your friends to join you while you exercise.

Public Service Badge



Achievement Theme:

Helping others is God's way of doing things—"Do to others as you would have them do to you."

Lesson Objective:

To learn more about involvement in the local community and setting a Christian example to those in the community.

Achievement Badge Requirements:

1. Talk with a policeman about what you can do to obey the law.
2. Do a community good deed, such as picking up trash in a city park.
3. Do a good deed for a neighbor.
4. Give an oral report on the importance of being a public servant.

Commander's Note: This lesson can be photocopied and given to the boys to do on their own. If you have boys in your outpost with reading disabilities, please feel free to read to them.

Week 1—"Laws of the Land"

The commander will arrange for a police officer and, if possible, a fireman to present an outpost meeting feature on the "Laws of the Land." The police officer should explain the importance of obeying the law and why laws were created: for order and protection. Likewise, the fireman should explain the importance of fire prevention within the city.

Week 2—Setting the Example

This week provides an opportunity for Royal Rangers to be an example of Christ to their community. Whether involving boys in trash pickup along a road or visiting the elderly at a senior citizens center



or visiting the sick at a hospital—the opportunities are numerous in ways Rangers can brandish (wear and display) their Royal Rangers T-shirts while doing a good deed in the community. This deed will show an example of Christian service, the Royal Rangers ministry, and Christ himself.

Week 3—Love Your Neighbor

In today's world many neighbors do not take the time to know their neighbors—much less, help a neighbor. The activities this week should direct Royal Rangers in tasks of helping their neighbors. For example, a Royal Ranger can learn who the elderly are in his neighborhood, then help that elderly person in a task such as washing his or her car, mowing the yard, or whatever needs arise. The neighbor may just need someone to talk with. Though such tasks may seem small, they may mean much to a neighbor in need. Besides, this provides an excellent opportunity for a Royal Ranger to display his Christian witness.

Week 4—A Servant's Heart

Did you know that one of the greatest responsibilities of a Christian is to be a servant to others? In John 13 Jesus, who is the King of all kings and the Lord of all lords, displayed His love and servanthood to His followers by washing their feet. Perhaps you may never wash a person's feet, but you can show servanthood—serving others, being of help to others—to people. This week Rangers should learn more about servanthood by practicing it. Begin by making a list of 10 ways a Royal Ranger can help others. Then look for ways to accomplish these goals. There are several ways we as Christians can help others!

Let's Review:

True or False: Jesus showed examples of kindness to others, but this is not a necessary behavior for Christians today.

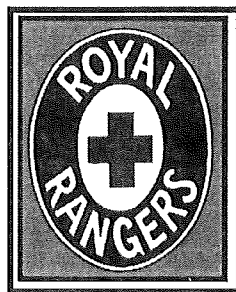
True or False: Elderly people living in senior citizen's home do not need visitors because they have family members to take care of them.

True or False: A Royal Ranger should take time to help others in need.

Achievement Activities:

1. Look for a book in the library on citizenship and read what it says about helping others.
2. Discuss with the outpost commander ways you can become a good citizen to your community and nation.
3. Be involved in an outpost group discussion on ways the outpost can serve the community in the days to come.

Safety Badge



Achievement Theme: Being calm in a crisis helps you to think clearly and may save lives.

Lesson Objective: To learn proper methods to report an emergency so that you can be ready for anything

Achievement Badge Requirements:

1. Show how to call the police, fire department, or ambulance using the emergency telephone number in your area.
2. Explain to your commander what to do if each one of the following were to happen: a fire, tornado, earthquake, robbery, physical abuse, or medical emergency.
3. Give an oral report on the importance of safety and how to prevent hazards.

Commander's Note: This lesson can be photocopied and given to the boys to do on their own. If you have boys in your outpost with reading disabilities, please feel free to read it to them.

Definitions:

Storm Watch: The weather conditions are right for the development of a storm.

Storm Warning: The weather conditions have developed into a severe storm, and people should take shelter immediately.

Introduction: Emergencies can be very frightening when you don't know what to do. Practice and



preparation can take some of the fear out of the unknown in an emergency. It's the unknown that makes an emergency situation scary. In this achievement badge you will study important steps in dealing with a crisis. Pay close attention to these guidelines; they will help you in a time of crisis.

Week 1—911, a Number To Know

Now in most areas there is a service provided where in an emergency you can get help. This service will send the police, fire department, or ambulance just by calling them on the phone.

The number that you are dialing puts you in contact with a central dispatch service that can send whatever kind of help you may need. Since they don't know what the emergency is, be specific so they can send the proper equipment and personnel. Their telephone number is not hard to remember because it is only three digits—911. The people who answer the phone are trained and ready to send help at a moment's notice. This is a serious number, so they don't have time for prank phone calls. Every minute they are on the phone with a false alarm may mean that they cannot send needed, life-saving help to someone else.

If there is some kind of emergency, all you have to do is call 911 and help will be on the way. When you call, a professional will answer the phone. Be prepared to give the following information:

1. What is the nature of the emergency?
2. What is your name?
3. What is your address?
4. What is the telephone number from where you are calling?
5. Stay on the phone line until the emergency worker arrives.

It is important for you to stay calm when you call. They understand that you are upset and under a lot of stress, but by losing control you may make it difficult for them to understand what you are saying and delay sending help to where you live.

What do I do if I live in a rural area and 911 is not in service yet? Good question! Go and look at your community's telephone directory. Open it to the inside cover. Here will be a list of important numbers for the police, fire, and ambulance. It is critical that you remain calm so that you can dial the

numbers accurately. It would be a good idea to copy these telephone numbers on a card and place them by the phone so that if there is an emergency you won't have to spend any extra time looking up the number in the directory. As a last resort, you can dial the operator—dial "0"—and tell them it's an emergency and to connect you to the authorities.

Week 2—Can One Really Prepare?

Some might pose the question, Can you really be ready for a severe storm or emergency?

To be truthful, no one can be completely ready for what might happen to them. In order to meet the challenge you would have to know about it ahead of time. Only God has the ability to know the future. So the best that we can hope for is to trust God that He will take care of us, and we can prepare a little better instead of doing nothing at all. If you do only a little preparation, you may still save your life and those of your family. Below are some disasters and general precautions to follow.

Fire: It is hard to comprehend that something so useful and beneficial to mankind can get out of control and cause millions of dollars of damage and cause the tragic loss of life each year. Even though you cannot be completely ready, you can make some preparations for what you will do if your home or apartment should catch on fire.

Many fires are caused by carelessness. A fire may happen when kids play with matches, and though they believe they are being careful, the fire gets out of control. Other causes can be faulty wiring, too many appliances in an outlet, space heaters, extension cords, and Christmas lights.

What should you do to prepare for a fire?

1. Prevent it at all costs! Inspect your home for any faulty wiring or overused extension cords or space heaters too close to sheets. It is always better to prevent an accident than to plan how to get out of the problem.
2. Develop a plan to evacuate your home. Think about the best fire escapes and alternate ones if the primary route is blocked by fire. Do this as a family and draw a map for every room. Practice with the family how fast you can evacuate the house—make it fun.



3. Make sure there is a fire extinguisher in your home. In the event of a fire, at least you will have some equipment to fight a small fire. Keep the extinguisher properly charged so that if it is needed you will have it handy.
4. Have a rope ladder available for second floor rooms. This will allow the family to escape if they cannot leave through the house. The ladder can be obtained from local retailers or from companies that specialize in emergency equipment. Since they are compact they store easily and don't take up much room. Also they are lightweight so they can be handled by children.
5. Learn what to do if your house is on fire.
 - A. If you smell smoke, get down on the floor. Smoke and heat rise, so it will be easier to breathe closer to the floor.
 - B. Cover your mouth and nose with a wet washcloth and breathe through it.
 - C. Feel closed doors before opening them. If they're hot, then fire is on the other side. You will have to find another route. Only exit through doors that are cool to the touch.
6. Plan a meeting place outside of your home where all the family will gather once they have left the home. Set up the rule that under no circumstances does anyone go back into the house.

Tornado: This is a violent whirling wind in the form of a funnel cloud. It is usually preceded by a severe thunderstorm. This type of storm is common in the Midwest and in southern states. Not every thunderstorm can spawn a tornado, but if the weather conditions are right one can form. Many times you will hear that the National Weather Service has just issued a tornado watch and that the conditions are right for the formation of tornadoes in the following counties or areas. This information is designed to help the residents of the affected area to adequately prepare. Not every time a watch is issued does a tornado form. When the weather service issues a tornado warning, this means that someone has spotted a tornado. People in the path of the storm will be advised to seek shelter immediately.

Most communities that tend to have tornadoes install warning sirens that will sound if one of these devastating clouds is sighted. Let's think about what we can do if the tornado siren is sounding in our neighborhood.

1. When the siren sounds, get to shelter. If you are outside and close to home, get inside and go to your basement. Once there, get under a sturdy table that will protect you from falling debris. If your home does not have a basement, go to a windowless room. A windowless room is recommended because tornadoes often cause the windows to shatter because of the high winds and pressure changes.
2. If you happen to be outside and far away from shelter, find a ditch and lie down in it. The lower your body is, the more protection you will receive.
3. Bring a battery operated radio and a flashlight to your shelter. Listen to the weather reports. This will give you up-to-date information about the storm and its direction. Use batteries because these severe storms can knock out the electricity.

The season for tornadoes is March to October. If you live in an area that is affected by this type of storm, it is a good idea to become familiar with the sound of the warning siren. If weather reports indicate that a tornado is possible, be sure to have a place of shelter in mind. When you are outside playing, keep an eye on the weather. These storms can develop quickly, and it is wise to be ready to take cover in a moment's notice.

Earthquakes: More and more news reports tell about strange places being affected by earthquakes. This natural phenomenon is the most devastating because there is no warning and no place to go for safety. Although earthquakes can be severe—measuring more than 5 on the Richter scale—they only last for a few seconds. Aftershocks can be felt for several days, but they are usually mild. California seems to experience more earthquakes than most other states because a major crack in the earth's crust runs through the center of the state. The earth's crust on either side of this crack is moving very slowly, which is the reason that the ground is shaking periodically.

Since there is no place that you can go to escape the effects of an earthquake, you will have to stay where you are until the shaking stops. During a quake it is suggested that you get under heavy furniture to protect yourself from falling debris. Some experts have advised that you stand in a doorway, because the door frame will give you protection. Wherever you go, the important issue to remember is to cover your head.



Before a quake, you should assemble a survival kit. Severe quakes may disrupt electrical wires, water, and natural gas service for several days. It is during this period that you may have to find other ways to provide light, cook meals, and get water. Sadly, many homes are damaged during a quake so that people cannot live in them until they are repaired. With a survival kit you can take care of yourself until the power and water are restored.

Quake kits, as they are called, can be purchased commercially. These survival kits contain nonperishable food, water containers, blankets, flashlights, transistor radios, all of the items that most people would need for a few days. You can assemble your own from things that you have around the house. If you do not have the items listed above, some of them can be obtained at your local camping store. Periodically check the kit to make sure that the food is still good and that the water is pure. You may have to replace batteries once a year to make sure that they are still charged. Some people include emergency cash in their quake kit. This is a good idea, because without electricity, the banks cannot operate, and if you need cash, there would be no way to get it. Where should you store the kit once you have put all of the items in it? Find a dry shelf in a basement or a secure storage shed. You will want to have easy access to it if you need it. Put a smaller version of your survival kit inside your parents' cars. They may be traveling to or from work and need it.

Have your parents show you how to turn off the gas to your home so that in an emergency you can shut it off. Fires can start from broken gas lines, so if your house uses natural gas, it would be good to know how to shut it off after an earthquake. To turn it back on, have someone from the gas company come out and inspect the lines to be sure they are not broken.

Robbery: Unfortunately robbery is becoming very common in small towns as well as in large cities. There are precautions that can be taken to limit the risk of its happening to you or your family. When you are at home

1. Lock the doors and windows when you leave.
2. Leave an outside light on when you leave.
3. Make sure your house is well lighted around doors and walkways.

4. Install dead-bolt and chain locks on all doors.
5. Leave an interior light on if you are going to be gone for a while.
6. Ask neighbors to watch your home while you are gone.
7. Stop mail and newspaper delivery when you travel. The mail piling up in your box can give would-be burglars the idea that no one is home.
8. Leave a key with a trusted friend so they can check the home.
9. Inform police that you will be traveling. Ask them to check the property periodically.

To protect yourself while walking home from school or from nighttime activities

1. Don't walk down dark alleys or streets.
2. Walk home in groups; there is safety in numbers.
3. Get a ride to avoid walking home.
4. Don't be out on the streets late at night.
5. Let your parents or guardians know what time to expect you and the way that you plan to come home. If you are going to be late, call home so they won't worry.

There are two major points to remember that will limit your chance of becoming a victim of robbery.

- A. Make your home look like there are signs of activity, even when you are gone. If thieves think there are people around, they will not be as apt to try to break in.
- B. Use common sense when going home at night. Stay in a group and walk or ride your bike in well-lighted areas.

Physical Abuse: The first step you must take is to report it! You've got to tell someone. It doesn't matter who; you can tell a teacher, parent, outpost commander, friend, or pastor. To make it stop you will have to be brave in spite of danger, criticism, or threat.

You are not doing the abuser a favor by keeping the secret. This is not the way that people treat one another. It is not your fault that this is happening, but to cause it to end you will need to be brave. The abuser needs help, and this is one way that they can get counseling.

Week 3—Importance of Safety

Most accidents are caused by carelessness.



Whether it's driving too fast, faulty wiring, or playing with matches, the common denominator is that someone thought they were in control and somehow the situation got away from them. There is no way to hazard-proof the world. We are human, and we are going to have accidents. They just happen no matter what we do. The only action that we can take is to limit the risk of accidents. Take precautions to prevent them from happening. This means preparing ourselves for action during a crisis.

Practicing safety can be as simple as moving a space heater or unplugging something from an extension cord. It may be taking a CPR or first aid class, which teaches what to do if someone stops breathing or how to handle a broken bone. They cover the steps to take after the accident, but still they emphasize prevention. If the accident cannot be prevented, then the best that you can do is to remain calm and use the knowledge that you have to make the situation better.

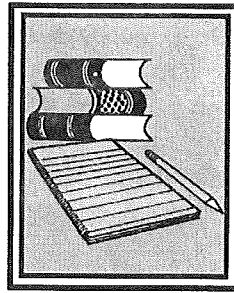
Let's Review:

1. Dial 911 to get help for emergencies.
2. Remain calm during a crisis; you will think more clearly.
3. Think about what you would do after an earthquake or during a tornado.
4. Talk with your family about how to escape the house if it should catch on fire.

Achievement Activities:

1. Write on a 3- by 5-inch index card the emergency phone numbers, if your community doesn't have 911 in service, for the following:
 - Police
 - Fire Department
 - Ambulance
 - Poison Control
2. Draw a fire escape map for your home. Show the primary way of escape in one color, and then in another color show an alternate way out if the primary exit is blocked.
3. Depending on the part of the country that you live in, think about what you would do if your home was threatened by a tornado or what you would do if you lived in an area that had earthquakes frequently.

School Badge



Achievement Theme: In order to be a good student, you must practice good study habits.

Lesson Objective: To review the ingredients involved in becoming a good student

Achievement Badge Requirements:

1. Select a school subject you need to improve on.
2. Meet with your commander to discuss good study habits.
3. Study that subject with a commander or an out-post helper (such as an older Royal Ranger or adult) at least once a week for 4 weeks.
4. Give an oral report on the importance of learning and cite one Scripture verse that discusses the word *study*.

Commander's Note: This lesson can be photocopied and given to the boys to do on their own. If you have boys in your outpost with reading disabilities, please feel free to read it to them.

Introduction: Its been said for years, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste." But in reality a good education is much more terrible to waste. In America we are so blessed that we have the opportunity to study so that we can improve ourselves and that an education is provided. All we have to do is pay attention. There are countries where you must be wealthy in order to attend school, and the poor are not given a chance at a good education. Yet with the benefits that we are given for school, many teenagers would rather drop out of school because they think that they will do better by working than staying in school!

With this achievement badge we are going to review some of the tips and trade secrets that will help anyone become a better student. They are not closely guarded plans that only a select few have access to. Rather, the information that you will read in this lesson is something that you may already know but are not applying.



Week 1—Study Habits

Each one of your classes has a textbook that contains information about the subject that you are studying. There may be more books in addition to the textbook, but all of these books are designed to help you learn more about the subject. If you ever hope to do well in school, you should read the textbook. By reading it you will find information that might show up on the test, and there will be further explanations about the concepts that you discussed in class. If you don't understand what your teacher is saying, read what the textbook says about it. This is a good place to start on your journey to becoming a good student.

The next step on the way up is to take notes when you listen in class. The purpose of note taking is to write down important facts that you may forget. If you have a great memory, then you probably don't need to take notes. Unfortunately most of us need to write things down so that when we get home we can remember them. Whatever form you put them in, whether it's an outline or just phrases, the point is to make your notes readable and organize them in such a way that they can be helpful when test time comes.

To take good notes you must listen in class. There is a difference between hearing and listening. A person can hear the sound of my voice, but he or she must actually listen to my words and apply them and pay attention to them. Lots of things can be learned just by listening to the teacher. Our natural inclination is to do the talking. We feel that what we have to say is more important than what we are going to hear. God must put emphasis on listening more than talking because He gave us two ears and only one mouth. Therefore, He must want us to listen twice as much as we talk.

As you listen, don't be afraid to ask questions about material that you do not understand. Sometimes you feel that your question is foolish and everyone will make fun of you. There is no foolish question when it is asked sincerely, except the one that is never asked. There is no reason for you to go home not knowing the answer to your question simply because you were too shy to ask. Your teacher would be happy to repeat something or explain it differently so that you will understand.

Do all of your homework. Why do teachers give

homework anyway? There are two basic reasons. First, it is used to reinforce the concepts that were presented in class. The more you practice something, the better you get at doing it. The more time you spend on the basketball court, the better player you will be, and so the more time spent in study, the better student you will be.

The second reason is called assessment. Your teacher wants to know if you understand what he or she is teaching. So after teaching the material to the class, she sends work home that you must complete on your own. If it comes back and most of the class does poorly, then she knows that people are confused and she must reteach the material. If you fail to complete an assignment because you think that it is a waste of time, your teacher has no way of knowing if you grasp the material. Even if you don't do well on tests, if you work really hard and turn in your homework, you may get a passing grade.

If you still don't understand your math class, and there is not enough time in class to get the help that you need, stay after school for tutoring. If you ask your teacher ahead of time, he will stay after school to give you the necessary help to understand the material. The only requirement is that you ask for the help. Your teacher may not know you want to be helped if you don't take the time to ask.

When you are doing your homework, turn off the television! There is too much distraction to allow you to concentrate on your studies. You will spend more time watching than studying. It would be better to finish your work and then turn on the "tube," and then you can relax knowing that all of your work for the next day is complete.

Take your time studying. Doing your work may be unpleasant, but if you rush through, are you really getting the benefit from it? Probably not! If you are going to spend the time, you might as well do the best job you can. Carry this attitude throughout your life and people will stand in line to hire you. Most companies are looking for people who are conscientious, who are willing to do the job the best way they possibly can and not try to get it done as quickly as possible.

If you have a major project to do for your science class and the teacher has given the class 2 weeks to complete it, do a little of the project each night. Spread out the work so that you are not trying to do 2 weeks' work in the space of one evening.



Organize your work so you know what needs to be done and the materials that are needed.

Finally, avoid cheating at all costs. If you cheat on an assignment, you are only hurting your chances at learning. By copying someone's work and putting your name to it you are lying, and worse, you don't know how to do the assignment. In math class, each concept you learn is the foundation for the next one. So if you cheat on a homework paper, then you don't have that piece of information. Don't be caught in the trap of "if you're my friend you will let me see your paper." A friend wouldn't let a friend cheat and be robbed of a chance at learning.

Week 2—Staying in School Is “Cool”

Job! Job! Job! Everybody is in a hurry to get a job. They cannot wait to get out of school so that they can get a job and buy a car or have a place of their own where they can do what they want without answering to anyone. What kind of job can they hope to get without a good education? Sure there are lots of jobs waiting for a high school dropout. But many employers will not even consider someone for a job who does not have a diploma or GED.

Without a diploma it becomes very difficult for the applicant to convince a future employer that he has the skills needed for the job. Much less if you won't finish school how does the interviewer know that you will show up for work every day? By dropping out of school you did not have the discipline to stick with school. What skills would you bring to a job without a diploma? You may have some natural ability, but there will be a question of whether you can handle academic skills. There are exceptions where all you have to do is flip burgers, but who wants to do this for 20 years. These entry jobs really have no significant future. With an education you can open up the possibilities for future careers.

Even though going to class doesn't seem to pay off now, you are making an investment in the future. By staying in school, you are telling the world, your friends, and your family that you can be better than you are, and you want a future for yourself and your family. There will be pressure from your friends, pulling you their way, but have courage. Talk with your commander; he can help you realize that staying in school is cool!

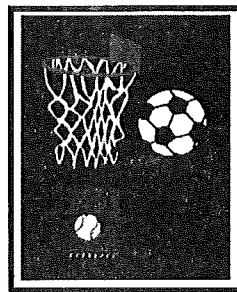
Let's Review:

1. Read the textbook.
2. Do all assigned homework.
3. Don't be afraid to ask questions.
4. Turn off the television or radio when you study.
5. Work on your homework each night so that you won't have a large amount on one night.

Achievement Activities:

1. Make an assignment notebook. Write down your assignments and the date due. Use this as a guide for working on homework.
2. Using some of the reasons that you learned in this lesson, encourage a friend who might be considering dropping out of school to stay in.

Sports Badge



Achievement Theme:

Teamwork is an important concept to learn in sports and to apply to our lives.

Lesson Objective: To explore the history of a sport in order to understand the rules and have more fun when we play

Achievement Badge Requirements:

1. Choose a specific sport in which the outpost group participates.
2. Explain the rules regulating that sport.
3. Draw a diagram of the court or field, and explain each purpose of the playing ground.
4. Participate in that sport during four Rangers meetings.
5. Give an oral report on the importance of physical fitness, team effort, and sportsmanship in relation to that sport.

Commander's Note: This lesson can be photocopied and given to the boys to do on their own. If you have boys in your outpost with reading disabilities, please feel free to read it to them.

Definition:

Call Letters: These numbers group books of similar topics or the same author and help you find what shelf they are on.



Introduction: For the next few weeks you are going to participate in a team sport. During this time you will be working with your fellow Rangers to help your team win. No matter how well you play personally, if you fail to work as a group, you won't do very well. A large part of earning this badge is learning how to become a team. Another important feature of this achievement badge is learning about the sport you are playing. In this lesson we are going to give you some tips on where to find the information that will be required of you.

Week 1—Play Ball!

To find out about the sport that you have chosen, the best place to start is the local library. If you do not live near a library, then start at your school's library. You should be able to find enough information to complete this award.

Once you arrive at the library, go directly to the card catalog. Whoops! Where is the card catalog? By now most libraries use a computer to store information on the books they have on the shelf. At this point if you have never used a computer, it would be a good idea to ask one of the adults at the desk for help.

Now that you have help, search for books by subject. The computer will ask you to enter the topic you would like to research. If the subject is baseball, before you know it there will be a list of books all about the sport of baseball.

You will have to sort through the books to find the ones you need. There will be books about the rules of the game, the famous players, who invented it, and how it was invented. Write down the call letters that are listed.

Check out the books that relate to your topic. Skim through each book's table of contents to find the chapters that will give you the information you need. Pay close attention to chapters about rules, playing fields, and the history of the sport. Make notes for yourself as you read through the chapters. This will help you to compile your report. It will also organize the material so that you will have everything you need.

Week 2—Giving an Oral Report

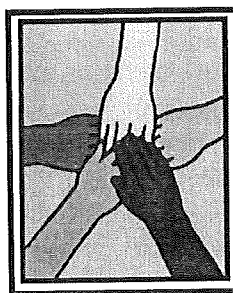
For this achievement badge you will be required

to give an oral report about the lessons that you learned over the 4 weeks. To help you with the concepts you learned, here are some questions to get you thinking.

1. If you are out of shape physically, would you play better?
2. How can a person get into shape?
3. Does being physically fit help you to play longer?
4. By practicing did you find that your skill of the game improved?
5. How did communicating with other teammates help your team perform?
6. Were you able to help other teammates do their best?
7. How did you feel when your team won? How did you feel when they lost?
8. How did the winning team treat you, or how did you treat the other team?

Use the questions above to guide your thoughts. You may answer the questions as you tell your Ranger friends about the things that you learned while completing the requirements for the Sports Achievement Badge.

Team Spirit Badge



Achievement Theme:

Enthusiasm is something that spreads from one person to another. All it takes is for one person to get excited.

Achievement Objective:

To list ways that the outpost or patrol spirit can be improved

Achievement Badge Requirements: 1. List four ways to improve team spirit in your patrol or outpost group. 2. Demonstrate these four methods in your patrol or outpost group for 4 weeks. 3. Give an oral report on the need for team spirit in your group.

Commander's Note: This lesson can be photocopied and given to the boys to do on their own. If you have boys in your outpost with reading disabilities, please feel free to read it to them.



Introduction: Enthusiasm is similar to the common cold. When one member of the family gets it, it's not long before it spreads to others. There are ways to promote enthusiasm or team spirit. But if team spirit is going to catch on, there are some definite steps to take and others to avoid. For the next 2 weeks we are going to review what a team is and the do's and don'ts of team spirit. Everything that will be in this lesson can be duplicated in your patrol or outpost group. It will take everyone doing their part to improve team spirit.

Week 1—What Is a Team?

Before you can improve team spirit in your patrol or outpost group, you need to understand what it means to be a team. The word *team* has been used so much in sports that we may not realize everything that it means. We know what it means to have spirit. This is the excitement that comes from seeing your favorite player score the winning touchdown. But how can you take the feeling that comes over you from winning the game and transfer it to the rest of the patrol members?

We are taught to think for ourselves, to be independent or be an individual, not to follow the crowd. While that logic is good for certain situations, it will not help your patrol improve its team spirit. To find a solution let's look at the definition of *patrol*. The words *team* and *patrol* are basically interchangeable.

A patrol is a group of five to eight boys who like to do things together. This definition gives us the central pillar supporting team spirit. For a team to exist there must be a common purpose. Each person in the patrol must understand the reason that they are there. For us, Royal Rangers is a group of boys who are interested in adventure. Boys who share that same interest have gathered on Wednesday nights to pursue it as a group. If you don't like that kind of thing then it is very difficult to get excited about going on a camp-out or learning about rope craft. From there it becomes hard to associate with the other boys because you do not share an interest in the same activities. Individuals have come together and are united for a common goal. Decisions are made by the group for the group and for the good of the group. One member may not agree with the choice, but once the direction is selected, then unity

takes over. Everyone acts as a unit and the minority works with the majority to meet the goals of the patrol.

It is important for a team to enjoy being together and to like one another. You will not always agree, but there must be an underlying respect for one another. No one should put down a fellow teammate because he missed a play or make fun of him because his clothes are not the latest fashion. You are a group, and when one is ridiculed, the whole group suffers. Stick up for each member of the patrol. Encourage them when they are having a hard time.

By understanding the definition of *team*, it will make it easier to implement some of next week's suggestions for improving team spirit.

Week 2—Team Spirit Do's and Don'ts

1. Do remember that each member of the team can make a contribution. No one is more special than anyone else.
2. Do your part. There is enough work to go around, so everyone should help out during patrol activities.
3. Do make it a point to make everyone feel welcome by introducing yourself to new recruits.
4. Do obey the rules, for this is a good example to set for the rest of your team.
5. Do wear your uniform at every meeting, displaying your patrol bolo slide. This makes the rest of the patrol proud to be a part of the group.
6. Don't cut down fellow patrol members or other Rangers.
7. Don't stop with your advancements.
8. Do encourage others to keep working on the Advancement Trail.
9. Do give your all in each of the outpost activities.
10. Don't take the credit for other Rangers' work.
11. Do invite your friends to Royal Rangers.
12. Do write a patrol cheer or yell. Use it regularly during the meeting to encourage your group.

Let's Review:

Team spirit is something that has to grow in Rangers. You have to work to improve it by understanding what it means to be on a team, and realize that being a part of some organization requires



something from each of the members. Follow the do's and watch out for the don'ts, and it won't be long until you will see enthusiasm grow in your patrol.

Achievement Activities:

1. Brainstorm with your patrol about some ways that you can get excited about Royal Rangers.
2. Choose four of the do's that you think will help your patrol and try them out for 4 weeks.
3. Think about why it is important to improve team spirit.

Witnessing Badge



Achievement Theme: Jesus' last command was to go into all of the world and tell others about the good news that Jesus died for their sins.

Lesson Objective: To know the steps of witnessing in order to tell others about Jesus

Achievement Badge Requirements:

1. Invite four boys to Royal Rangers.
2. Explain the salvation message to your commander.
3. Witness to two people.
4. Hand out gospel tracts to five people.

Commander's Note: This lesson can be photocopied and given to the boys to do on their own. If you have boys in your outpost with reading disabilities, please feel free to read it to them.

Definitions:

Witnessing: Telling others about Jesus and how they can be saved.

Gospel Tracts: Small brochures that contain a salvation message that can be given to strangers.

Introduction: Jesus' final instructions to His disciples were to go into all the world and tell people the "good news." This news is that Jesus has risen from the dead, and if we accept Him as our Savior, then we can go to live with Him in heaven. Doing what He asked us to do can be very scary. What if the

people don't like what you say? You might say the wrong words. Put your mind at ease. In this achievement badge you will study some ways in which you can witness and know exactly what to say. For the next 4 weeks you will learn the methods that will be used to present the gospel to your commander and to two other people.

Week 1—Preparing To Witness

Witnessing to your friends takes some preparation on your part. Just as you would not be able to play on your school's football team without first attending the practices and learning the plays, a Christian should not try to witness without taking time for planning. Long before you present the gospel to one of your friends, you should begin your preparation.

Preparation:

1. You must believe that every one of your friends who has not received God's gift of eternal life will spend eternity in hell (Revelation 20:15).
2. You must believe that God does not want anyone to die and go to hell. He wants them to have eternal life (2 Peter 3:9).
3. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to convert so all we are required to do is to carry the message (John 16:7-15; Acts 1:8).
4. Spend time in prayer every day, asking God to lead you to other boys who need Jesus.
5. Start memorizing today the five Scripture verses listed here, called the Romans' Road. You will use these verses in your presentation.

Romans 3:23: "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Romans 6:23: "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

John 1:12: "To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

Revelation 3:20: "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me."



6. Take a small New Testament and find the verses you have memorized. Take a highlighter and mark the verse. This way it will draw attention as you go through your presentation and make it easier to locate.

7. Be sure to carry your marked New Testament with you at all times because you will never know when someone may cross your path and want to hear the gospel message. As you pray, God will begin to bring people to you that need to hear about Jesus.

Things To Remember:

1. Don't try to lead someone to Christ until you have completed your preparations.
2. You cannot lead anyone to Christ if you have not been born again.
3. Never pressure a person to accept Christ. If they are unwilling, don't worry, the Holy Spirit is responsible for convicting and converting them. All you are to do is present the message.
4. When you talk with a friend about Jesus, it is best to do it when you are away from others so that there will not be any distractions while you are talking.

Week 2—Gospel Message

When presenting the salvation plan to someone, the very first thing that you must understand is that there is no set pattern. The gospel is as simple as *John 3:16*: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." If the person to whom you are speaking understands this fact and believes that he or she will be saved from an eternity in hell by accepting Jesus' death on the cross, then you have shared the message correctly.

As you begin to talk, start out informally. This means talk about the things they enjoy doing, sports they like to play, etc. Ask them about the church that they go to or were reared in. Then ask them the "big question": How does a person get into heaven? If they do not know, ask the question this way: "Suppose God were to ask you, 'Why should I let you into my heaven?' What do you think you would say?" Most would probably respond that they go to church, read the Bible, and do good deeds for people.

Respond to them that you have some very good news for them. Their answers, and most people's answers, all fall around doing, reading, and going. Your news is that they don't have to do anything. Your study of the Bible has revealed to you that heaven is a free gift. *Romans 6:23* tells us that the "wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord." So they don't have to do anything to earn this gift. All that is required is that they accept it.

Even though the gift of God is free, we have some bad news. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (*Romans 3:23*). From the previous verse we have learned that sin equals death, and from this verse we know that we all have sinned; there is no one who hasn't sinned except Jesus Christ. Once they understand that they are sinners and that sin is what causes us to spend eternity in hell and that the only escape is believing on Jesus Christ, you are ready to explain about the gift of eternal life.

Knowing that there is a free gift of eternal life awaiting us will not do any good unless we do something. That's correct, accept it! In *John 1:12* we are told, "To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." This verse tells us that when we receive Jesus Christ into our hearts as our Savior—the only way to get to heaven—then we will become the sons of God.

The next step, after hearing your presentation, they must confess their sins. First *John 1:9* tells us, "If we confess our sins, he [God] is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." It is not enough to believe that we need to be forgiven from our sins, we must confess our need of forgiveness.

The last Scripture verse that you will share is *Revelation 3:20*: "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me." Jesus is standing at the door of your heart, knocking. He is waiting for you to open your heart to Him. He won't force His way into your life. Would you like to receive this free gift of eternal life? If you do, when you die you will spend eternity with God in heaven. It is at this point that you will pray a short prayer with them, asking Jesus to come into their life. You may use the prayer below



to guide you. Ask them to repeat the words after you. Don't speak too quickly; give them a chance to repeat the words.

Dear Jesus, I have read the Bible, and I know I am a sinner. I realize that I am going to receive wages for being a sinner, and these wages are death and separation from You. Lord, please forgive me of my sins. I ask You to come into my life, and I promise to serve You the rest of my life. Lord, I mean this prayer with all of my heart. Amen.

While your friend's head is still bowed in prayer, finish with a prayer thanking God for forgiving your friend and bringing him into the family of God. Now while this is still fresh, take this opportunity to ask, "Do you know what you've just done?" You may have to review the presentation briefly. They should understand that Jesus lives in their heart and that they have the free gift of eternal life. Make sure that they know that this is something that Jesus has done for them and all that you did was bring the message.

Week 3—What Do You Do if They Reject You?

One of the first rules to remember in witnessing is that you are the messenger and not responsible for convicting the person of their sins. Your only job is to be faithful and carry the news that God loves them and that they can have the free gift of eternal life if they will allow Jesus Christ to be the Lord of their life. You should always try to present the gospel in a way that is not argumentative. People will respond negatively to you if you act like they don't know anything. They will most likely reject the message because of the way that it is presented.

Just because the person that you are witnessing to decides not to accept Jesus Christ as his personal Savior, this does not mean that you are being rejected. The person rejected the message, not necessarily the messenger. If they refuse, tell them thank you for listening and that you will be available to talk with them if they are interested. Never be rude, because there may come a day when you will have another opportunity to witness again to the same person.

Week 4—Witnessing as a Way of Life

It is possible for you to witness all of your life. Telling others about Jesus is not just something that you do to earn an award because it is a commandment that our Lord gave to us. He told us to go into all of the world and preach the gospel. You may not grow up to be a missionary in a far off country or a pastor of a church, but you are still responsible to witness in your world, which might just be your neighborhood.

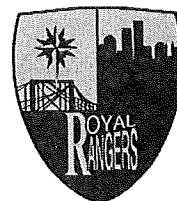
Some think that witnessing is an activity that people do at a certain time and place, but in reality it is a way of life. We should be ready to share Jesus with anyone at any time. Our very lives should tell people that we are believers. You may know people who talk about being a Christian, but the way they live makes you wonder if they are truly believers. When your unsaved friends see you, they should say to themselves that there goes a person who has something that they want. There is a special difference in your life that they need in theirs. The difference that they should see is the difference that Jesus makes in each of our lives.

Let's Review:

1. Being an effective witness means making preparations to witness.
2. Memorize the salvation Scripture verses that you will use in the gospel presentation.
3. Begin to pray that the Holy Spirit will lead you to the people to whom you should witness.
4. Remember that if they don't accept your message, they are not rejecting you.

Achievement Activities:

1. Mark a New Testament with the salvation Scripture verses.
2. Write out your testimony of how you got saved, and share it with your pastor, commander, or friend.



SECTION 3

ROYAL RANGERS
DEVOTIONALS
52 Daily Devotions



52 Daily Devotions

1

Letting God Use You

Jon Ralston went to help at the Rescue Mission mostly because someone asked him to go. He had never done anything like this in all of his fifteen years. But a friend asked him to help out this Sunday, and Jon couldn't think of any reason not to. So he went.

When they got there, Jon and his friends did simple tasks—preparing food, setting places, washing dishes, cleaning tables. “We just helped where we were needed,” he says.

The Rescue Mission was run-down and dirty, Jon recalls. The people they served were dirty from the streets, and they didn't seem to appreciate what Jon and his friends were doing for them. Some of Jon's friends really didn't like it and didn't go back when they were asked to help out again.

But Jon went back. And he would go again.

“I'm needed there,” he says. “And it's fun to give to people when you know they can't pay you back.”

Jon was impressed with the staff at the Rescue Mission, too. They had a good attitude toward the people they served. “Even though the staff acts tough,” Jon recalls, “they really care for the people who come there.”

There's been hunger and poverty in the world almost since the beginning of time. God wants Christians—every Christian—to offer help and God's love to the poor and hungry. God even used the great prophet Elijah to help a widow and her son in **1 Kings 17:8–16**.

- What's the difference between the widow in this passage and the people Jon helped? What motives did Jon have for helping the poor? What motives did Elijah have for helping the widow?
- How does God keep the “jars of flour and jugs of oil” full for poor and hungry people today? What role can you play in providing food for hungry people?

CONSIDER . . .

- skipping dinner tonight and spending that time praying for poor and hungry people.
- following Jon's example by volunteering to work in a soup kitchen or a homeless shelter.

FOR MORE, SEE . . .

- Exodus 16:1–15 (p. 73)
- Mark 6:34–44 (p. 974)
- John 6:30–35 (p. 1067)



52 Daily Devotions

2

A Blanket of Love

Eleven-year-old Trevor Ferrell learned there were people living on the streets of Philadelphia—not far from his suburban home. Curious, he talked his parents into taking him downtown. There Trevor got out of the car and gave a homeless person a blanket.

When Trevor returned home, he searched for extra blankets and clothing, and he convinced his parents to take him downtown again and again to deliver such items. He talked to people at his church, and they donated food, clothing, and even a van to take things to the homeless.

Soon Trevor was in the newspapers, on television, even meeting the President of the United States! Trevor wanted to tell others what they could do to help those in need.

Now there is a home in Philadelphia called "Trevor's Place." People can live and be fed there. Trevor Ferrell began by giving a little of himself and was able to challenge others to do the same.

"One person can make a difference," Trevor says. "Just do what you can and follow your heart."

Nehemiah was also a person who made a difference for the poor. See how he helped them in **Nehemiah 5:1–11**.

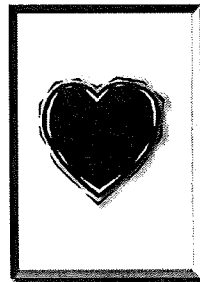
- How did Nehemiah use his political power as governor of Judah to help the poor? How were Trevor's actions like Nehemiah's?
- How can you, like Trevor and Nehemiah, help people who are hungry?

C O N S I D E R . . .

- helping low-income people in your community by giving nonperishable food to a food bank that distributes supplies to people in need.
- encouraging your government to take care of the needs of the poor by joining a Christian organization such as Bread for the World (801 Rhode Island Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20018).

F O R M O R E , S E E . . .

- Deuteronomy 15:7–8 (p. 175)
- James 2:1–9 (p. 1294)
- Matthew 25:31–46 (p. 954)



52 Daily Devotions

3

Stirring Up Life

Mandy Lewis sat beside the swirling river that ran through town. Her fright and hurt had changed into a deadly heaviness. It stifled her. It dulled all hope.

Only last week everything had seemed okay. Then Josh McKinley dumped her—just put his arm around her best friend and took off. It nearly killed Mandy. How could he . . . when he said he loved her? And how could Sheila?

Mandy tried to talk to her mom, but the whole house was a constant battlefield, everyone yelling at each other. Her stepdad was out of work and there wasn't enough money to go around.

The water invited her into its depths. It offered an easy way out. Then she would never have to hurt again.

"Can I sit here with you?"

Mandy looked up at a tall girl. She had seen her a few times at school, always by herself, but self-assured, at ease.

"If you want."

"I'm nobody to you, but . . . I know what happened, and I care." The girl sat down. "I've been there. And even though it doesn't seem possible now, things will get better. Just hang in there, okay?"

Mandy looked into the girl's brown eyes. Their sincerity stirred life inside Mandy.

Like Mandy, Job felt overwhelmed by a sense of loss and depression. Read his story in **Job 7:1–8**.

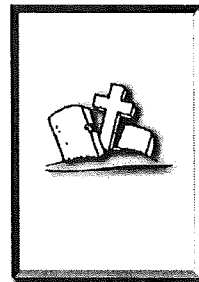
- How does Mandy's depression compare with Job's?
- When you feel like Job did in verses 3 and 7, what do you need most?

C O N S I D E R . . .

- talking to a trusted friend about a problem that's getting you down.
- organizing a peer counseling program at your church or school. Talk to your youth pastor or school counselor for ideas.

F O R M O R E . . . S E E . . .

- Psalm 139:1–24 (p. 561)
- 2 Corinthians 1:3–7 (p. 1193)
- Philipians 2:1–4 (p. 1230)



52 Daily Devotions

4

An Unexpected Visitor

"The Pope has been shot!" These words echoed throughout the world on May 13, 1981. Pope John Paul II had been shot in the stomach by Mehmet Ali Agca.

It took hours of surgery and weeks of painful rehabilitation for the Pope to regain his health. Yet he survived and returned to his duties. The terrorist was captured and imprisoned. It seemed the end of a near-fatal story.

But it wasn't.

Less than three years after the shooting, the Pope visited Agca in Rome's Rebibbia prison. Sitting in Agca's cell, John Paul held Agca's hand and spoke softly with him for twenty minutes.

What did the Pope say to the man who had tried to kill him? "I spoke to him as a brother whom I have pardoned, and who has my complete trust. . . . I was able to meet my assailant and repeat to him the pardon I gave him immediately."

Pope John Paul II showed love to Mehmet Ali Agca by forgiving him.

Ezra 9:11-9 tells how God showed love to his people by forgiving them.

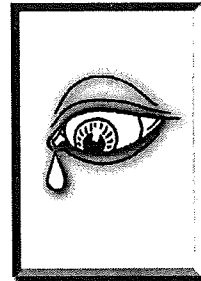
- Did Agca or the Israelites deserve the love and forgiveness they received? Why or why not?
- When has God forgiven you when you felt you didn't deserve it?

CONSIDER . . .

- making a list of people who have offended you and then forgiving them in the same way God has forgiven you.
- doing one loving thing for someone who has been hard for you to love.

FOR MORE, SEE . . .

- Isaiah 1:18-20 (p. 618)
- Romans 5:6-11 (p. 1145)
- Matthew 6:9-15 (p. 918)



52 Daily Devotions

5

Clapping, Shouting, Singing

"Okay, then, it's a date." Mike Frazier said over the phone. "I'll meet you guys at the church at 6:00."

Five guys from Mike's youth group had wanted to go to a Christian rock concert in the Chicago area. All five were enthusiastic Christians and diehard rock 'n' roll fanatics. As their youth minister, Mike encouraged their interest and offered to take them.

The night was going to be super. Great friends. A Christian band that played great music. Nothing could spoil the plans for the evening. Except . . .

One of the guys, Tony Murelli, showed up with his dad, Bart, who didn't attend church. That made Mike nervous.

"What are you up to tonight?" Mike asked Bart.

"I decided to come to the concert," he responded.

Gulp. Tony's dad looked like he would be more comfortable watching a Lawrence Welk rerun. Mike wondered how Bart's attitude toward his son being a part of a church group would be affected by a high-decibel concert.

Mike didn't enjoy the concert nearly as much as he thought he would. He was too busy trying to watch everyone's reactions.

The guys? They loved it. They never sat down. They praised God all evening—stomping their feet, clapping their hands, and singing.

Tony's dad? Hard to tell. That is, until after the concert when, with his ears still ringing, Mike heard these amazing words:

"Frankly, Mike, I've wondered what Tony has been getting into, with all the time he spends at your church. I wanted to see one of your activities for myself."

Uh, oh.

"And I want you to know I've never been as impressed with a group of young people as I was tonight. That band, the kids, the way they expressed themselves—you can tell they really believe in something good."

What Bart observed was a group of Christians following the advice of the psalmist in **Psalms 47**. Read about how you too should lift praise to God.

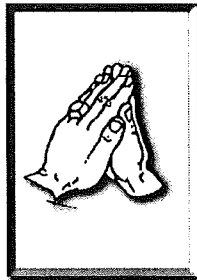
- If Tony's dad were to read Psalm 47, what insight might he gain about his son's attitude toward God?
- What can you start doing in your time alone with God to follow the psalmist's call to "clap your hands," "shout to God with joy," and "sing praises"?

CONSIDER . . .

- asking other Christians whom you respect how they build worship into their lives.
- finding Christian tapes you can use in your devotion times to help you joyfully worship God.

FOR MORE, SEE . . .

- 1 Chronicles 16:7–36 (p. 374)
- Revelation 7:9–17 (p. 1337)
- Isaiah 6:1–4 (p. 622)



52 Daily Devotions

6

Happy Are Those

Su Ling admits that for years she took her church for granted. "It was a place to meet my friends on Sunday morning. We'd share the back pew and sometimes write notes to each other on the offering envelopes especially when the sermon got boring."

But then Su's grandmother died, and the sadness that settled into Su seemed endless. Grandma had been her best friend—the only person Su felt loved her without reservation. Now, Su felt a hole inside where that wonderful, happy love had been.

"I went to the church alone one night when I couldn't stop crying," Su recalls, "and when I prayed in the empty sanctuary, I felt suddenly calm. I realized God was there, waiting for me. I could tell because I felt surrounded again by the same kind of special love I'd always felt with Grandma. Now, I feel God close to me every time I pray or worship wherever I am."

Su Ling learned the special joy of living in God's presence. The writer of **Psalm 84** knew that same joy. Read about how he yearned to live in God's presence "in the courtyards of the Lord's Temple."

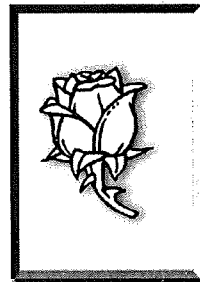
- To which verses of this psalm might Su Ling relate?
- What do you experience in your church that helps you worship?

CONSIDER . . .

- shocking the pastor by sitting in the front of the sanctuary one Sunday.
- finding a special time to go into your church to pray quietly, alone with God.

FOR MORE, SEE . . .

- I Chronicles 16:25–29 (p. 374)
- John 4:19–26 (p. 1063)
- Psalm 132:7–9 (p. 558)



52 Daily Devotions

7

Shout Out Loud!

Imagine . . .

- Christmas without Christmas carols
- a wedding without the "Wedding March"
- a football game without a band
- Graduation without "Pomp and Circumstance"

Now for a really hard one. Imagine turning a year older without a group of friends and relatives singing "Happy Birthday"!

Pretty dismal, huh?

People have used music to celebrate life's joys for generations, dating all the way back to ancient writings such as the Psalms. **Psalm 81:1-10** calls people to shout and "sing for joy to God, our strength" for God's goodness and gifts.

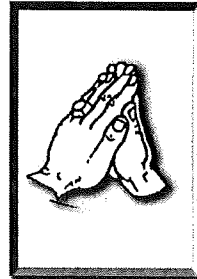
- Why do you think the psalmist included a variety of methods for celebrating?
- What way of celebrating God do you enjoy most?

C O N S I D E R . . .

- putting a simple prayer to music and singing it to God.
- learning a new song or joining a music group to find new ways to worship God.

F O R M O R E . S E E . . .

- 1 Chronicles 13:6-8 (p. 372)
- Ephesians 5:15-20 (p. 1224)
- Psalm 149 (p. 565)



52 Daily Devotions

8

One Friend at a Time

When a few of her friends signed up to help at the Springfield community Salvation Army one Saturday, Jill Christy went along grudgingly.

"I figured you couldn't really change things for poor people in our town," she remembers. "It was just too big a problem."

About midday, Jill was straightening the sweater racks when Carolyn Harper came in with her three small children.

"I was really shocked," Jill recalls. "Carolyn seemed to be about my age."

Jill asked Carolyn if she needed any help.

"I need skirts and blouses," Carolyn whispered, sounding embarrassed. "The employment lady says she's found a good job for me that'll get us off welfare. If . . . you know . . . I can . . . well . . . look okay for an office."

Jill's heart ached for Carolyn. She quickly realized Carolyn needed a friend—someone to understand—as much as she needed clothes. Along with skirts, blouses, and shoes, Jill gave a listening ear, a smile and a little of her heart that afternoon.

Jill has never been the same since that encounter. Like the writer of **Psalm 72**, Jill realized the importance of dealing compassionately with people in need.

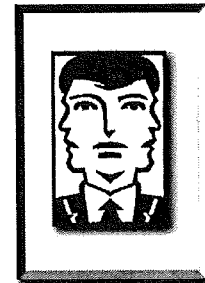
- In what ways is Jill doing what the psalmist suggests?
- The psalmist uses the term "fair." How can you become more fair in your attitudes and actions toward needy people in your community?

CONSIDER . . .

- setting aside the same amount of money you've spent on "fun" this week and giving that amount to a hunger project.
- volunteering at a local clothes distribution center or food pantry.

FOR MORE, SEE . . .

- Deuteronomy 14:28-29 (p. 174)
- 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 (p. 1201)
- Proverbs 14:31 (p. 580)



52 Daily Devotions

9

Like Great-Grandmother

Tracy Bilmer stood in her great-grandmother's wedding dress, watching her mother fit the new sleeves into place. "I'm scared."

"Of what, sweetie?"

"Marriage." Tracy stared into the mirror. "I'm scared of being an adult. Of being responsible for building a new life with Chris."

"I know." Her mother pushed back her hair. "But follow your great-grandmother's example. She built a grand life for herself and her husband."

Her mother smiled, remembering. "She helped clear the Colorado homestead, bore babies, worked beside my granddad in the fields, set her children's broken bones, canned a thousand jars of food each summer, sewed clothes, and prayed beside her children's beds each night. And through it all she was a loving lady. She and Granddad truly loved each other, and they made a great team. As Granddad lay dying, after sixty-six years of marriage, he said she was still his angel."

"Funny, she seems modern—a working woman, besides being a wife and mother," Tracy said.

"Loving determination, that's what she had. That and her faith in God."

The good wife in Proverbs also possessed some of the great-grandmother's qualities. Read **Proverbs 31:10–31**.

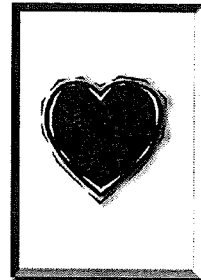
- In what ways is the great-grandmother like the wife described in this passage?
- Which qualities, listed in these verses, do you most want in your life?

C O N S I D E R

- looking for qualities of a godly wife or husband at your church, then asking God to help you build those qualities in yourself so you will be a godly spouse if you marry.
- asking couples you admire for their secret of a successful marriage.

F O R M O R E . . . S E E . . .

- Ruth 3–4 (p. 241)
- Ephesians 5:21–33 (p. 1225)
- 1 Peter 3:1–7 (p. 1306)



52 Daily Devotions

10

Trust

"Whirr, whirr, whirr, whirr!"

No, not a speeding ticket! Tanya Parker thought. At the worst possible time, too.

Tanya pulled over and waited for the police officer to come to the window. Tanya almost felt like crying. She had been planning to drive to an out-of-town concert this weekend, but getting a speeding ticket would jeopardize her concert plans—if her parents knew. As the police officer handed her the pink slip, she decided it would be better to tell Mom and Dad about the ticket after the concert. Then she returned home and kept quiet.

That night Tanya tossed and turned. Her parents had always trusted her to tell the truth. Finally, around midnight, she got up and went to her older brother to ask his advice. He was still up listening to music.

Tanya told him what had happened and then asked what he thought.

"You'd better tell them," he said. "They'll find out, and then you'll really be in trouble!"

The next morning at breakfast, Tanya spilled the whole story to her parents. She told them about the ticket, and how bad she felt about it, and how she had struggled about telling them.

Disappointment clouded their eyes.

"I don't like the thought of your speeding in our car," Dad said firmly.

"I know, Dad. I'm sorry," Tanya said. "I'll never do it again."

Mom and Dad left the room for a few minutes to talk. Then they returned.

"You have to pay the fine," Mom said and then paused. "And if you agree never to speed again, we won't take away your driving privileges."

"And you can still drive to the concert," Dad added with a grin.

Thrilled, Tanya determined never to betray her parents' trust. And she kept that promise.

Read how **Proverbs 22:1-9** reflects Tanya's family values of honesty and generosity.

- Which verse in this passage best summarizes Tanya's story?
- What would you pay to gain your family's respect and trust? As much as is stated in verse 1?

C O N S I D E R . . .

- talking with a parent about building trust in your relationship.
- writing on a card four things you can do to build your family's trust in you. Post it where only you can see it.

F O R M O R E . . . S E E . . .

- Genesis 4:1-12 (p. 7)
- Genesis 45:1-11 (p. 50)
- 2 Timothy 3:14-15 (p. 1266)



52 Daily Devotions

11

A Father's Love

"Where to first: burgers or the mall?" Jo Carasco called to Rosa Martinez over the music on the radio.

"Let's go to Fast Jack's for burgers!" Rosa called back. "It'll be crawling with cute guys."

They both laughed as Jo looked down to turn the radio up a notch. That's the last thing she remembers clearly—before the spin and the sickening jolt as the car turned on its side and then slammed to a stop against a concrete divider.

"I saw the stop sign, but it was too late to stop," Jo remembers. "When Rosa and I crawled out my window and I knew we were both okay, my next thought was, Dad will kill us! The hardest thing I ever had to do was call him from the police station to tell him I had just totaled his car."

But her father didn't even ask for details about the car. Over and over, while Jo clutched the phone and sobbed, he only asked for assurance that she and Rosa were okay.

"How can he love me like that?" she still asks today, four years later. "I'll tell you one thing. That love convinced me to drive differently. I try to live up to it."

Jo's father cared for his family. God cares about families too. Read **Psalm 127** to discover God's unselfish, protective love for families.

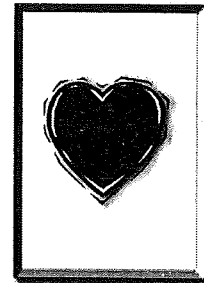
- According to verse 1, what's the danger of trying to build a family without God's guidance?
- How can you help make God a more prominent part of your family?

C O N S I D E R . . .

- stopping activities in your life that make your parents worry.
- writing and signing an agreement with your parents that makes God the central focus of your family.

F O R M O R E , S E E . . .

- Joshua 24:14–15 (p. 214)
- 2 Corinthians 6:14–18 (p. 1199)
- Ephesians 5:21–6:4 (p. 1225)



52 Daily Devotions

12

The Numbers Tell the Story

Suppose you were sitting in a classroom of thirty people and that your classroom represented the world. How would your classroom "world" look? Check it out:

- Only two of you would live to age seventy-four.
- Seventeen of you would make less than six hundred dollars a year.
- Two of you would be so malnourished that your growth would be stunted.
- Ten of you would suffer some form of nutritional deficiency.
- Only fifteen of you would have access to clean drinking water.
- One of you would control 80 percent of the farmland.
- Only six of you would live in safe, sturdy homes.

Startling, isn't it? According to Worldwatch Institute, about 1.2 billion people live today without sufficient food, clothing, and shelter to meet their basic needs. Though North Americans tend to think of hunger as a Third World problem, statistics show that nearly 20 percent of Americans live below the poverty level, with that percentage even higher among children.

God wants to use the church to protect and help the less fortunate. Read **Psalm 146** to find out more about God's promises to people in need.

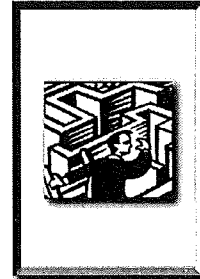
- The psalmist says the Lord "loves those who do right." What does this phrase mean with respect to helping the poor?
- How can you join with God in helping the "orphans and widows" in your community?

C O N S I D E R . . .

- keeping a jar by the washing machine and putting all your family's loose change into it. Give this to your church to help the disadvantaged.
- volunteering your time and energy to help repair the homes of the less fortunate.

F O R M O R E , S E E . . .

- Psalm 140:12-13 (p. 561)
- 2 Corinthians 9:7-9 (p. 1201)
- Matthew 25:31-46 (p. 954)



52 Daily Devotions

13

Moment of Wonder

Waves on the Sea of Cortez rolled under Marty Stypes's kayak. One crested behind her and broke, spewing foam over her back. Panic gripped her. She leaned into the wind, paddling hard. Her muscles ached. Why had she taken this wilderness course?

The answer echoed within her, "to test myself, to get back in touch with God."

But where was he?

When she rounded the rocky point, stillness surrounded her. Sunlight broke through the clouds, sparkling into the turquoise depths of the protected cove. Marty rested her paddle and looked beneath her. Sea fans waved their purple lace. Yellow fish darted. She leaned back and gazed at the horizon. Pelicans skimmed inches above the water.

Suddenly the sea split beside her. A dolphin arched high, then dove, circling her. She sucked in her breath, overcome with wonder.

"Lord, oh Lord, you're everywhere!"

The voice of Wisdom, in Proverbs, speaks about the joy in observing God's creation. Read about it in **Proverbs 8:22-31**.

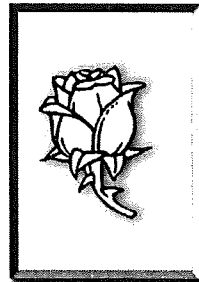
- What might Wisdom's voice say to Marty from this passage?
- Where do you most strongly sense God's presence? Why?

C O N S I D E R . . .

- searching for the tiny forms of God's creation as you walk across a yard or a vacant lot, and thanking God for them.
- finding a special place in nature where you can go regularly to be with God.

F O R M O R E . S E E . . .

- Psalm 104:1-35 (p. 541)
- Revelation 4:11 (p. 1335)
- Luke 8:22-26 (p. 1017)



52 Daily Devotions

14

Easy to Take for Granted

It's invisible—easy to take for granted.

Your hand will go right through it.

It combines with practically everything, and if it didn't, life couldn't exist. It's a part of hundreds of thousands of things we use daily, and it makes up two-thirds of your body . . . nine-tenths of the oceans . . . one-fifth of the air you breathe.

Try living without it. You can't. Nothing can.

It's invisible. You take it for granted and never think about it because it's everywhere.

You guessed it—it's oxygen.

In many ways, God's love is like oxygen. They're both invisible, and they're both everywhere.

But God's love is even more essential than oxygen for life. The writer of

Psalm 103 knew the importance of God's love for living.

- What phrases in this psalm reflect God's active, aggressive love for us?
- How is God's love alive in the attitudes and actions of people you know?

C O N S I D E R

- thinking about what God has done in your life and writing two-word sentences combining the noun "He . . ." and an active, descriptive verb, such as "He strengthens" or "He listens."
- choosing three ways you can become more active in showing God's love to others, starting this week.

F O R M O R E , S E E . . .

- Genesis 1:26–31 (p. 3)
- Proverbs 3:11–12 (p. 570)

- John 3:16–21 (p. 1062)



52 Daily Devotions

15

She Spoke Too Soon

Arlis Jordan was gorgeous. Stylish hair. Perfect complexion. Long eyelashes. Five-foot-five, one hundred eight pounds. Flawless figure. Everyone knew she was the best-looking girl at Westmont High.

Everyone, including Arlis. Whenever she had a chance, she would point out her own beauty and slam the "plain" girls. "Don't you care how you look?" she would chide if someone's hair wasn't carefully curled or if make-up didn't hide every blemish. "You really should take care of yourself . . . like I do."

When it was time for the Westmont Beauty Pageant, everyone knew Arlis would enter. And Arlis knew she would win. "Come on," she would sneer if someone questioned her. "Who in this city can give me any competition?"

As it turned out, Kris Jackson could. Kris entered the pageant because she wanted scholarship money for college. And though she wasn't as strikingly beautiful as Arlis, her vibrant personality and smile gave her the edge.

When Kris was crowned Miss Westmont, Arlis didn't even congratulate her. She burst into tears and stormed off the stage. "The judges are just stupid!" she cried, alone in the dressing room. "This whole thing is stupid!"

Arlis discovered how dangerous and humiliating bragging can be. Read **1 Samuel 2:1–10** to see what God thinks of braggers.

- How does the passage describe what happened to Arlis? What does it say about Kris?
- What caution about bragging do you see in the passage?

CONSIDER . . .

- stopping yourself next time you're tempted to brag about a good grade, honor or public recognition. Instead, use your gifts to help others.
- thanking God for the gifts you have, instead of bragging about them.

FOR MORE, SEE . . .

- Proverbs 16:18–20 (p. 581)
- Luke 1:46–55 (p. 1001)
- Jeremiah 9:23–24 (p. 703)



52 Daily Devotions

16

A Little Encouragement

Dean Agnew would lie awake nights waiting to hear the sound of a car driving up. When he did, he would run to the front door to unlock it. Then he would cry with fear as his stepfather stumbled in, reeking of alcohol.

Doors slammed. Dishes broke in the kitchen. And yelling—the horrible yelling at his mother—made Dean wish his alcoholic stepfather would die.

Dean might have gone crazy if it hadn't been for friends like Tom Kruger. Tom was a year older than Dean. The two laughed a lot together, and Tom, a mechanical wizard, taught Dean how to fix cars.

Whenever Tom gave Dean a ride somewhere, he would end the trip by saying, "Stay cool, guy." Dean knew he meant, "Hang in there."

Those were tough times for Dean, but he survived because of his friends—people like Tom.

Ruth and Naomi also faced tough times. Both lost their husbands, and Naomi also lost her only sons. But because of their friendship with each other, they made it through. Read about their relationship in **Ruth 1:1–19**.

- How were Dean's and Ruth's situations made better by the friendships of Tom and Naomi?
- How can Ruth's example help you be a more committed friend?

CONSIDER . . .

- befriending a newcomer at school or someone with a different background from you.
- being a committed friend to someone who is facing tough times by letting him or her talk openly about the problems.

FOR MORE, SEE . . .

- Leviticus 19:9–10 (p. 115)
- I John 3:11–18 (p. 1318)
- I Samuel 20:11–17 (p. 263)



52 Daily Devotions

17

Bigger Isn't Always Better

"Too short."

That was the assessment of basketball coaches at Wilmer-Hutchins High School near Dallas. At five-foot-seven, Spud Webb didn't look like he was varsity basketball material.

But Spud thought they were wrong, and he played hard every day. He became the team's best passer, dribbler, and outside shooter.

Coaches at Midland Junior College told Spud the same thing: He was too short for the team. But Spud believed in himself and proved them wrong.

Coaches at North Carolina State also thought Spud was too short to play major-college ball. But Spud believed in himself, and he not only started for NC State, but he became an All-Atlantic Coast Conference player.

When Spud graduated, the sports commentators said he was too short to play in the National Basketball Association. But the Atlanta Hawks drafted him in 1985, and he proved the commentators wrong.

In a league where some players towered two feet above him, Spud's slashing, driving style made him one of the most feared guards in professional basketball.

Spud Webb became a superstar—despite people's predictions. Likewise, David became king of Israel, even though he wasn't the tallest, smartest, or strongest choice. Read why God chose him in **1 Samuel 16:1–13**.

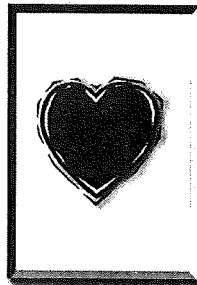
- What might have happened if Spud Webb and David had believed what others said?
- What qualities did David have that you see in yourself?

C O N S I D E R . . .

- identifying some good things about yourself that someone looking at you from the outside might not notice. Decide how you'll use those qualities to serve God.
- finding out some good things that are hidden in someone who is unpopular at school or church, then encouraging him or her in those things.

F O R M O R E . S E E . . .

- Psalm 147:10–11 (p. 564)
- Galatians 2:6 (p. 1207)
- Ephesians 1:3–6 (p. 1217)



52 Daily Devotions

18

Pass the Paintbrush

Leonardo da Vinci was one of the greatest artists who has ever lived. In the late 1400s and early 1500s, this Italian genius was revered for his painting, sculpting, architecture, engineering, and inventing.

One day a student walked into da Vinci's studio to find the master working on a huge canvas. He had chosen the subject, planned the perspective, sketched the outline, and begun painting. Then, suddenly, he stopped and asked the student to finish the painting.

The student protested, saying he could never do justice to the great painter's work. He felt he was unworthy to complete such an important job.

Da Vinci cut him off. "Will not what I have done inspire you to do your best?" he asked.

In the same way that da Vinci hoped to encourage his student, Deborah wanted to motivate Barak and the Israelites in battle. Read how she challenged Barak in **Judges 4:4–16**.

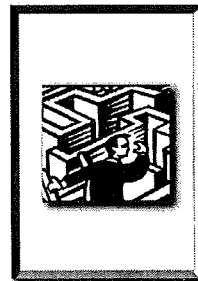
- How was da Vinci's challenge to the student similar to Deborah's challenge to Barak?
- How can you use God's power to help you inspire others the way Deborah inspired Barak to overcome a challenge?

C O N S I D E R . . .

- asking someone you admire for support to deal with a challenge you're facing.
- sending a thank-you note to someone—a parent, a friend, someone at church—who has inspired you in your faith in recent months.

F O R M O R E , S E E . . .

- Judges 5:1–31 (p. 220)
- Hebrews 12:1–3 (p. 1289)
- 1 Corinthians 1:10–17 (p. 1168)



52 Daily Devotions

19

Earned Respect

The other track team members didn't know what to think when Anne Cleveland walked into the locker room the first day of practice. She was a sophomore, and everyone else on the team was a junior or senior. "How's everybody doing?" she said cheerfully.

But as the other team members ran their warm-up laps, they couldn't ignore Anne's rhythmic stride and seemingly effortless pace. And by the end of the afternoon, they all knew this girl would fit in. She worked hard, did well and encouraged others.

Within weeks, Anne had become a star, setting the state record in the 400-meter dash. But when the school newspaper reporter asked her about it, she replied: "I'm glad the team did well. The whole team encouraged me in that race. We work hard together."

Anne never would take glory for her performance. And, gradually, the older girls began asking her for pointers. By the end of the season, the whole team had become one of the best in the state.

When it came to picking a captain for the next year, no one questioned whom to pick. Sure she was only a junior, and a senior usually led the team, but Anne was the team's natural leader.

Like Anne, David had proven his leadership skills for years. So when it came time to find a new king, he was a natural choice, even though he was young. Read how the country chose him in **2 Samuel 5:1-5**.

- How did both Anne and David earn respect so that they were chosen as leaders? How did their humility help them both as leaders?
- How can you, like David, work to earn respect so you can be a leader?

C O N S I D E R . . .

- talking to a leader you respect about how he or she became a leader. Then put into practice one tip you learned.
- working to be a team player at church, school and work, then watching to see what leadership role you might play.

F O R M O R E , S E E . . .

- Jeremiah 1:4-10 (p. 691)
- I Corinthians 3:5-9 (p. 1170)
- Matthew 20:20-28 (p. 944)



52 Daily Devotions

20

When People Can't Say Thanks

Rick Marty's friends couldn't believe he was taking a summer job at the nursing home after graduation. When he described his job, they gagged.

"I'll be working with eight Alzheimer's patients," he explained. "Waking them up. Changing their adult diapers. Taking them to breakfast. Feeding them."

And that's what he did for three months. Every day, he would wake people and get them ready for the day. And even though he was always there, they never recognized him. In fact, some would slap him and yell at him without any reason. And they never thanked him or even recognized all the work he did for them.

"How do you do it?" his amazed friends asked one Saturday night when the gang went out for pizza. "It sounds terrible."

"You have to realize what these people are going through," Rick said. "They're frustrated with themselves, not you. You just have to help them be as comfortable as they can be."

Rick had learned what it means to serve someone even when it's tough. David had similar experiences with service in a tough situation. Read about it in **1 Samuel 16:14-23**.

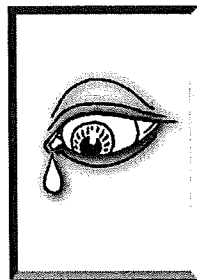
- How does Rick's servant attitude compare with David's dedicated service to King Saul? Read 1 Samuel 18:10-11 (p. 262) to see what happened later. How does this information change your view of David's dedication?
- When have you comforted someone who, like King Saul, could never express gratitude? How did you feel?

C O N S I D E R . . .

- volunteering at a nursing home or day care center for people who need special help.
- writing a letter of encouragement to someone who is doing a thankless, but necessary, service.

F O R M O R E , S E E . . .

- Proverbs 11:24-25 (p. 577)
- 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 (p. 1193)
- Matthew 10:5-8 (p. 922)



52 Daily Devotions

21

Hidden Sins

- It wasn't a big crash. Just a little nudge in the parking lot. From what Joni Snyder could tell, just the taillight was broken. She would get it fixed before her parents returned from their weekend getaway, and they would never know she had taken the Volvo without permission.

She didn't notice that the license plate was also bent.

- When Terrence Ball's parents asked him if he smoked pot, he was furious. "Of course not!" he shouted. "Don't you trust me?"

But his parents could smell the smoke in his jean jacket.

- It would be harmless. No one would know that Terri Walker's English term paper was just like Amy Woods's paper from four years ago. Amy had gotten an A on it, so Terri figured she could too—with a lot less work.

But she wasn't prepared when the teacher asked for an oral report too.

- The lawn in front of the school looked like a moonscape. The tires had torn the sod so badly that the whole lawn would have to be replaced. The principal demanded that anyone who knew what had happened report it. Almost everyone knew it was Don Hunter and Gary Richards, the football stars. But no one said anything.

Just as people try to hide their sins today, David tried to hide his sin when he committed adultery with Bathsheba. But, as **2 Samuel 12:1–25** reveals, God saw the sin.

- What might the prophet Nathan say to the teenagers who tried to hide their sins?
- Just as David suffered the consequences of his sin, how have you suffered the consequences of something you've done wrong?

CONSIDER . . .

- confessing to a parent or friend something you've done wrong but have kept hidden. Also confess it to God and accept his forgiveness.
- being honest and open next time you're confronted about something you did. See how the approach affects what happens.

FOR MORE, SEE . . .

- Psalm 51:1–13 (p. 511)
- 1 John 1:8–10 (p. 1316)
- Isaiah 29:15–16 (p. 645)



52 Daily Devotions

22

His Presence

"There came into my soul . . . a sense of the glory of the divine being; a new sense, quite different from anything I had ever experienced before."

Jonathan Edwards (1703–1758)

Edwards followed God by devoting his life to proclaiming and defending the gospel as one of the leaders of the Great Awakening in New England.

"Down in my deep well, shrouded with blackness, feeling helpless and devoid of hope, I cried out for help. Now, at last, I was ready to go to any length to achieve sobriety. And God heard my cry and answered." "Michael"

"Michael" felt God's presence in his time of need and began the long road to recovery from alcoholism through Alcoholics Anonymous. He follows God day-by-day as a pastor who helps others recover from alcoholism.

"At this moment I feel something 'let go' inside and lo, God is here! It is a heart-melting 'here-ness,' a lovely whispering of father to child."

Frank Laubauch (1884–1970)

Laubauch became a missionary and developed a world-wide method of teaching people to read.

The experience of God's presence led these three to act on their faith. Job was also changed as he experienced God's presence. Read **Job 42:1–6**.

- How does Job's reaction to meeting God compare to these three people's sense of God's presence with them? How is it different?
- How would your faith change if you suddenly sensed God's presence, as in verses 4 and 5?

C O N S I D E R . . .

- praying for God to give you a clear picture of what he wants you to do for him.
- writing down what you value most, why you value it, and how your feelings about it would change if you considered it a loan from God.

F O R M O R E , S E E . . .

- 1 Kings 19:11–13 (p. 325)
- Acts 9:3–19 (p. 1112)
- Psalm 63:1–8 (p. 518)



52 Daily Devotions

23

The K. C. Kid

K. C. Bennett was a riot. He could make more weird sounds, contort his face into more outrageous expressions and do more imitations than almost any other seventeen-year-old. He was so thin he could do tricks with his shoulder blades. People couldn't stop laughing when he tried playing "Chopsticks" on the piano with them!

And K. C. was friendly. He seemed to relate to everyone. When the group stopped at a fast-food restaurant, in less than two minutes he would be charming the girl working the cash register and entertaining children three tables away.

K. C. was great to have in the church youth group. Sure, he didn't always pay attention when the pastor preached (he wasn't the only one), and there were times he turned a serious discussion into a joke. But he was a nice guy who treated people well.

In fact, K. C. fit in too well—everywhere. With the church kids, he was a great group member. Responsible. Upbeat. Moral. But when he was with the guys in his neighborhood, he fit in just as well—maybe better. Vandalism. Skipping school. Trouble with police. Drinking. Drugs. More trouble with police.

As hard as people at church tried, they couldn't keep K. C. in the group. In his senior year, he spent less and less time with church friends as his life spiraled down to the level of the neighborhood crowd. Eventually, he was gone.

Through the next ten years, K. C.'s life was a series of broken relationships, bouts with alcohol and drug abuse, and lost jobs. He regularly partied with some of the guys from the old neighborhood. K. C. still fit in.

K. C. never understood the danger of the wrong kind of peer pressure described in **Psalm 1**.

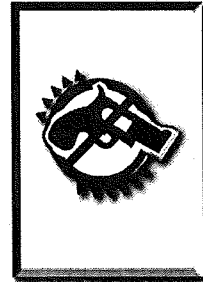
- What might the psalmist say if he were writing a letter to K. C. today?
- What does this psalm tell you to do about negative peer pressure?

C O N S I D E R . . .

- planning to do something with a friend who will have a positive spiritual impact on you.
- writing your own psalm (a song or a poem) that expresses your desire to do God's will rather than follow the crowd.

F O R M O R E , S E E . . .

- Genesis 26:1–11 (p. 30)
- Hebrews 10:24–25 (p. 1286)
- 2 Corinthians 6:14–18 (p. 1199)



52 Daily Devotions

24

He Lost His Grip

The school paper's sports headline said it all: "Tom Harley Loses Tennis Tournament With a Smash."

Tom read the biting article and then let out a sigh. He had felt so dumb for letting his anger get to him at the tournament that day. But the deed was done. Nothing could repair his tennis racket. He had hurled the stringed beast at the fence in a spark of rage. And his brand new racket abruptly met the fence post.

"C'mon, Tom," his partner, Jim, had whispered intensely. "Relax. Your temper's gonna throw this match for us."

"I'm fine," Tom had snapped. "Where's your extra racket?"

They probably would have lost anyway, but Tom was still mad about having to play with a racket he was unfamiliar with. They only won three games in the next two sets.

The coach didn't say a word that day, but Tom could tell he was furious. The next week at practice, he made Tom and Jim do extra "hate drills."

"Any doubles team with enough extra energy to waste on destroying tennis rackets," Coach said, "can surely handle a little extra running." So the twosome painfully ran the width of six tennis courts, frontward and backward, again and again.

And then there was the teasing from Tom's teammates.

"Hey, Tantrum Tom, fought off any attacking fence posts lately?"

"So, Tom, how many tennis rackets have you bought this month?"

Even with all this abuse, Tom hadn't learned his lesson. It took several more temper tantrums and broken rackets for him to learn the simple truth that anger wasn't going to make him play better tennis, or improve his life in any way!

Anger can sometimes be constructive. But, the psalmist reminds us how destructive anger can become. He warns us in **Psalm 4**, "When you are angry, do not sin." Hold on to the racket!

■ Do you think throwing a tennis racket in a fit of anger is a sin? Why or why not?

■ How can you avoid doing wrong things when you're angry?

C O N S I D E R . . .

■ seeking forgiveness from someone you've sinned against because of your anger.

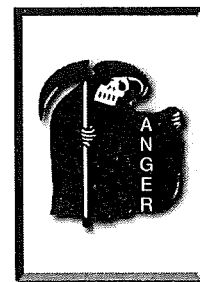
■ picturing the place or situation in which you get the angriest, and asking God to help you stay calm the next time you're there.

F O R M O R E . . . S E E . . .

■ Exodus 32 (p. 89)

■ Mark 11:15-19 (p. 995)

■ Ephesians 4:26-27 (p. 1224)



52 Daily Devotions

25

Standing for Right

George Fox had a message from God, and he was not going to let anyone stop him from preaching it. In England in the 1600s, he urged people to listen to Christ, to be honest in business, and to be compassionate to the poor. Central to his message was the idea of religious liberty and that God worked through individual people, not just through the established church.

Though many people believed him and were converted, others opposed him. On many occasions, he was thrown down church steps or beaten. Once he was thrown into jail for six months. But he would not bend his beliefs and so got sentenced to six more months as a result. "Truth can live in the jails," he wrote. "Be valiant for Truth upon the earth and tread upon deceit."

Despite the government's efforts to stop him from challenging the official church, Fox's message got through to people because of his conviction and honesty. Within eight years of beginning his ministry, fifty thousand people had heard his message and had become followers. Young followers, known as "the valiant sixty," joined Fox in preaching at fairs, in markets, in fields, in jails, and in courts.

When he died in 1691, about one hundred thousand people had joined Fox's movement, which became known as the Society of Friends. Today the Friends (or Quakers) span the world, spreading a message of peace, holiness, service, and religious liberty.

George Fox's ministry had a long-term impact because his message was a true message from God. In his farewell speech, Moses urged the Israelites to listen carefully to prophets' messages to learn if they are true or not. Read **Deuteronomy 18:15-20** to see the guidelines he established.

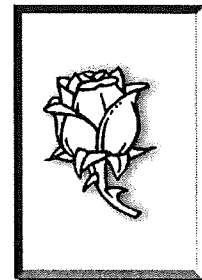
- In what ways did George Fox's message fit with the message of the prophets as described in this passage?
- How can this passage help you evaluate messages you hear from people who have leadership roles?

C O N S I D E R . . .

- choosing key words from this passage to make a checklist for evaluating leaders. Use it whenever you wonder whether to believe what someone tells you.
- praying for Christian leaders around the world who sometimes have to risk their lives to speak God's truth.

F O R M O R E , S E E . . .

- Jeremiah 37:1-21 (p. 734)
- Hebrews 11:32-40 (p. 1288)
- Luke 4:23-30 (p. 1009)



52 Daily Devotions

26

A Speck?

When you look up in the sky at night, it's easy to see that the Earth is little more than a tiny speck in a giant universe. And within our solar system are nine planets, each of them unique and wonderful.

Mercury, the closest planet to the sun, is still 36 million miles from the sun. Venus, the next closest planet, is just a little smaller than the Earth and is covered by a layer of clouds that hide its surface.

Next beyond Earth is Mars, which is like a red desert of rock, sand, and soil. Jupiter, the largest planet, comes next. Its diameter is eleven times that of Earth. Saturn is next and is the last planet we can see with an unaided eye. The next planet, Uranus, is 1.8 billion miles from the sun. Beyond it are Neptune and Pluto, which have eccentric rotation patterns, so they sometimes switch places, making Pluto closer to the sun than Neptune.

It's kind of overwhelming, isn't it? It makes us seem so insignificant.

But wait!

Mercury's temperature can reach 780 degrees. Clouds on Venus drip pure sulphuric acid. The atmosphere on Mars is like car exhaust. A mixture of sulphur and phosphorus make Jupiter like a giant match head, ready to ignite.

On Saturn, raindrops are liquified methane gas. Uranus is covered in radioactive smog. One hemisphere of Neptune will not see sunlight until the year 2030. And Pluto is frozen solid.

Makes you think God cares specially for us on Earth, doesn't it?

When the psalmist looked to the heavens in **Psalm 8**, he, too, was overwhelmed and felt insignificant. But he recognized how special the Earth and its people are to God.

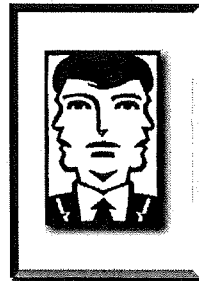
- How do these scientific facts about the solar system relate to the message of Psalm 8?
- Do you ever struggle with the thought that God values you and finds you important? What's the message of Psalm 8 for you?

CONSIDER . . .

- listing the different ways you strive to feel important and comparing them to the reasons you believe that God truly values you. The Bible passages listed under "For More, See" can get you started.
- doing something special for yourself—such as going to a fun athletic event or buying yourself flowers—as a way of recognizing how special you are to God!

FOR MORE, SEE . . .

- Genesis 1:26–31 (p. 3)
- John 3:16–17 (p. 1062)
- Romans 5:6–8 (p. 1145)



52 Daily Devotions

27

Totally Committed

Joseph Clark, fifteen, was determined. So what if his 900-student high school had only thirty black students? He still believed the school should have a major, annual celebration to commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr.'s contribution to society.

School officials were reluctant. The school already had a black history program. But Joseph kept pushing and eventually succeeded in gaining approval for a special program for King's birthday. Then he planned the program and invited the speakers, who helped the students understand the leader's legacy.

But Joseph wasn't satisfied. He talked to his pastor about having a special worship service to honor Dr. King. With a little work, he convinced the minister too.

Joseph doesn't tire of his efforts. He's totally dedicated to promoting his black heritage. It's that kind of wholehearted commitment that God wants his people to have when following his will. Read **Deuteronomy 6:1-9** to learn about the importance of total commitment when following God.

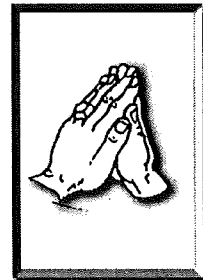
- How does Joseph's commitment to his cause compare to the commitment called for in the passage? What is similar?
- How difficult is it for you to be completely dedicated to God as the passage challenges? How are you working on your commitment?

CONSIDER . . .

- rewriting in your own words what Deuteronomy 6:5 means to you.
- evaluating what area of your life is most difficult to give totally to God. Pray that God will give you the strength to commit that area to him.

FOR MORE, SEE . . .

- Deuteronomy 10:12-22 (p. 171)
- Luke 14:25-35 (p. 1034)
- Philippians 3:12-16 (p. 1232)



52 Daily Devotions

28

Remembering Love

Terrence Shaw, seventeen, bravely held back tears as he tossed a shovel of dirt into his mother's grave.¹

What would his family do now? He, his four younger brothers, and his dad had depended on their mom for everything. None of them knew how to cook, do laundry, or clean the house. And, making matters worse, his dad had been laid off from his job just a week before Mom's stroke.

After the burial, Terrence and his family went to the church where lunch was provided. Mrs. Hammer pulled Terrence aside. "I just spoke with your father, Terrence," she said. "Some of the women of the church want to help you and your brothers around the house. We'll be over tomorrow to do some cooking and cleaning."

Two women arrived the next morning and spent several hours in the home. And through the next month, different people came back. They patiently taught Terrence and the others how to cook meals, separate and wash the laundry, and clean the floors. Gradually, the family learned what it needed to cope without Mom.

Now a pastor, Terrence testifies: "I don't know what we would have done without our church family. Their love is what made me decide to become a minister. They helped make me what I am today."

Terrence has never forgotten how God provided for his family through the church. **Deuteronomy 8:10-18** reminds us never to forget that all good things come from God.

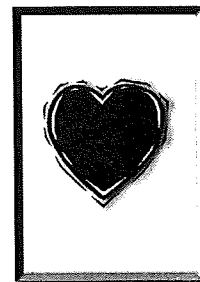
- How does Terrence's choice to be a pastor show the spirit of thankfulness spoken of in this passage?
- In what ways mentioned in the passage has God helped you? How have you expressed your thanks?

C O N S I D E R . . .

- writing a list of everything you can think of that God has given you in the past month. Then thank God for something different every day in the next week.
- taking a dessert or a meal to someone who's suffering as a way of saying thanks to God.

F O R M O R E , S E E . . .

- Psalm 77:11-20 (p. 527)
- 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 (p. 1201)
- Psalm 92:1-5 (p. 536)



52 Daily Devotions

29

Respected Leaders

Judge Bill Logue is a rare judge. He's respected by prosecuting attorneys and defense lawyers, by police officers and convicted felons alike. He knows the law, and his decisions are rarely overturned by a higher court.

Even with his back-breaking load of court cases, Judge Logue finds time each week to help underprivileged kids who have criminal records. He tutors them and helps them start constructive lives so he won't have to sentence them again.

Recently Judge Logue was stricken with throat cancer. Cards, letters, flowers and presents swamped the hospital. People from around the state wrote of their sympathy and prayers.

But nothing touched the judge as much as the fistful of letters he received from prisoners—prisoners he had sent to jail. "You helped me get my life back on track," they told him. "I'll never forget you. Thanks."

Judge Logue shows how God's followers can make a difference for good in government. When King David was dying, he celebrated how God had worked in his life for good. Read about it in **2 Samuel 23:1-7**.

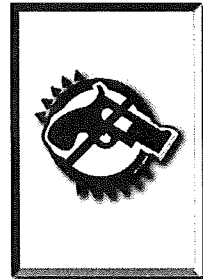
- How do verses 3 and 4 describe Judge Logue and other Christians like him who serve in government?
- Do leaders today have the same opportunities to serve God as they did in David's time? How can you support and encourage them to do good?

C O N S I D E R . . .

- praying that God will guide your country's leaders as they make important decisions.
- writing a letter to government officials to express your opinion on an important issue they are confronting.

F O R M O R E , S E E . . .

- Psalm 2:1-11 (p. 483)
- 1 Timothy 2:1-3 (p. 1256)
- Proverbs 16:10-15 (p. 581)



52 Daily Devotions

30

Donna's Diary

October 15—I got drunk last night. Again. I had to do something to ease the tensions at home. Mom and Dad keep hassling me about what I'm going to do with my life. Why won't they leave me alone? Why won't they let me grow up? I'm sixteen—old enough to make my own decisions.

I can't take it! The rules. The curfews. The restrictions. They're driving me crazy. Just tonight, Jerry called. When I told Mom and Dad, they blew up. "Why do you hang out with that scum?" Mom cried.

October 23—Mom and Dad caught me coming home drunk last night. I've never seen them so angry. So this morning they packed me into the car and brought me to this funny farm.

January 29—I just got out of the alcohol-abuse treatment program this week. I thought things would be better when I got home, but I was wrong. Mom and Dad watch me constantly. They're so paranoid I'll do something wrong again.

Well, I don't have to deal with this anymore. Jerry said I could move in with him. I think I will. Tomorrow it's good-bye to this place and hello to a new, free life.

April 18. It wasn't supposed to be this way. I mean, Jerry seemed like such a great guy. But I hadn't seen him angry—really angry. Like he was last night. Now the side of my face is swollen, and I can't open my left eye.

What can I do? He said he'd kill me if I told anyone. And, after last night, I believe him. Should I tell Mom and Dad? We used to be so close. But, since I left home, I don't know. Would they help me? Do they still love me?

Does anyone really love me? What went wrong?

Donna's diary describes rebellion from a teenager's perspective. Read about rebellion from a parent's perspective in **2 Samuel 18:24–33**, where King David expresses deep pain at his son Absalom's rebellion when he learns about Absalom's death.

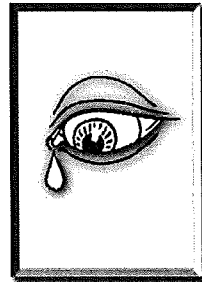
- If Absalom had written a diary, what do you think he might have said to his father, King David?
- When have you wanted to rebel against your parent or parents? What did you do? What happened?

CONSIDER . . .

- praying for families that are torn apart by rebellion. Ask God to help the families communicate and come back together.
- negotiating with your parents to decide together what to do if you feel overly restricted or stifled.

FOR MORE, SEE . . .

- Hosea 11:1–11 (p. 831)
- Luke 15:11–32 (p. 1035)
- Ephesians 6:1–4 (p. 1225)



52 Daily Devotions

31

Walking in My Own Footsteps

Clarence Mitchell was a legend. For twenty-nine years, he had been the chief lobbyist in Washington, D.C., for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Using his knowledge of the law and his persuasive powers, he pushed legislators to pass laws to protect the rights of black people. Every civil rights law passed by Congress during the turbulent 1960s had his fingerprints on it.

Then, in 1978, he retired, and Althea T. L. Simmons took his place. For years, she had dedicated her life to studying and practicing civil rights law. And she had worked for twenty-five years honing her skills and knowledge.

Soon after she took the new position, she went to the White House to meet with U.S. President Jimmy Carter. "Miss Simmons," he said, "you've got some very big shoes to fill."

She responded: "Mr. President, nobody can fill Clarence Mitchell's shoes. I'll have to walk in my own footsteps."

As a leader, Clarence Mitchell left a legacy. Moses—one of the Israelites' greatest leaders—left a legacy by leading them out of captivity in Egypt. When he died, Joshua became the new leader with a new agenda. Read about the challenge he faced in **Numbers 27:12–23**.

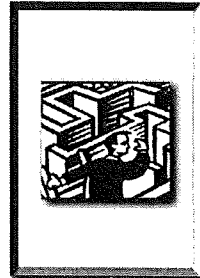
- How were Althea Simmons's years of experience and training similar to Joshua's forty years of preparation to become a leader?
- In what ways that are described in the passage are you being prepared to become a leader in your school, church, or community?

CONSIDER . . .

- asking your parent to list leadership skills, gifts, or qualities he or she would like to pass on to you. Then decide together ways for you to learn those skills.
- interviewing your pastor or another church leader about how he or she became a leader. Then write a short biography for the church newsletter.

FOR MORE, SEE . . .

- Judges 6:11–16 (p. 222)
- 2 Timothy 2:1–7 (p. 1264)
- John 21:15–22 (p. 1095)



52 Daily Devotions

32

I Told You So

Tyrone Gilker carefully laid the extra pillows on his bed, fluffing them to make them look bigger. Then he covered them with the sheets and bedspread. "That should do it," he whispered as he shut off the light.

He tiptoed to the window and opened it carefully. Climbing out, he stretched his legs to reach the porch roof below, shimmied to the edge and climbed down the trellis, carefully avoiding the climbing roses.

Mark and Sandy were waiting in the Toyota around the corner. "No problem," Tyrone said, hopping into the back seat. "They'll never know I'm gone. Six Flags, here we come."

The three friends didn't plan to stay at the theme park too long, but they didn't want to completely miss the park's all-night extravaganza for graduating seniors. Tyrone had tried to get permission to go, but his parents wouldn't give him a later curfew. So he decided to go without them knowing.

It would have worked, except the trellis wasn't as strong as he had thought. When he returned home four hours later, his foot found a loose board, and he screamed, "Aaaaaaaah!" as he tumbled into the roses.

When the light came on in his parents' room, Tyrone knew he was in trouble. What would happen now? he wondered as he sat on the lawn and waited for his dad to appear.

Tyrone knew what he was doing was wrong, but he did it anyway. Similarly, the Israelites knew they shouldn't build an idol to worship. Read **Exodus 32:1-14** to see what happened when they did it anyway.

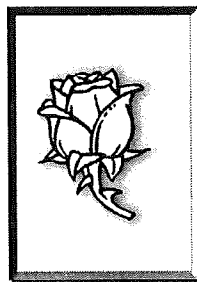
- What lesson might Tyrone have learned from the passage if he had read it before crawling out the window?
- When have you, like the Israelites, doubted God's leadership and disobeyed him? What did you learn about trusting God from that experience?

C O N S I D E R . . .

- praying that God will give you strength next time you're tempted to do something you know is wrong.
- listening to popular songs on the radio to find out what things people trust instead of God. How is their misplaced trust sinful?

F O R M O R E , S E E . . .

- Deuteronomy 32:15-22 (p. 189)
- Romans 6:1-7 (p. 1146)
- 1 Kings 18:22-39 (p. 324)



52 Daily Devotions

33

Family Feud

Another famous Wilson-sister fight was brewing. Usually Marianne was home from college for an hour or so before the anger boiled over. This time she didn't have her bag unpacked.

"How could you ruin my Creston High School jacket!" Marianne screamed the minute she opened her closet to hang up her clothes.

"I didn't fall off my bike on purpose," Sheila yelled from her room. "A car almost hit me. It's not my fault!"

"But you took my jacket," Marianne hissed, storming into her sister's room.

"Mom said I could wear anything in your closet," Sheila retorted hotly.

"But you should've known I'd never let you wear this. I can never replace it," Marianne shot back.

"It's just a stupid school jacket," Sheila sassed sarcastically. "I thought you were a big college girl now."

Marianne threw the torn jacket on Sheila's bed. "Mom lets you get away with everything," she said, seething with anger. "But not this time. You're going to pay, little sister." And she stormed out of the room.

Sheila sat down on the bed, and her anger turned to tears. Why do I have so much trouble with my sister?

Sheila and Marianne's constant clashes are a lot like the clashes between Joseph and his brothers. Read **Genesis 37:1-36** to see what their bad relationship led to.

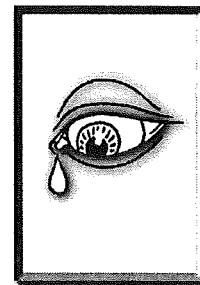
- What problems do you see in Marianne and Sheila's relationship that also show up in the relationship between Joseph and his brothers?
- Are you more like Joseph (the one who gets picked on) or his brothers (the ones who become jealous)?

C O N S I D E R

- writing an "I'm sorry" or "I forgive you" note to a family member and taping it to a mirror he or she uses.
- starting a "Something Nice" jar to collect notes about nice things other family members do for you. Look through the notes when you're angry at another family member.

F O R M O R E , S E E

- Genesis 27:1-41 (p. 32)
- I John 2:9-11 (p. 1317)
- Luke 10:38-41 (p. 1024)



52 Daily Devotions

34

Truth and Consequences

Marcus Baker couldn't wait to show up at Julius's "spring fling" party with Maria. Every guy in school drooled over Maria. For months, he had wanted to ask her out. Then when he invited her to the party, she had actually said, "I'd love to go with you."

When he had told his parents about the date, they asked about the party. "Will Julius's parents be there?"

"Of course," he said, without thinking.

Then he found out Julius's parents would be out of town. "That's the whole idea, guy!" Julius had boasted. "This is going to be a real party!"

The Thursday before the party, Marcus's parents spent the whole breakfast asking for details about the party. Usually he liked it when they showed interest, but it felt like they were prying this time.

He tried not to lie. Instead, he carefully worded his answers to avoid the exact truth about Julius's parents being gone. "I'm not sure exactly about the plans," he explained awkwardly. "But I'm sure Julius and his parents have everything worked out."

His parents seemed satisfied, and Marcus spent the day trying to put the conversation—and his white lies—out of his mind. But he couldn't. When he went to bed that night, he couldn't sleep. He didn't want to blow their trust in him over one party—even if he was taking Maria.

Finally, at 2 A.M., he climbed out of bed and went to his parents' room to wake them. He had to tell them and risk the consequences. And he could not sleep until he did.

And he was right about what his parents would say. They didn't let him go to the party. Friday morning, when he called Maria to explain, she was relieved. "To be honest," she said, "I was worried when I heard what the party would be like. Maybe we can do something else instead."

Marcus had struggled with telling the whole truth. Similarly, Isaac feared for his life if he told the king the truth. Read what happened to him in **Genesis 26:1–11**.

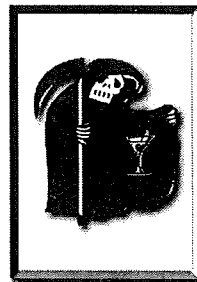
- What were Marcus and Isaac afraid would happen if they told the truth? Was their concern legitimate?
- When have you, like Isaac, told a lie to avoid potential trouble? What happened?

CONSIDER . . .

- talking with your parent or a trusted adult friend about situations when you might be tempted not to tell the whole truth. Ask what he or she would do in that situation.
- starting an honesty piggy bank. Every time you tell the truth when it's tough, put in a penny. Every time you tell a lie, take out a penny. Try to improve your "bank balance."

FOR MORE, SEE . . .

- Genesis 20:1–13 (p. 23)
- Acts 5:1–11 (p. 1104)
- Proverbs 3:3–4 (p. 570)



52 Daily Devotions

35

Who, Me?

Tony Matthews avoided his church's youth group. It was small, and none of his friends went. Plus, Tony was the youngest teenager in his church.

One Sunday, Tony's youth leader, Sharon, stopped him in the hall after worship. "Going with us on the retreat?" she asked.

Tony shook his head. "Uhhhh . . . It sounds all right, but I don't think so. Nobody my age will be there."

"That's a problem, isn't it?" Sharon mused. "Why don't you invite some of your friends?"

"I'm not very good at asking," Tony replied. "Besides, they wouldn't go anyway."

"Why not give it a try?" Sharon prodded. "I'd really like you to go."

Tony decided to try, but it was tough. He was shy, and he'd never talked to anyone about his church.

Most of the kids he asked said no, but Tony was persistent. Finally, he found two buddies to go with him, and they had a great time at the retreat.

The next youth group event was a miniature golf outing. Sharon figured about a dozen young people would come. But Tony and his friends liked golf, and he was part of the reason twenty-seven people showed up.

Being shy, Tony had doubted he had the gifts needed to persuade other kids to come to church, but God knew otherwise. Abraham and Sarah also doubted God could use them. Read their story in **Genesis 17:15-19**.

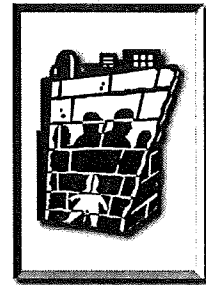
- How were Tony, Abraham, and Sarah similar and how were they different?
- Have you ever felt like laughing when someone suggested how God could use you? How did you deal with your doubts?

C O N S I D E R . . .

- asking a friend to tell you about gifts you have that you may not be aware of. Then commit yourself to using those gifts to serve God.
- doing something you're not sure you could ever do (such as writing a song, leading a Bible study, or sharing your faith) to see if God has given you gifts you doubted you had.

F O R M O R E , S E E . . .

- Exodus 3:7-22 (p. 60)
- Psalm 77:1-15 (p. 526)
- John 20:24-29 (p. 1094)



52 Daily Devotions

36

Quiet Cancer

The symptoms don't seem that bad. You feel kind of tired and short of breath. Your blood doesn't clot as well as it should, and you bruise easily.

But these seemingly minor problems can be symptoms of acute leukemia, a potentially deadly cancer.

Though the outward signs don't seem that bad, inside, the body is under siege. Cancerous cells have invaded the bone marrow and bloodstream. The body no longer produces enough healthy white blood cells, taking away the body's ability to fight off infections. Suddenly, the body feels sick and needs immediate medical attention. Untreated, a person can die within six weeks. Treatment can involve intravenous chemotherapy with drugs that kill the cancerous cells, but also kill normal cells.

The hope is that healthy cells will grow again after treatment . . . and that cancerous ones won't.

Like leukemia, evil can spread without people really noticing it. Yet it's deadly and difficult to get rid of. See how God feels about evil in the world by reading **Genesis 6:5–7:24**.

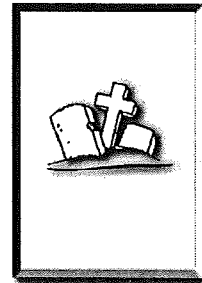
- What parallels do you see between acute leukemia and the evil described in the passage? How is God's response to that evil like chemotherapy?
- What kinds of evil described in the passage still exist today? How is God working in the world today to stop the spread of evil?

C O N S I D E R . . .

- identifying a potential evil in your life and then talking to a parent or other trusted adult about how you can stop it before it grows into a bigger problem.
- clipping newspaper articles that show evil in the world. Each day this week, pray for people who are trapped by that evil.

F O R M O R E , S E E . . .

- Psalm 43:1–5 (p. 507)
- Romans 1:28–32 (p. 1141)
- 1 John 5:18–20 (p. 1321)



52 Daily Devotions

37

Will We Ever Learn?

Five hundred years ago, Christopher Columbus wrote about the lush forests on the Haitian island of La Gonave. He described "thousands of kinds of trees so tall that they seem to be scratching heaven."

Today, the mountains of that island are almost barren. When the rain comes, the rich topsoil is eroded away, causing regular, devastating floods.

One year, thirty-three people in the small island town of Anse-a-Galets died in a flood. Three years later, the people were ready for the flooding. No one died, but two churches, four homes, and a drinking-water system were destroyed.

Some say the floods are natural disasters. But they happen, in part, because the people don't care for the land. They cut down trees to make charcoal to cook with or to sell. It's the only way they know to survive.

But it hurts them. Without trees, the highlands aren't protected. When rainfall comes, the good soil washes away, and the lowlands flood. So the cutting of trees to survive actually makes survival more difficult.

The people of La Gonave are experiencing the problems that come when people don't take care of the environment. Read **Genesis 2:4-17**—particularly verse 15—to see how God expects us to care for his world.

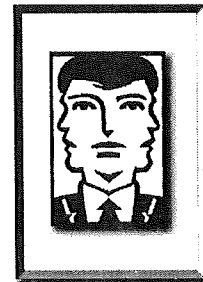
- How well do you think the people of La Gonave are fulfilling the responsibility of caring for God's "garden"?
- In what ways have you taken responsibility for caring for the world or "garden" God has given you?

CONSIDER . . .

- noting everything you throw away in a day or week. Decide which items you could avoid throwing away by recycling, reusing, or not purchasing.
- contributing to or getting involved with the National Forestry Association's Global ReLeaf campaign (Box 2000, Washington, DC 20013) or another organization that plants trees to repair damage people have caused by cutting down trees.

FOR MORE, SEE . . .

- Leviticus 25:1-7 (p. 121)
- Psalm 8:1-9 (p. 485)
- Colossians 1:15-20 (p. 1239)



52 Daily Devotions

38

The Good Things

Carol, Fred, and Tom had planned an evening packed with fun. The trunk of Tom's Honda was loaded with toilet paper and flashlights—the supplies they'd need to "t.p." Tanya's house in honor of her sixteenth birthday.

But first they went to the school parking lot for some fun with the car. Carol and Fred jumped on the hood, and Tom steered in wild, squealing circles. It was as fun as a roller coaster—until Carol lost her grip and flew off the hood. The tires screeched and swerved, barely missing Carol, who was lying on the ground. Her jeans were ripped, and one leg was bleeding.

"You okay?" Tom asked as he rushed out of the car.

"I think so," Carol responded, holding her leg. "Just shook up."

The three friends pulled themselves together, stunned by what had happened—and could have happened. Their original plans forgotten, they cautiously drove to Carol's house to explain to her parents the stupid thing they had done.

After Carol had bandaged her scrapes and changed clothes, the three friends drove to the Wayside Restaurant to think and talk. For three hours, they sipped on chocolate malts and reflected on what had happened.

"I can't believe I was that close to . . . you know," Carol said softly.

"Yeah, and I was behind the wheel," Tom added.

"I know one thing," Fred said resolutely. "I'm not going to take you guys for granted anymore. You're too good of friends to lose like that."

"Well, I know one thing," Carol exclaimed. "I'm not going to take life for granted. I enjoy being here too much to let a crazy game take it away."

It took a scary event for Carol, Fred, and Tom to realize how valuable and good life is. When God created the world and saw it for the first time, he also celebrated how good and valuable life is. Read about the goodness of life and the world in **Genesis 1:1–31**.

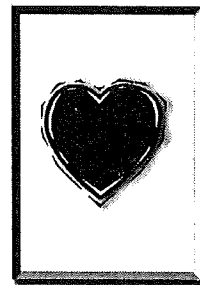
- How is the teenagers' new perspective on life like verse 31: "God looked at everything he had made, and it was very good"?
- What has happened to you that reminded you of the goodness and value of the life God has given you?

C O N S I D E R . . .

- rereading the passage and underlining in green every reference to life or living things. Praise God for the gift of life.
- giving a flower or small houseplant or doing a chore for someone who is valuable to you. Include a note that celebrates how he or she makes your life better.

F O R M O R E . S E E . . .

- Genesis 2:4–17 (p. 3)
- John 10:7–18 (p. 1074)
- Psalm 104:1–32 (p. 541)



52 Daily Devotions

39

What's the Connection?

"Oh, my back! Help, it hurts!"

When Jen Freeman hurt her back trying to push a car out of the snow, the doctor confined her to bed for a week. At the end of the week, Jen felt much better, so she went on a retreat she had signed up for two months earlier. Everything went fine until the third day, when Jen slipped on some ice. Then her back was worse than ever.

People helped Jen stand up and get around, and they brought things to her. Even more important, they prayed for her and comforted her. She began to talk about how difficult it was for her to rely on other people.

"I'm really independent," she said. "Relying on other people is hard for me, but here on the retreat, I have no choice. I can't even walk!"

God used Jen's injury to help her see how she was trying to isolate herself too much. Jen had to learn to rely on others.

In Old Testament times, most people believed illnesses were caused by sin. But that is not necessarily true. Read **1 Kings 17:17-24** to see how God used a boy's illness to show that Elijah was a man of God.

- What connection is there between illness and sin for Jen and for the woman in the passage?
- In what ways does God use illness, both in Bible times and today?

C O N S I D E R

- praying that God will use your next illness as a time of spiritual healing or renewal.
- asking to visit a hospital with your pastor or a hospital chaplain so you can join in caring for the sick.

F O R M O R E , S E E

- Deuteronomy 28:15-24 (p. 184)
- Acts 3:1-19 (p. 1100)
- John 9:1-7 (p. 1073)



52 Daily Devotions

40

You Against the World

Cindy Barrington used to hang out with the popular crowd. That is, until one day on the school bus, when one of the guys got hold of a note that wasn't his. It belonged to Cindy's little sister Liz.

This guy decided to have some fun at Liz's expense. "Hey, listen to this everybody," Brad yelled. "Hey, Shannon, did you see that new guy at school yesterday? What a dream! We accidentally bumped into each other in the hall, and he smiled at me. I almost died! I've got to find out his name. Signed, Liz."

"Hey, Liz," he added, "that was no 'accidental' bumping scene, now was it?" Everyone laughed. Liz shrunk in her seat.

As much as she wanted to go along with the popular crowd, Cindy couldn't let Brad hurt her sister like this.

"You know, I really pity you, Brad," Cindy said angrily. "I never knew you felt so bad about yourself that you'd stoop this low just for a laugh." Brad stopped laughing. "So why don't you just give me the note, Brad, and sit down. The real joke is on you."

The next day, the popular kids snubbed Cindy. They talked about her, loudly enough so she could hear, and they ignored her when she tried to talk. Cindy felt alone and lonely—all for standing up for what she believed was right.

Fortunately, her loneliness didn't last long. Soon, a few people told Cindy they were glad she stuck up for her sister. Before long, Cindy made new friends—kids she could be herself with. Cindy and Liz also grew closer together, and now they're better friends than ever.

After Elijah stood up for what he believed in and defeated the prophets of Baal, he thought he was alone against the world, too. But God showed Elijah there were other people on his side. Check out Elijah's conversation with God in **1 Kings 19:11-18**.

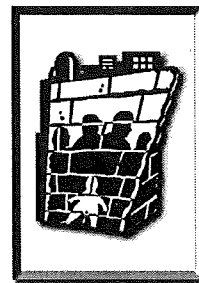
- How did God show Elijah that he was with him, even when the situation seemed overwhelming? How did God show Cindy he was with her too?
- How would you have reacted if you were in Elijah's place? Do you stand up for what is right, even when your beliefs go against the crowd? Why or why not?

C O N S I D E R . . .

- taking a walk alone in a park and looking for the quiet ways God reveals himself.
- reading this passage and the passages listed below the next time you feel lonely. Then write a letter to God that expresses your feelings.

F O R M O R E , S E E . . .

- Psalm 13:1-6 (p. 488)
- Romans 11:1-5 (p. 1155)
- Matthew 5:3-12 (p. 912)



52 Daily Devotions

41

Sibling Rivalry

Almost anything can make Jason and Rick Lewis argue:

"You're supposed to help me take out the garbage."

"Dad told you to do it!"

"No, Dad told us to do it!"

"I did it yesterday!"

"You never do it."

"Just drop it, okay? I'll do it later!"

Sometimes the Lewis home sounds like a war zone in the Middle East.

Despite their fighting, Jason and Rick love each other and stand up for each other.

Anytime someone begins to argue with one of the brothers, the other will immediately lend support.

Jason and Rick argue about little things, but they are bonded together when it comes to big things such as love, loyalty and support. One reason for their closeness is their shared family name, which lets them know they're part of something that will last no matter how they feel. They're family.

Jason and Rick still argue even though they deeply love each other. But according to **Isaiah 2:1-5**, one day God will settle all our arguments, strife and struggles forever.

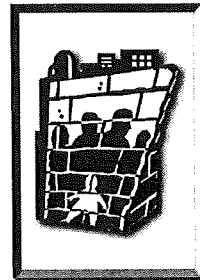
- According to this passage, what's the only way true peace—at home or in the world—can be achieved?
- How does this passage's picture of God challenge you to make peace in your family? church? school? world?

C O N S I D E R . . .

- reestablishing ties with someone you used to be friends with.
- writing a prayer to God for peace in your home, school, city, nation, and world. Listen for one way God might use you to bring about that peace.

F O R M O R E , S E E . . .

- Isaiah 60:15-20 (p. 680)
- I Thessalonians 5:12-18 (p. 1249)
- John 14:27-29 (p. 1085)



52 Daily Devotions

42

How Far?

Sherry Loomis leaned into Greg's muscular arms. His masculine scent, heightened by cologne, aroused a hunger in her. They kissed, again and again. Tonight her parents were gone, leaving them alone in the house.

"You're everything I want," Greg breathed. His hands moved over her eagerly. "Please," he urged.

Sherry pulled away. "I'm not sure . . ."

"I love you." He smiled, his eyes dark with passion.

The door bell rang. After straightening her clothes, Sherry opened the door and found her best friend standing there. Friends from church waited in the car.

"We're going out for pizza. Want to go with us?" Beth asked. Sherry took a deep breath; she was disappointed, yet relieved. "Yeah." She turned toward Greg. "Let's go with them, okay?"

The passion that Sherry and Greg feel is described in **Song of Solomon 5:2-6**. Although passion is a normal part of a love relationship, God has reserved it for marriage, because only a marriage agreement has the power to sustain the kind of intimacy that comes from passion.

- How is Sherry's experience like that of the woman in the passage?
- Sherry stopped short of going "all the way" with Greg. What are good reasons for you not to have sex until you're married?

C O N S I D E R . . .

- writing on a secret card exactly how far you'll go physically with a casual date, your boyfriend or girlfriend, and the person you're engaged to. Keep the card in your Bible as a promise to yourself and to God.
- controlling the temptation to "go too far" by dating in groups, avoiding alcohol, and staying away from secluded areas.

F O R M O R E . . . S E E . . .

- Genesis 2:24-25 (p. 4)
- 1 John 1:9 (p. 1316)
- 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 (p. 1247)



52 Daily Devotions

43

God's Surprises

It was February, and time to begin rehearsals for Wheeler High School's senior play. Trina Cook eagerly auditioned for a part, convinced she would make the cast. But when the list was posted, Trina couldn't find her name on it.

She tried to hide her disappointment as she walked toward her last class of the day. Mr. Hendon, the director, caught up with her. "Trina," he said, "I meant to talk to you before the names were posted. We know you would have worked hard and done a good job for us. But you've had a lot of honors already, so we decided to let some of the others have a chance. I hope you're not too disappointed."

"Thanks, Mr. Hendon," she answered. "Thanks for explaining it to me." She still felt sad, but she didn't want him to know. In a way, she understood what he was saying.

A week later, Trina cringed as sharp pains shot through her stomach. Soon she was in the hospital, recovering from an emergency appendectomy. Mr. Hendon came to visit her. "It's a good thing you didn't put me in the senior play," she said. "You'd be looking for a replacement now."

A few weeks later, the missions committee at Trina's church decided to produce a drama about a woman who had spent her life in missions efforts. By this time Trina had regained her strength. She was chosen to play the leading role.

At every rehearsal, the cast prayed that God would use their efforts through the play to touch someone's heart.

Trina had no idea that she would be the one whose heart would be touched. On the evening of the performance, she committed her life to God's service and went on to be a missionary.

Disappointments, closed doors, and unexpected events often lead to surprises of God's will for our lives. Just as Trina was surprised by her road to a missionary career, John the Baptist was surprised to learn that God's will was for him to baptize the Messiah, instead of vice versa. You'll find the story of Jesus' baptism in **Matthew 3:13-17**.

- Why were both John the Baptist and Trina surprised by God's will?
- How has God used ironic or unusual circumstances in your life to do his will? How did you respond in those situations?

C O N S I D E R . . .

- writing a list of prayer concerns. As you pray, follow each with, "We know that in everything God works for the good of those who love him" (Romans 8:28, p. 1151).
- thinking of unexpected events that have happened to you in the last month, and how God might be leading you. Then act on one of those leads.

F O R M O R E , S E E . . .

- Isaiah 55:8-11 (p. 674)
- Luke 3:1-20 (p. 1005)
- 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 (p. 1168)



52 Daily Devotions

44

Unnoticed Gifts

If you have trouble thinking of things to thank God for, start with this list of things he has given you:

- A defense against tiny bacteria and larger critters such as scorpions, fleas, and bugs.
- Something to keep some things in while keeping other things out.
- A radiator to cool you.
- Padding that takes the shape of objects it touches.
- Half a million transmitters that send messages through your body.
- A unique pattern that identifies you.

All these things are in just one part of your body: your skin. Imagine how much else you have to be thankful for in your life and world!

David recognized the gifts God had given him and his family. Read his prayer of thanksgiving in **2 Samuel 7:18–29**.

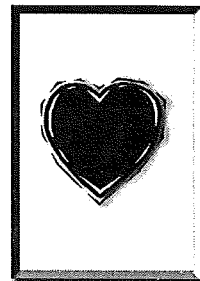
- Why does David say God gives good things? What is David's response?
- What has God given you that reminds you of how important you are? How have you thanked God for that?

C O N S I D E R

- making a list of people and things for which you are most thankful. Thank God for each of these people or things this week, and call or write each person a thank-you message.
- tracing your family tree back as far as you can. Then talk with your parent about the strengths and weaknesses of each generation. Pray that God will guide and bless you and future generations.

F O R M O R E , S E E

- Psalm 98:1–9 (p. 538)
- Colossians 1:9–13 (p. 1238)
- Isaiah 63:7–9 (p. 683)



52 Daily Devotions

45

Having Confidence

Jon Krause had a problem talking with girls.

While it seemed all of Jon's friends in high school had steady girlfriends, he couldn't even approach a girl without breaking out in a cold sweat. It was bad enough being a freshman in a new school, without also having to suffer the embarrassment of a glistening forehead and sweaty palms.

One night, Jon sought comfort and advice from his older brother, Mike. "I guess I'll never have a girlfriend," Jon confessed. "I just don't know what to say to girls. I'm not like the other guys. All of them have girlfriends."

"That's ridiculous," Mike said flatly. "Those guys don't have anything you haven't got. You've just got to believe in yourself. Take a risk. It's much easier to talk to girls after that first conversation."

Jon went to his room to think and pray about what Mike said. That night, he asked God to help him see himself the way God does. He prayed for God to help him develop confidence.

Two months later Jon began going steady with Diane.

Jon needed help from God to ease his doubts and build his confidence. In **Isaiah 7:10-16**, King Ahaz also needed God's help to ease his doubts.

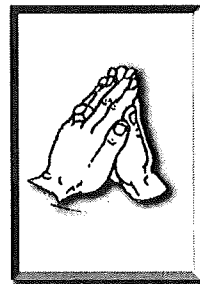
- What do King Ahaz and Jon have in common?
- Why do you sometimes hesitate to ask God for something, even if you feel you really need it?

C O N S I D E R . . .

- listing ways God could help you ease your doubt about him or any situation in your life and then asking him to give you that help.
- asking your parent or youth pastor about ways you can overcome specific doubts in your life.

F O R M O R E , S E E . . .

- Judges 6:11-24 (p. 222)
- James 1:6-8 (p. 1294)
- Matthew 14:22-33 (p. 934)



52 Daily Devotions

46

Am I Really in Love?

Test yourself to discover whether you're really in love.

"I love you if . . ." I value your uniqueness. I freely give my joy, interests, knowledge, understanding, humor and sadness to you. I give you freedom to be true to yourself. I am happy to be with you most of the time. I really like, trust and respect you. I want our relationship to be permanent. I focus on your personality, not just sexual feelings. I care about your pleasure and well-being as much as my own. I feel like I "belong" to you. Our relationship has deepened during the past six months.

When we're really in love, we can honestly answer "yes" to these questions. The lovers in Song of Solomon are enthralled with each other.

Read **Song of Solomon 2:10-17**.

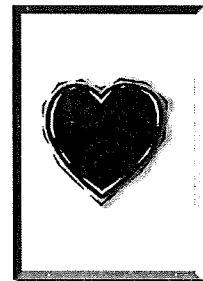
- Which of the conditions above do you think apply to the couple in this passage?
- Based on this passage and the checklist, what would your checklist be for knowing if you are in love?

C O N S I D E R . . .

- talking to a couple you know who have a strong relationship, and asking them what makes their marriage so strong.
- making a list of action-oriented goals based on the passage that you can use when you're in a special relationship that you want to grow.

F O R M O R E , S E E . . .

- Hosea 3 (p. 825)
- I John 4:7-21 (p. 1319)
- John 15:9-17 (p. 1085)



52 Daily Devotions

47

Risking Everything

Something about LaDonna King turned Allan Gentry's head. Maybe her figure. Maybe her playful smile. Maybe her piercing eyes. Whatever it was, Allan couldn't get her out of his mind.

After two weeks of nervous planning, he finally found the courage to ask her out. He did everything he could to impress her. He waxed his vintage Mustang and took her to the fanciest restaurant in town. He turned on his charm, making sure she knew how important he was.

After that first date, they kissed at the door. But over the next few weeks, Allan wanted more. Each time, he would try to go a little farther. Each time she would resist.

As their dizzying romance continued, Allan became more aggressive. LaDonna bravely continued to resist, but Allan applied even more pressure. "If you really loved me," he said, "you wouldn't make me stop."

"But I do love you, Allan," she replied.

"Well, I can't be sure unless you show me."

Frightened at the prospect of losing Allan, LaDonna finally gave in. Three months later, she discovered she was pregnant.

Out of her fear of losing Allan, she lost so much more.

Like LaDonna, David risked everything to have Bathsheba. And it nearly cost him everything. Read **2 Samuel 11:1-15** to see what happened.

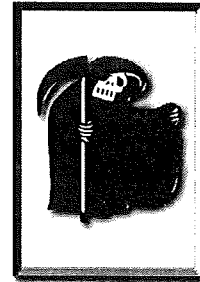
- How did Allan and David abuse their power? What choices did LaDonna and Bathsheba have?
- What would you have done if you had been in David's situation? What about Bathsheba's?

C O N S I D E R . . .

- writing on a small card three things you could say to someone who pressures you to have sex. Keep the card in your wallet or purse.
- praying regularly that God will give you strength to resist sexual temptation.

F O R M O R E , S E E . . .

- 2 Samuel 12:1-14 (p. 284)
- 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 (p. 1247)
- Matthew 5:27-30 (p. 914)



52 Daily Devotions

48

Praying About Real Life

When seventeen-year-old Shelley Lundberg and her mom talked about Shelley's ex-boyfriend one evening, the conversation quickly escalated into a fight.

"LeRoy seems like such a nice young man, Shelley," Mom complained. "I really think you handled the whole thing wrong."

"I didn't ask your opinion, Mom. Thanks anyway," Shelley's words dripped with sarcasm. She felt as if she were about to explode.

"Now, just wait a minute, Miss. . . ."

"No, you wait a minute, Mother," Shelley's voice was strained with anger. "I'm tired of your constant meddling. I can't even put my shoes on without getting your approval first. I have a life, Mother. Why don't you let me live it by myself?"

Then Shelley stormed away. She didn't know or care what her mother thought—she just wanted to leave.

Shelley ended up at a nearby park for the next few hours. There, she discovered how much prayer can help. At first, she was angry with God. "Why does this stuff happen to me?" she asked God. "I shouldn't be having so much trouble with this! I'm a Christian." Shelley felt she should be able to deal with her family problems.

Soon, Shelley asked God to help her calm down. She sang a few worship songs, and she started feeling better. Once she had calmed down, Shelley asked God to help her understand her mom's side of the argument.

Shelley got home late, but in the morning, she and her mother apologized. That evening, they talked about how they could have dealt with their feelings better. And Shelley decided to talk to LeRoy. "It'll give me the chance to let him know I still care," she told her mom, smiling.

Shelley's relationship with her mom isn't perfect, but she knows she can turn to God in prayer for real-life issues like this one.

King Solomon also turned to God and prayed about real-life issues. Read his prayer after God's Temple was built in **1 Kings 8:22-30**.

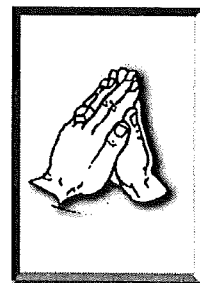
- What elements do Shelley's prayer and King Solomon's prayer have in common? What's different?
- How does King Solomon's prayer compare with the kind of prayers you usually pray?

CONSIDER . . .

- listing all the concerns of your life on paper and then talking to God about each one.
- offering to pray with others who are going through rough times.

FOR MORE, SEE . . .

- 2 Samuel 22:1-51 (p. 296)
- John 17:20-26 (p. 1089)
- Luke 1:46-55 (p. 1001)



52 Daily Devotions

49

Letting God Use You

Jon Ralston went to help at the Rescue Mission mostly because someone asked him to go. He had never done anything like this in all of his fifteen years. But a friend asked him to help out this Sunday, and Jon couldn't think of any reason not to. So he went.

When they got there, Jon and his friends did simple tasks—preparing food, setting places, washing dishes, cleaning tables. “We just helped where we were needed,” he says.

The Rescue Mission was run-down and dirty, Jon recalls. The people they served were dirty from the streets, and they didn't seem to appreciate what Jon and his friends were doing for them. Some of Jon's friends really didn't like it and didn't go back when they were asked to help out again.

But Jon went back. And he would go again.

“I'm needed there,” he says. “And it's fun to give to people when you know they can't pay you back.”

Jon was impressed with the staff at the Rescue Mission, too. They had a good attitude toward the people they served. “Even though the staff acts tough,” Jon recalls, “they really care for the people who come there.”

There's been hunger and poverty in the world almost since the beginning of time. God wants Christians—every Christian—to offer help and God's love to the poor and hungry. God even used the great prophet Elijah to help a widow and her son in **1 Kings 17:8–16**.

- What's the difference between the widow in this passage and the people Jon helped? What motives did Jon have for helping the poor? What motives did Elijah have for helping the widow?
- How does God keep the “jars of flour and jugs of oil” full for poor and hungry people today? What role can you play in providing food for hungry people?

CONSIDER . . .

- skipping dinner tonight and spending that time praying for poor and hungry people.
- following Jon's example by volunteering to work in a soup kitchen or a homeless shelter.

FOR MORE, SEE . . .

- Exodus 16:1–15 (p. 73)
- John 6:30–35 (p. 1067)
- Mark 6:34–44 (p. 974)



52 Daily Devotions

50

Under the Influence

"I wonder what it's like to drown," Scott Walters mused aloud. He quietly exhaled, then slipped under the water in his backyard pool.

Scott was in junior high when he began sampling drinks from his father's liquor cabinet. No one in the family seemed to notice or care, so he continued to drink occasionally—in small amounts.

One afternoon several of Scott's friends came over to swim. Scott began to brag about his free access to the family liquor cabinet.

"My family lets me drink whenever I want to," Scott claimed. "In fact, my dad and I drink together all the time."

"You're lying," scowled Bart, one of Scott's friends. "Your dad doesn't let you drink."

"What do you know?" countered Scott. "You've probably never had anything stronger than milk."

"Okay, then," Bart said, "prove it. Prove to us that you drink."

Scott didn't really want to drink right then, because he never knew when his dad would come home. But after repeated dares from his friends, Scott went to the liquor cabinet and poured a little from each bottle into a large glass. Then he drank it all. Scott's friends let out a big "whoop," impressed by Scott's ability to "handle his booze."

Scott didn't feel anything happen right away. He figured he was okay, so he hopped in the pool with his friends. But the longer his friends played, the more quiet and distant Scott became.

No one noticed when Scott slipped quietly under the water.

After a minute or two, Bart exclaimed, "Hey, where's Scott?"

The guys saw Scott's form on the bottom. They frantically pulled him from the pool, laid him on the concrete on his side and tried to revive him. Scott soon came around and began to cough up water.

After a few minutes, Scott sat up on the edge of the pool, so drunk he didn't even realize he had almost died.

Alcohol and drugs keep us from thinking clearly. In **Esther 1:4–12**, read how King Xerxes reacted after drinking a large amount of wine.

- What effect did alcohol have on Scott and King Xerxes?
- What does this passage say about using drugs and alcohol?

C O N S I D E R . . .

- writing reasons you choose not to use alcohol or other drugs, and keeping that list in your Bible as a reminder.
- scanning the newspaper for articles that involve drunk driving or violence resulting from drug or alcohol use; then consider asking God to help the people in each of those situations.

F O R M O R E , S E E . . .

- Proverbs 23:29–35 (p. 588)
- Galatians 5:19–23 (p. 1213)
- Ephesians 5:15–18 (p. 1224)



52 Daily Devotions

51

To Fly or Not

Sixteen-year-old Neil stared at the model plane on his desk. He had loved planes all his life. Every penny he earned went for flying lessons, but now he wasn't sure if he ever wanted to fly.

The day before, Neil had watched helplessly as a friend's plane crashed before his eyes. He had rushed to the plane to try to help, but the crash was fatal. Neil could still feel his friend's head in his lap; he remembered his dying breath. What now? Should he go on with his own flying plans? He didn't want to die too.

For two days Neil sat in his bedroom. He analyzed the risks, struggled through his fears and dreams, and recalled the conflicting advice given to him. "Follow your dream!" "Dreams are worthless when you're dead!" He didn't know what to do.

Then he took out an old Sunday school notebook he had made. On its cover was a picture of Jesus; inside he had listed qualities of the Savior—"He was sinless"; "He championed the poor"; "He was unselfish"; "He was close to God." Neil studied them closely and then closed his eyes in thanksgiving and made his choice. "Mom," he said, "I hope you and Dad understand, but with God's help, I must go on flying."

Neil Armstrong's decision that day would eventually take him to the moon, to become the first human on its surface.

Neil learned that wisdom in making decisions is sometimes tough to find, as the writer said in **Job 28:20-28**.

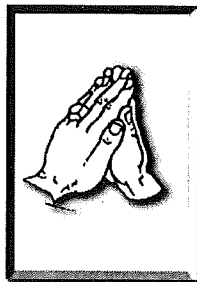
- How did Neil and the writer of Job find wisdom?
- If wisdom is as difficult to find as verse 21 states, how do you find it?

C O N S I D E R . . .

- asking God to give you wisdom concerning an important relationship in your life.
- listing the pros and cons of decisions you must make soon. Pray that God will guide you.

F O R M O R E , S E E . . .

- Deuteronomy 30:11-20 (p. 187)
- Joshua 24:14-15 (p. 214)
- Matthew 26:36-45 (p. 957)



52 Daily Devotions

52

Risky Business

"They were chasing a little boy, about ten years old. They caught up with him, and one of them took his gun and bashed the child's head in. They killed him."

Those are the words of Giorgio Perlasca, who witnessed this murder in Hungary in 1944. It was World War II, and the Nazis were killing the Jews, regardless of their age. Perlasca couldn't sit back and watch this happen.

Although he was Italian, Perlasca was able to get a passport to Hungary that identified him as a Spaniard. Because of Spain's close ties with Germany, he could masquerade as a top Spanish diplomat and help save the Jews.

For three months, Perlasca distributed letters to all the Jews he could find. The letters stated that the Jews had been granted the protection of the Spanish government. When he saw Jews being herded onto trains, headed for death, he confronted the Nazis and ordered them to return the people to him. He housed more than five thousand Jews in eleven apartment buildings where he hung Spain's flag to protect the occupants.

Historians estimate Perlasca helped save more than ten thousand people before his cover was blown when Spain cut off diplomatic relations with Hungary at the end of 1944.

Giorgio Perlasca heroically risked his own life to save the lives of others. Queen Esther also put her life on the line for the Jews. Read her story in **Esther 4:9-16**.

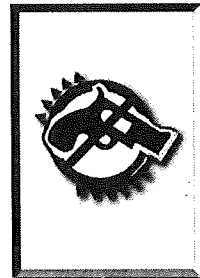
- What risks did both Perlasca and Esther take to save the Jews?
- We may not all have the chance to save thousands of people from dying, but we can still make a difference. How can you be a hero for God?

C O N S I D E R . . .

- making a hero sandwich and sharing it with someone who is a hero to you.
- who your heroes are and how well they measure up to the standards of Esther. Then decide if you need to change heroes.

F O R M O R E , S E E . . .

- Exodus 14:5-31 (p. 70)
- Hebrews 11:29-40 (p. 1288)
- Joshua 2:1-22 (p. 195)



SECTION 4



Confidence Course: Victory Through Teamwork

Below are activities the leader can conduct which involve little cost and which enable Royal Rangers to gain confidence in their leadership and teamwork abilities.

Mountain Climbing. Why do people do it? Is it the thrill of facing danger? For some, it is the sense of accomplishment. Others climb mountains because the mountain is there.

Even though mountain climbing may not be an activity that your outpost group can do, there are ways to bring that same feeling of achievement to every boy. There is a method that is available to every commander and boy to experience the sense of pride that comes from meeting a challenge (such as mountain climbing) and solving it together as a team, without going to Colorado.

Below are 10 challenges that can be used to develop a camaraderie and teamwork among your boys. The instructions are clear and easy to understand. There are only a few pieces of equipment needed for each obstacle, and you probably already have them.

With each obstacle comes a spiritual application. Since these activities are designed to encourage each Ranger to grow physically, mentally, and socially, we could not overlook the spiritual impact that these obstacles will also have on your boys. All of the Scripture verses used in this portion come from *The Youth Bible* (New Century Version), which can be purchased from the national Royal Rangers Office.

There is no particular order in which to perform the various activities. Look over the topics and choose one that interests you. All of the information that you will require will be at your fingertips.

A word of caution: Become familiar with each task and the conditions of the room in which you will conduct the activity to ensure all precautions have been taken. For example, if you are using a fellowship hall, all furniture needs to be moved out of the way. These tasks are not free from risk; if they are not taken seriously, someone could get hurt. Always have adequate adult leaders on hand to serve as "spotters." The spotter's job is to make sure that all of the safety rules are being followed and no

one is in danger of hurting themselves.

There are some roles that need a little explanation. The leader of the group is responsible for reading the instructions to the team. He is not supposed to tell the team what to do or how to solve the challenge. He is there to be sure that no rules have been violated and to ensure the safety of the task. He is to make sure that nothing gets out of hand.

Once the team has been given the task, they may wait for the leader to tell them what to do. The team is responsible to solve the challenge. You will find that one or two of the older boys may try to tell everyone else what to do. Encourage everyone to share their opinion on how to solve the challenge. These tasks can only be solved when the individual gives up his own will for the good of the group. When the boys begin to think and work as a group, then will they be able to come up with a solution.

Do not try to make the activity more exciting. Because as you try to increase the excitement, you have also increased the danger of injury, and that is not the intent of this section. Follow the directions to the letter. You may even want to read them aloud as the boys are trying to solve the challenge. This is okay, because that is the way they were designed.

Now get ready to bring mountain climbing into your outpost. Enjoy!

ABC Balance



Equipment Needed: Three 8-foot 2 by 4 boards nailed together to make a beam; three cinder blocks to act as a support under the beam; a C clamp; cushions, pads, or mats for the floor around the beam

Object: Team members are to arrange themselves alphabetically while standing on the beam. They may not touch the floor or the beam support while trying to arrange themselves.

Description: To begin, the team stands on the beam.



The group leader will give each one a number that will be used to remember their starting order. Once the boys are on the beam, the leader will determine the direction from which to alphabetize (right or left) and then whether the team member's first or last name will be used. (To spice things up, you may want to use the team member's mother's or father's first name to arrange by.)

Victory: The team wins when all are standing in the right order according to the alphabet.

Challenge Setup: Place two of the cinder blocks 8 feet apart. The final cinder block will be put in the middle. Take the beam that you made from the 2 by 4s and put it on top of the cinder blocks. Secure it to the cinder block on either end with a C clamp. Put the cushions around the beam to cover the floor. Make the area as safe as possible.

On this challenge the team members may need help spelling names. They will need to communicate how they need help. Avoid giving too much help. If you have more boys than will fit on the beam, break the group into two teams and let each group have a turn. You may want to time the group to determine which group performed the task the fastest.

Sacrifices

1. All team members must stay on the beam the entire time.
2. If anyone touches the floor, cinder block, or mat, the entire team must start over.
3. If anyone calls another by their last name or says a put-down, the entire group must start over.

Spiritual Application:

In 1 Thessalonians 5:12,13 it says, "Now, brothers and sisters, we ask you to appreciate those who work hard among you, who lead you in the Lord and teach you. Respect them with a very special love because of the work they do." As we go through life, we are going to meet other Christians, and they will have an impact on our lives. Some may change our lives forever. Those who lead us to Christ will have a special place of respect in our hearts.

Tonight, maybe for the first time, you learned the name of a new friend or the name of the parent of a friend. This is just the beginning of a friendship. As you learn about the person, you will grow to appre-

ciate him because of his love for the Lord. The Bible encourages us to give honor to those who are leaders among us, those who teach and lead you to Christ. Give honor to those among you who work hard.

River Crossing

Equipment Needed: Two skateboards, one 16-foot rope, two cardboard rolls from a roll of paper towels

Object: The team is to cross a river using all of the equipment.

Description: The room is divided into two shores. At the beginning, the group stands on the same side of the river. Their goal is to transport the entire group from one shore to the other without touching the river with any part of their body.



The river is filled with hungry piranha just waiting for an unsuspecting Ranger to let down his guard. All floor space between the two shores is considered river.

Victory: The team is successful when everyone, including the equipment, is safely on the other side.

Challenge Setup: Each shore should be clearly marked. All equipment should be lying at the edge of the river. Set the skateboards side by side with one paper towel tube on top of each. Lay the rope in between. Find as much room as possible so that there will be plenty of distance from shore to shore.

Team members are to travel across the river on the skateboards. The rope can be used to pull other members across, and the paper towel tubes can be used as paddles to push across the river.

Avoid pushing a teammate on skateboard so hard that they fall forward.

Sacrifices:

1. All of the area between the shores is considered river.
2. If any part of a person touches the river during the crossing, he is disqualified, and he and another who has successfully crossed must start over.



3. The first person to successfully cross the river cannot be sacrificed. Therefore, you will be able to keep one person on the other shore at all times.
4. If a person touches the river while trying to rescue equipment, a sacrifice is required.
5. If put-downs or last names are used, a sacrifice is required.
6. Even though the first person to cross cannot be sacrificed, that person cannot touch the river. If he does, a sacrifice will be required from someone who crosses successfully.

Spiritual Application:

As you cross life's ocean, you might think that things are going your way, that you've got it under control. You may have the feeling that you can take care of yourself no matter what comes your way.

It is at this time in our lives that we need to depend on God's Word to help us understand that we truly need God to help us. First Peter 5:6-11 is a Scripture passage that we need to read often. It tells us that our attitude should be one of humility, realizing that we cannot do anything without His assistance. Also, we should understand our enemy, the devil. He will not allow us to go idly by. He is like a roaring lion waiting to catch his next meal. Don't become lunch for the devil; depend on the strong arm of the Lord, and He will deliver you in time of trouble.

Another's Footsteps

Equipment Needed: One carpet or linoleum square, 12 inches by 12 inches, for each player, plus one extra

Object: Team members are to arrange themselves in reverse order without touching the floor around the carpet or linoleum square.

Description: Arrange the squares in a straight line with about 10 to 15 inches between each. Have each person stand on a square. If you do not have access to the above mentioned equipment, you can mark, using masking tape, squares as a substitute.

Victory: Success has been achieved when the entire team has reversed the original order.

Challenge Setup: Clear the room of any furniture. Leave enough space to put a tile or piece of carpet about every 15 inches. The team members will stand on these squares.

Sacrifices:

1. No one may touch the floor at any time.
2. Only one person may touch a base at one time.
3. As you're moving from base to base, you may move in either direction.
4. Group members may only touch an unoccupied base.
5. Shoes must be kept on at all times and cannot be used as extra bases.
6. If a rule is violated, the entire team must start over.



Spiritual Application:

Many times we are not aware of the people that are watching the way we live. When we are reminded that other boys, younger than us, imitate our behavior or say the things we say, we are tempted to shrug it off. "They are not watching me. I am not a role model" may be the words that come out of your mouth.

The apostle Paul told Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:12, "Do not let anyone treat you as if you were unimportant because you are young. Instead be an example to the believers with your words, your actions, your love, your faith, and your pure life." To this we can add that we should not think that our example is so unimportant that no one will notice what we do or hear what we say. We are told to be an example for the believers that live around us. This would include the younger Rangers that are watching the way we behave during the meeting.

As we walk along the trail of life, it might be easy to quit when the trail becomes difficult. There will be good excuses to stop and rest awhile when confronted by holes and boulders in our path. But when you think about giving up, remember the others who are following you. They may be using your footsteps as a guide, so if you stop or stray from the trail, they might fall or stumble. Because you are not the only one making this journey, and your life impacts those around you, resolve to continue up the trail following the Master's footsteps. You will see that there are other boys who follow you.



Jesus Is the Rock

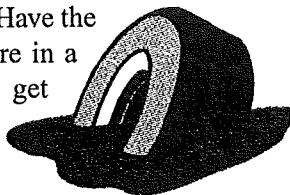
Equipment Needed: One automobile tire

Object: The team must be balanced on the tire with no one touching the floor.

Description: The boys are told that the tire in the center of the room represents a large rock surrounded by an ocean of water. Due to an accident, their boat has capsized and everyone is swimming toward the rock for safety.

Victory: The group wins when all members are balanced on the rock and no one touches the floor for 1 minute.

Challenge Setup: Place an old auto tire in the center of the room. Have the group stand around the tire in a circle. Their goal is to get everyone off of the floor.



Sacrifices:

1. No one may touch the floor even to balance themselves; if they do, everyone must get off of the rock and start over.
2. They must remain balanced for the specified amount of time.
3. If any name calling is used, the group must start over.
4. Not all members are required to touch the tire as long as they are not touching the floor.

Spiritual Application:

In Matthew 7:24-27, Jesus told a story about two men who built houses. One man decided to build his house by the seashore where the ground was sandy and flat and putting a foundation down would be easy. The other man built his house on a rock where he had to work very hard.

There came a time of heavy rains, flooding, and strong winds. The man who built his house on the rock watched as the wind blew and the floods came, but his house withstood the storm. The man who built his house by the seashore watched as his house was destroyed, because the foundation was built on

sand and not on a rock.

The rock in our challenge is like Jesus Christ. He is the foundation of our life. If we build our life in Him and put our trust in Him there is no storm that we cannot weather.

A Bridge Over Troubled Water

Equipment Needed: Two 8-foot 2 by 4s, two 8- to 10-foot pieces of rope, four auto tires

Object: The goal is to cross a distance of the room using all of the equipment to fashion a bridge.

Description: You and your friends are returning from a camping trip, and as you near your home, you notice that the only bridge crossing a raging river has been washed away by a storm. The only equipment that you have is four tires from your car, two lengths of rope, and two 8-foot 2 by 4s.

Victory: The group will achieve the goal when everyone has crossed the river without touching the river and all of the equipment has been used.

Challenge Setup: At the edge of the river place the equipment. The group members are to start on one side of the river. They are to construct a series of movable bridges across the water. The boards will form the bridge that the players will stand on. The rope will be used to pull material as the bridge is built.

Sacrifices:

1. No one may touch the river while on the bridge.
2. No group member may step on a board that has one end in the river.
3. If a rule is violated, the group must start over.

Spiritual Application:

Before a contractor ever begins the project, he considers the cost of construction. He wants to be sure that he has enough money to finish the building. It would be very embarrassing to have a partially finished project that all of the community could see. Luke 14:28-30 warns that if you don't carefully prepare the building, you may only have enough to finish the foundation. Then all of those

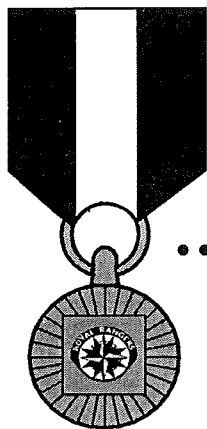


who see your work will make fun of you for not finishing the construction.

In the same way, we should consider the cost we will have to pay when we choose to become a disciple of Christ. We will have to make choices. For additional information, read “The Choice To Follow,” found on page 1,034 in *The Youth Bible*, New Century Version.



SECTION 5

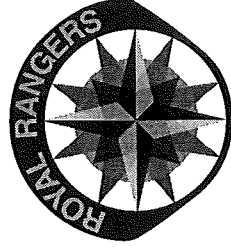


CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE

IS AWARDED THE CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE FOR HIS OUTSTANDING
ACHIEVEMENT IN ROYAL RANGERS. HE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE

PRESENTED BY:

DATE:



Reaching, Teaching, Keeping Boys for Christ

SAMPLE

Parent/Guardian Permission Form

Activity: _____

Location: _____

Date(s) of Event: _____

By signing this form, I give _____ (name) permission to attend the activity noted above.
I understand that he will be escorted off the church property with adult supervision.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Sample Outpost Group Budget

Income: _____

_____ at \$_____ each person
 Number of Persons

Expenses	Expected	Actual
Food:		
Milk—2 gallons	_____	_____
Orange Juice—2 quarts	_____	_____
Eggs—3 dozen	_____	_____
Bread—2 loaves	_____	_____
Butter—1 pound	_____	_____
Jelly—12 ounces	_____	_____
Sandwich Meat—5 packages	_____	_____
Potato Chips—3 pounds	_____	_____
Cookies—2 pounds	_____	_____
Soda—4 liters	_____	_____
Hot Dogs—4 packages	_____	_____
Hot Dog Buns—4 packages	_____	_____
Marshmallows—3 bags	_____	_____
Catsup—1	_____	_____
Mustard—1	_____	_____
Salt—1	_____	_____
Pepper—1	_____	_____
Pickles—1 jar	_____	_____
Campsite Fee		
\$_____ per person	_____	_____
Expense Total	\$_____	_____

